

The Public Schools of Brookline
School Committee Meeting of Thursday, October 18, 2018
Superintendent Report
Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent of Schools

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Coolidge Corner School

Despite the dreary weather, we held a cheerful ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, October 13 to celebrate the official re-opening of the Coolidge Corner School. The ceremony was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the many elected officials, town and school staff, parents, and neighbors who worked together to successfully complete this project.

We were pleased to welcome Massachusetts State Treasurer and Massachusetts School Building Authority Chair Deborah Goldberg, members of the Brookline Select Board, School Committee and Building Commission, and representatives of the CCS Building Committee to this special event. Select Board member Nancy Heller spoke about the Coolidge Corner School spirit and the school's humble origins. The group was also given a personal tour of the school from CCS co-principals Jennifer Buller and Dave O'Hara.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, the Coolidge Corner School PTO sponsored Fallcoming, a day of fun activities throughout the school to showcase our beautiful new building and all of the amazing teaching and learning happening in the new space.

Anti-Defamation League Peer Leader Training: Baker, Coolidge Corner, Driscoll and Runkle

As you will recall, during the 2016-2017 school year the district embarked on a partnership with the Anti-Defamation League to introduce their World of Difference Peer Training Program to Brookline High School. The rollout of the peer training program at BHS was very successful, and prompted us to consider expanding the training to middle school students.

We did just that, and expanded the peer leader training to four of our K-8 school during the 2017-2018 year (Heath, Lawrence, Lincoln and Pierce).

This year, I am pleased to announce that we are completing our district-wide peer leader training by extending the program to 7th and 8th grade students at Baker, Coolidge Corner, Driscoll and Runkle Schools. I want to acknowledge the efforts of the school based teacher leaders in making this important work possible: Katy Sazama at Baker; Scott Newman at CCS; Maurene Doherty at Driscoll; and Rebecca Sneider at Runkle. These teacher leaders participated in the ADL's Educator Institute over the summer to prepare them for this important role. These teacher leaders, with the active support of their principals, are a vital element in the program's success.

One cohort (15 students from Baker and 15 students from Runkle) will participate in training with an ADL facilitator in space provided to us by Brookline Interactive Group in the Unified Arts Building on Tappan Street. The second cohort (15 students from CCS and 15 students from Driscoll) will participate in the training at space offered to us by Temple Ohabei Shalom on Beacon Street. Each cohort participates in 4 days of training, starting in November and concluding in January.

Attached is a copy of the letter I sent to families at Baker, Coolidge Corner, Driscoll and Runkle Schools last week announcing the program.

Restorative Justice in the Public Schools of Brookline

The district's work in rolling out restorative practices is off to a strong start. Our first year is focused primarily on foundational education to ensure that we establish a common understanding about what restorative justice means, and how to incorporate restorative practices to build community and improve day-to-day interactions between adults and young people. We will build on this foundation in the coming years with more specific school-based professional learning.

To this end principals, high school deans, and many central office administrators attended a training in July followed by a second training in August which was attended by many vice principals and high school educators. This month we currently have two trainings scheduled: one for all the school counseling staff and the other for vice principals and school educators.

While our first year emphasis is on the foundational education of restorative practices and is designed to build connections and relationships, Brookline High School opted to be an early adopter site. Other schools, such as Lincoln, have already begun sending their staff to training. The principals and staff that attended the July and August trainings have started using the skills learned to begin the important work of solidifying relationships among adults and are applying them in practice in various ways including faculty meetings and teacher team meetings.

Generous funding from the Brookline Education Foundation is allowing us to accelerate the number of training opportunities and provide specific additional support to the large number of staff at Brookline High School. Additionally, BEF funding is allowing us to retain key consulting support from the Suffolk University Center for Restorative Justice to help ensure a thoughtful and sustainable rollout.

In addition to the trainings, the district has scheduled community education sessions starting next week through early February. These sessions are open to district staff, families, students, and the public so that many stakeholders have a chance to learn about restorative justice. One education session is scheduled at each school building from 6:00 to 7:30pm, along with two additional sessions that will be held at Town Hall and the Public Library.

The complete schedule of these meetings is below:

Wednesday, 10/24/18	Town Hall, School Committee Room
Tuesday, 11/6/18	Driscoll School
Tuesday, 11/13/18	Baker School
Tuesday, 11/20/18	Brookline Main Library, Hunneman Hall
Tuesday, 12/4/18	Lincoln School
Wednesday, 12/5/18	BEEP at Town Hall, Room 103
Wednesday, 12/12/18	Lawrence School
Tuesday, 1/15/19	Coolidge Corner School
Tuesday, 1/22/19	Heath School
Tuesday, 1/29/19	Runkle School
Tuesday, 2/5/19	Pierce School
Wednesday, 2/6/19	Brookline High School

Massachusetts School Building Authority Senior Study Site Visit

We were pleased to host MSBA staff and architects at the Pierce School on October 9 for a Senior Study Site Visit. As part of the due diligence review phase of the MSBA Statement of Interest process, the visit provided the MSBA with the opportunity to learn about our goals for the project, observe deficiencies in the

current building, and directly evaluate how the condition of the facility is affecting the delivery of our educational program.

I want to thank Pierce Principal Lesley Ryan Miller and Vice Principal Jamie Yadoff for their work to ensure that we were so well prepared for this important meeting. I would also like to thank Ray Masak who joined the meeting to represent the Building Department.

The MSBA is expected to vote at either their December or January board meeting on which communities will be invited into the Eligibility Period, which is the next step in the process.

Student Panel with English Learner Students from Driscoll School

On October 17, several town officials joined me in the Select Board Hearing Room to participate in a panel with 14 English Learner students from Driscoll School. Organized by ELE teacher Jody Curran, the panel answered many interesting questions posed by the grade 3-5 students, ranging from *How many fires does the Brookline Fire Department respond to each year?*, to *How many books are housed in the Brookline Public Library?*, to *Is it hard to keep track of everything happening in Town?*

I would like to thank Town Administrator Mel Kleckner, Police Chief Andy Lipson, Library Director Sara Slymon, Deputy Fire Chief Owen Thompson, and Brookline Police Officers Katie McCabe, Kaitlin Conneely, and Gustavio Mady, Jr. for taking the time from their busy schedules to participate and answer the student's questions.

Brookline Education Foundation's Robert I. Sperber Award

It was my pleasure to be able to participate in the Brookline Education Foundation award ceremony this afternoon and introduce the recipient of this 2018 Robert I. Sperber Award: Janet MacNeil, former PreK-8 Science Coordinator. Janet served in the Public Schools of Brookline for 12 years, during which she championed science teaching and learning across the district. My full remarks from today's event are attached.

School Visits

Since the last School Committee meeting, I have enjoyed extended visits at the following schools:

Heath School	October 5
Lawrence School	October 17
Coolidge Corner School	October 18

I also attended the Lawrence faculty meeting on Tuesday, October 9.

Meetings with Parents and PTOs

Attached please find the schedule of my parent meetings at each school, generously hosted by the school PTOs. A few of these meetings are still in the process of being finalized. I look forward to meeting with parents in each school over the next few months.