

The Public Schools of Brookline
School Committee Meeting of Thursday, January 17, 2019
Superintendent Report
Andrew J. Bott

Principal Search Process: Baker, Coolidge Corner and Lawrence Schools

Our work to select permanent principals at Baker, Coolidge Corner and Lawrence Schools is well underway.

The Lawrence and Coolidge Corner School searches were both launched on November 30. Following meetings in mid-December with staff and parents/guardians at both schools, a leadership profile was developed for each position. Using that profile, the Interview Committees at each school met this week to review all candidates who applied for the positions. First round interviews with selected candidates will commence at each school next week.

The search process for the Baker School principal was launched on December 12. Following meetings with Baker faculty (January 8) and parents/guardians (January 16), and through the feedback received through the online survey, we will be developing a leadership profile for this position. The job posting for the Baker principal position closes on January 22, after which the Interview Committee will review applicants and schedule first round interviews for early February.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge the incredible support of Joshua Howe and Linda Rodrigues who are serving as interim co-principals at Baker School this year. In June of 2018, after I asked Dr. Mary Brown to serve as Senior Director in the Office of Teaching and Learning, I asked Mr. Howe and Ms. Rodrigues to step into the interim co-principal role. I can't overstate my appreciation to them both for their willingness to step into this leadership position to ensure administrative continuity and seamless support to students and staff at Baker. With their combined 35 years of experience as educators and school administrators, the school is in excellent hands this year. I am very pleased that they will serve as the Baker School Vice Principals again, starting in September 2019. They are also both serving on the Interview Committee for the permanent principal.

Attached you will find a list of the Interview Committee members at each school. I am very grateful to all of these staff, parent and student volunteers for so generously sharing their time and expertise in our effort to select the next principal at each school. I will continue to keep you apprised of our progress in these important principal search processes.

Parent Advisory Committee for Educational Equity

On January 10, we announced the creation of a town-wide Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) for Educational Equity, to be led by Senior Director for Educational Equity, Dr. Kalise Wornum. I have attached a copy of the announcement letter sent to all PSB parents and guardians. The PAC for Educational Equity will support district leaders in our efforts to create and promote equitable practices, build inclusive school communities, and work toward closing opportunity gaps and achieving equitable outcomes for all students. The PAC will consist of members of the district's leadership team, two parent representatives from each school, and two parent representatives each from the Brookline METCO program, the Steps to Success Program, and the Brookline Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Applications from those interested in serving are due

on January 25. I look forward to working closely with the PAC for Educational Equity and I will keep you informed of our work together.

I have attached the announcement letter for your information.

School Visits, Parent Meetings and Community Events

Since our last meeting, and in addition to parent and staff meetings at Baker, Lawrence and Coolidge Corner Schools as part of the principal search process, I had the following school visits and parent meetings:

Heath Parent/PTO Meeting	January 4
Heath Classroom Visits	January 4
Driscoll Parent/PTO Meeting	January 8
Pierce Classroom Visits	January 9
Brookline High School Class Visits	January 10
Driscoll Classroom Visits	January 11

I was pleased to be able to join grade 5-8 students at Pierce School yesterday afternoon, January 16, for their annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Assembly. Organized by grade 5 teacher Amy Woogmaster and music teacher Anne Sheridan, this powerful assembly featured student shares of their written poetry, an 8th grade share of excerpts from Dr. King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, a 6th grade share about other less well-known activists who worked alongside Dr. King, and middle school chorus musical pieces and several small group musical performances of important pieces. It was a deeply moving assembly where educators and students combined history, personal experience and hope to inspire a community.

On Monday, January 14, I joined the School Within a School Education Seminar course at the invitation of BHS teacher Keira Flynn Carson. This course is designed to explore the large issues in American education: purpose, funding, inequality between districts, standards and assessments, among other issues. The students asked me to share a bit about my experience as a teacher, principal and superintendent, especially how change is created and implemented at each level.

China Exchange Program Reception

On Thursday, January 10 I joined School Committee members Susan Wolf Ditkoff, Jennifer Monopoli and Barbara Scotto, and Anthony Meyer and Dr. Nicole Gittens, at the Brookline Teen Center for a special China Exchange (CHEX) program event. The event joined exchange students, families and educators from Brookline, Newton and Boston to share our experiences with and commitment to global exchanges, particularly the China Exchange program.

Family Feedback Survey: Available on January 22

As part of our continuing efforts to work with families to strengthen our schools, we will distribute the annual online Family Feedback Survey starting on Tuesday, January 22. This confidential survey will help us continue to learn more about the climate and culture in our schools and across the district. The survey will remain open until February 8. The survey results are shared as part of each school's School Improvement Planning process. Principals, teachers and district leaders will use the

data from the survey as one important piece of information when developing and implementing school and district improvement plans.

Congratulations

Brookline High School has not one – but two – winners in the Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) competition (formerly the Intel Prize).

BHS students **Yuen Ting Chow** and **Frank Xu** were recognized as among the top 300 young scientists from across the country in the 78th year of this prestigious award that recognizes “promising young scientists who are creating the ideas and solutions that will address our world’s most urgent challenges”.

