

The Public Schools of Brookline
School Committee Meeting of Thursday, September 14, 2017
Superintendent Report
Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent of Schools

Opening Days

I am pleased to report that we had a very successful opening to the school year. I want to extend my thanks to the principals, vice principals, school secretaries, central office staff, custodians and so many more who worked tirelessly to make sure that the school year started so seamlessly.

As you know, our educators returned to school on Friday, September 1. BEU President Jessica Wender-Shubow and I visited each school over the three opening days (September 1, September 5 and September 6) to jointly welcome our educators back to the new school year.

Our educators were busy over the summer. Many participated in district professional development courses or joined their colleagues in curriculum workshops. They returned rested and invigorated for an exciting and productive year ahead.

The first day for students was Thursday, September 7. My comprehensive school visits started on day one with visits to Lawrence and Runkle. Since last Thursday I have been able to visit all K-8 schools and the high school; tomorrow I begin my visits to BEEP classrooms. These visits allowed me to join the principal in welcoming students back to school, and to observe the teaching and learning that is taking place in our classrooms. These visits also allowed me to be onsite to assist principals with any issues or obstacles that needed to be addressed. Even during these very early days in the school year, I observed incredibly thoughtful work - teachers who had prepared engaging lessons and students who were ready to jump right in. Over the course of the school year I will be visiting each school 7 or 8 times, with at least 2-3 visits scheduled every week.

In addition to these visits during the school day, I will also be attending faculty meetings throughout the year. Faculty meetings are scheduled every other Tuesday, immediately after school. This week, I joined Principal Allyson Hart at the Lawrence faculty meeting. I look forward to joining educators in faculty meetings at all schools throughout the year.

The Stories of Science - Integrating Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening into Science Instruction, 6-12

I want to congratulate Public Schools of Brookline educators Janet McNeil, K-8 science coordinator; Mark Goldner, grade 7-8 science teacher at Heath School; and Melissa London, grade 6 science teacher at Pierce School, on the publication of their book, *The Stories of Science - Integrating Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening into Science Instruction, 6-12*. This book grew out of a project initially funded by a Brookline Education Foundation grant supporting a professional development course for teachers titled *Weaving Science and Literacy*. The publication of this book is recognition of the outstanding work of Janet, Mark and Melissa in science and literacy. Further, it demonstrates the many ways instruction can be strengthened by integrating literacy into content instruction. My congratulations to Janet, Mark and Melissa for their accomplishment.

Enrollment Update

As of September 13, 2017 our enrollment numbers are as follows:

- K-8 Enrollment = 5,486
- 9-12 Enrollment = 2,069
- Total K-12 Enrollment = 7,555

- Current kindergarten enrollment is 609; the Office of Student Affairs projects this could reach 614 by October 1, 2017

- Compared to the same time last year:
 - K-8 enrollment has increased by 82 students
 - 9-12 enrollment has increased by 74 students
 - K-12 enrollment has increased by 156 students

Registration for the 2017-2018 school year opened in January, 2017. Since then, the Office of Student Affairs has registered 1,329 students. Since July 10 alone we have registered 569 students. New registrations are expected to remain quite active throughout September, and we already have approximately 20 more students with registration appointments in the next 5 days.

We will continue to update the School Committee with a second unofficial update at the September 28 School Committee meeting, followed by an official enrollment update following our October 1, 2017 enrollment certification.

School by school, our K-8 enrollment numbers are as follows:

	September 13, 2017	September 6, 2016
Baker	761	759
Devotion	803	792
Driscoll	609	583
Heath	536	548
Lawrence	726	706
Lincoln	580	576
Pierce	857	843
Runkle	614	597

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant

On Wednesday, September 13, 2017 we received notification that our FY18 240 IDEA Grant was approved in the amount of \$2,153,483 for the period of 9/1/17 through 8/31/18. This is a significant grant for the district as this funds many positions for educators providing direct services to students. A special thank you to the

Office of Student Services and Deputy Superintendent Zimmerman for their work in successfully securing this funding for the students of Brookline.

Brookline High School Expansion Project

Over the summer, the Town of Brookline hired William Rawn Associates as the architect for the schematic design phase of the Brookline High School Expansion Project. Headmaster Anthony Meyer and I have already had several meetings with them as they begin this important work. The architects are conducting three full days of meetings this week at the high school to tour the campus and meet directly with educators as part of the Intensive Design Process (IDP). The architects will hold five open forum meetings with staff and more than 20 meetings with small groups of educators, student services staff, food service workers, custodians, and administrators.

The Building Committee for the BHS Expansion Project will have their first meeting of the school year on Friday, September 29.

Leadership Team Equity Work, Summer 2017

Over the summer, the district's Leadership Team (principals and senior staff) participated in a 3-day workshop in the MLK Room at the high school. We devoted our time together to focus on priorities identified by principals at the end of the 2016-17 school year. Together we worked on: developing a process for defining high quality student learning at each school during the upcoming year; starting our team's collaborative inquiry work; reviewing new policies and procedures; and sharing the work principals are leading on equity and unintentional bias in our schools. These sessions were thoughtful, productive, and energizing, and served as a springboard for our work in the year ahead.

