



PUBLIC SCHOOLS of BROOKLINE

Superintendent's Update - December 8, 2022



Agenda



- PSB Highlights
- Superintendent School Visits
- Spotlight on Excellence

On Friday, December 2, the Office of Educational Equity is excited to extend the SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) program to Brookline parents, guardians, and caregivers.

SEED equips each person to connect our lives to one another and to society at large by acknowledging systems of power, oppression, and privilege. Seminars are designed to include personal reflection & testimony, listening to others' voices, and learn collectively from each others' perspectives and contexts.

PSB has already created school-specific and administration-specific SEED groups over the past few months. **As with these programs, groups will involve 10-15 participants, with seminars meeting once a month beginning in January 2023.**



Media Credit: J. Uttero

Launch of SEED Groups for PSB Parents



We are pleased to announce that Bob Thomas, PSB's Digital Learning Specialist, was named by **MassCue as their Educator of the Month for December 2022!**

Mr. Thomas' contributions to PSB have impacted nearly every student and staff member in the community. He has cultivated and managed most of the digital and online tools we use in our classrooms, such as SeeSaw, Canvas, JamBoard, and Learning Ally. In addition, as an Education Technology Specialist for the Driscoll School, Mr. Thomas helped pioneer the launch of Google Education accounts and Chromebooks for students - a model now implemented within the entirety of PSB itself.

Whether it's been his direct support to individuals or his tireless efforts to leverage our use of technology, Mr. Thomas' efforts have moved the needle on every aspect of PSB's Technology Vision. We are grateful for his continued expertise, patience, and thoughtfulness within our community!

Media Credit: B. Thomas

PSB's Bob Thomas named MassCUE Educator of the Month

We have seen an uptick in COVID cases in the two weeks since the Thanksgiving break with roughly 42 reported cases per week (up from weekly averages in the low-mid 20's). Two classrooms at 2 different schools had an increased pattern of cases of COVID, 3 or more in a ten-day period. We sent letters to these classrooms to inform them and provide recommendations.

We have also seen a slight increase in respiratory illness, consistent with what we typically see this time of year. A handful of students diagnosed with flu (Influenza A), a few with RSV. Many have not been tested.

We continue to remind students, families and staff to stay home when ill, to practice frequent handwashing, to wear a mask on days 6-10 if returning to school post covid infection, or if they have tested negative for COVID but are experiencing symptoms.

Rapid antigen at-home test kits will be made available for all students and staff to use before returning to school from the winter holiday break. Additionally, we will continue to host COVID and flu clinics. The next available clinic is:

- **Monday, December 12**, from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Brookline Town Hall

**2022
METCO DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE**

December 2, 2022 Four Points by Sheraton Norwood



*"Strengthening the Social
Emotional and Academic
Health of Students of
Color, Through Self Care
and Trauma Informed
Practices"*

Registration opens October 17th, 2022

**Keynote Speaker: John King, Former
United States Secretary of Education**

The METCO Directors' Association held their **Annual Educators Conference** last Friday, December 2. John King Jr., former U.S. Secretary of Education, was the keynote speaker this year.

Theme for this year's conference focused on **strengthening the social-emotional and academic health** of students and staff of color self-care and trauma-informed practices.

METCO Directors Conference



Executive Committee Meeting
Alcove Restaurant
50 Lovejoy Wharf, Boston, MA

AGENDA

December 8, 2022
12:30PM

- I. Welcome
We will be joined by Commissioner Riley, Amrita Sahni (Deputy Chief of Staff), Iraida Alvarez (Chief of Staff) and Kinnon Foley (DESE Strategic Advisor).
- II. Present/Approve 2023 Legislative Platform (see attached platform approved by M.A.S.S. Legislative Committee)
- III. Update on 37 ½ (amended legislation)
- IV. Update on MSBA and need for pothole account/supplemental budget
- V. Future of Education in MA
Strategic Plans/goals
Post pandemic and with the new administration beginning in January, is DESE and/or M.A.S.S. advancing any strategic planning for the Future of Education in Massachusetts. How might M.A.S.S. assist in its development of a position paper on testing and accountability.
- VI. Other Topics (Commissioner or E.C. Members)



Media Credit: L. Guillory

Recently Completed	
BEEP	Tuesday, 11/29
BHS	Thursday, 12/1
Heath	Tuesday, 12/6
Lawrence	Wednesday, 12/7
Upcoming	
Runkle	Friday, 12/9
Lincoln	Tuesday, 12/13
Driscoll	Thursday, 12/15
Ridley	Friday, 12/16

Superintendent School Visits



Media Credit: K. Brouillard, M. DeYoung, L. Guillory

Spotlight on Excellence: Brookline High School Cross Country Teams