Yuen Ting’s work is titled “Optimizing the Identification of Translated Unannotated Open Reading Frames”, and Frank’s work is “A Unique Metalloproteinase Complex: ADAM10-MMP14”. Each Regeneron STS winner is awarded \$2,000. In addition, Brookline High School will receive \$2,000 for each student, to be designated to the support of excellence in science, math and/or engineering.

We congratulate Yuen Ting and Frank for this notable accomplishment. Forty finalists will be named later this month and we wish them both the very best of luck.



The Public Schools of Brookline
333 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445
617.730.2401

Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent

January 10, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to invite your participation with the town-wide Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) for Educational Equity. The PAC for Educational Equity is newly established this year and will be led by the Senior Director for Educational Equity, Dr. Kalise Wornum.

The PAC for Educational Equity will be charged with supporting school leaders in our efforts to create and promote equitable practices, build inclusive school communities, and work toward closing opportunity gaps and achieving equitable outcomes for all students. The PAC will provide the framework for Brookline parents and guardians to participate in issues of educational equity and will be called upon to advise the district in these important matters.

The PAC for Educational Equity will provide parents and guardians with the opportunity to give feedback on district initiatives and programs as they relate to educational equity, including:

- curriculum and educational materials;
- workforce diversity efforts;
- professional development opportunities regarding equity and diversity; and
- community outreach efforts.

Who will serve on the PAC for Educational Equity?

The PAC for Educational Equity will include members of the district's senior leadership and two parent representatives from: each Brookline school; the Brookline METCO program; the Steps to Success program; and the Brookline Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC).

Time Commitment:

We expect that the PAC for Educational Equity will meet once per month, likely on the second Wednesday of each month at 4:00pm. The meeting schedule will be confirmed once the PAC has been established. In addition to the monthly meeting we would ask that committee members be available to serve on subcommittees, as necessary, for more focused discussions on specific issues.

Application Process:

If you would like to be considered for the PAC for Educational Equity, please complete the short application at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMR8Y97>. **Applications must be submitted no later than Friday, January 25, 2019.** We will review all applications closely and expect to make final decisions by mid-February. We will notify all applicants when final decisions have been made.

If you have any questions about the PAC for Educational Equity or the application process, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Kalise Wornum at 617.730.2404 or kalise_wornum@psbma.org

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent

Baker School
Principal Search Process
Winter 2019

Interview Committee Members

DISTRICT STAFF:

Andrew Bott, Superintendent
Lisa Richardson, Director of Human Resources
Joshua Howe, Baker Interim Co-Principal
Linda Rodrigues, Baker Interim Co-Principal
Kathleen Hubbard, K-8 Math Curriculum Coordinator

BAKER SCHOOL EDUCATORS:

Kait Doherty, Grade 1 Teacher
Jacqueline Hallo, Grade 8 Teacher
Sarah Harris, Grade 3 Teacher
Meredith Ritter, Visual Arts Teacher
Sara Zekri, Literacy Specialist

PARENTS:

Sylvia Chu
Emily Engelstad
Dr. Kenann McKenzie
Linda Monach
Tamara Ochoa-Arvelo

STUDENTS:

Laura Cleves
Marco Tchernychev

Coolidge Corner School
Principal Search Process
Winter 2018-2019

Interview Committee Members

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS:

Andrew Bott, Superintendent
Lisa Richardson, Director of Human Resources
David O'Hara, Co-Principal, CCS
Saeed Ola, Vice Principal, CCS
Tanya Alvarado, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator
World Languages

COOLIDGE CORNER SCHOOL EDUCATORS/STAFF:

Jennifer Barroso, Paraprofessional
Jeremy Bloch, Grade 8 Teacher
Cecile Budelmann, Education Team Facilitator
Caroline Cadwell, Grade 1 Teacher
Jen Maylone, Grade 6-8 Guidance Counselor
Sarah Smith, Grade 4 Teacher

PARENTS:

Shauna Betof
Julie Farago
Julie Green
Senofer Mendoza
Tobias Nanda

STUDENTS:

Nikita Bright-Reason
Benjamin Tylell

Lawrence School
Principal Search Process
Winter 2018-2019

Interview Committee Members

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS:

Andrew Bott, Superintendent
Lisa Richardson, Director of Human Resources
Maisha Rounds, Lawrence School Vice Principal
Lesley Ryan Miller, Pierce School Principal
Matthew Rosenthal, K-8 Program Coordinator
Enrichment & Challenge Support

LAWRENCE EDUCATORS/STAFF:

Usha Arthur, Special Education Teacher
Shannon Cline, Paraprofessional
Karen Miller, School Nurse
Debra Morales, METCO Liaison
Greg Porter, Middle School Teacher

PARENTS:

Shawn LaCount
Ihssane Leckey
Giles Li
Nermeen Dashoush
Danna Perry

STUDENTS:

Sofia Noyes
Stefan Videnovic