Similarly, our opening workshop for district administrators, held each year on the Brookline campus of Wheelock College, focused on the work to define high quality instruction, how to give effective feedback, and policy and procedure updates. Our evaluations of this day showed that administrators really appreciated the positive tone and tenor, the focus on instruction, and the ability to work in small and large groups. They also really enjoyed our giant game of *Rock, Paper, Scissors* - won by Jenee Ramos.

Introduction of New Administrators

Jeanette Lindor, Coordinator, Steps to Success

Jeanette Lindor is the new Coordinator for our Steps to Success program. She comes to this role with experience in various leadership positions within Brookline, mostly recently working as a guidance counselor at Brookline High School, a position she has held since 2005. Ms. Lindor has also served as the Steps to Success Work Connections for Youth Internship Coordinator, Diversity Chair for the Brookline Educators Union Executive Board, Board member at the Brookline Teen Center, and the Today's Students Tomorrow's Teacher Liaison. Prior to joining Brookline, Ms. Lindor served as the Assistant Director of the MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program in Cambridge. She recently completed SEED facilitator training in order to begin co-facilitating workshops for BHS staff in the fall.

Lisa Richardson, Director of Human Resources

Lisa Richardson joins Brookline as the new Director of Human Resources. Originally from Ohio, Ms. Richardson has spent the last fifteen years of her professional life guiding and implementing key initiatives. Most recently, Ms. Richardson was the Chief Human Resources Officer at Mount Ida College. Prior to that, she

spent five years as the Director of Human Resources of the Middletown City Schools (Ohio) where she coordinated district human resource activities such as employment, compensation, labor relations, benefits, training, and employee services. She also led labor relations activities including contract interpretation, grievances, arbitrations, training and hearings.

Meg Maccini, Senior Director of Programs

Meg Maccini is the new Senior Director of Programs for the Office of Teaching and Learning. Over the last ten years, Ms. Maccini has led a consulting practice focused on improving educational outcomes for vulnerable populations of students through strengthening programs, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development for teachers. Ms. Maccini is currently a doctoral candidate in Education Anthropology.

Lesley Ryan Miller, Interim Principal, Pierce School

Lesley Ryan Miller is the Interim Principal of the Pierce School for the 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Ryan Miller was Brookline's Senior Director of Teaching and Learning last year and has over twenty years of experience in education. Prior to joining the Public Schools of Brookline, Ms. Ryan Miller served as a kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade teacher. Following her 11 years as an early education teacher, she served as a New Teacher Mentor, Director of Teacher Development and Advancement, and Director of School Supports for the Boston Public Schools.

Nadine Ekstrom, Interim Senior Director of Teaching and Learning

Nadine Ekstrom is the new Interim Senior Director of Teaching and Learning. Ms. Ekstrom comes to Brookline after being the Superintendent at Berlin-Boylston Public Schools. She is currently working towards a Doctorate of Education in School Leadership and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Research and Evaluation. She enjoys international travel and has visited Poland, Finland, and Germany to study their education systems.

Keith Lezama, Interim METCO Director

Dr. Keith Lezama is now the Interim Director of Brookline's METCO Program for the 2017-2018 school year. Dr. Lezama has worked for PSB since 2006 and has most recently served as the Coordinator of METCO at Brookline High School since 2008. Dr. Lezama is a graduate of Brookline High School and of the METCO program himself. His two children currently attend the Driscoll School, and he met his wife at a Brookline track meet in the 6th grade.

Suzanne Vinnos, Brookline High School Special Education Coordinator

Suzanne Vinnos is the new Special Education Coordinator at BHS. She comes to BHS from Lower Devotion where she has been the Team Facilitator for the past year. Ms. Vinnos recently completed a Doctorate in Special Education from Boston University with a specialization in School Climate and Inclusive Practices for students with severe behavior disorders. In her spare time, she enjoys teaching at Boston University and participating in research projects focused on student mental health and emotional/behavioral disorders.

Tanya Alvarado, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator for World Languages

Tanya Alvarado is the new K-8 World Language Curriculum Coordinator for the Office of Teaching and Learning. She has spent the last twelve years as a Spanish teacher in the Public Schools of Brookline at Brookline High School, the Lincoln School, and most recently, the Baker School. Ms. Alvarado is currently a member of the PSB Middle School Curriculum Team, and formerly served on the K-5 Curriculum Summer Team, the Heritage Speaker Support Team, and is a Professional Development Facilitator.

Lynisha Samuel, Transportation Coordinator

Lynisha Samuel is the new Transportation Coordinator. She brings to Brookline experience in team leadership, organizational planning, risk assessment, and record and database management. Ms. Samuel most recently served as the Transportation Constituent Liaison for the Boston Public Schools, and brings ten years of experience in the operations field to her new role in Brookline.

Gus Travassos, Food Service Director

Gus Travassos joins Brookline as the Food Services Director for Whitsons Culinary Group. Gus previously served as Food Service Director for Haverhill Public Schools, also under Whitsons, and prior to that was the Director of Culinary Nutrition Services at the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center of Boston. Mr. Travassos has over fifteen years of experience in the Food Services field, and he is also bilingual: Fluent in both English and Portuguese.

Casey Ngo-Miller

Casey Ngo-Miller is the new Co-Director of Special Education for Grades Pre-K to 8. Ms. Ngo-Miller joins Brookline from the UP Education Network, where she served as the Director of Special Education. Prior to that, she was the Director of Special Education of the Early Learning Center and Elementary School for the Community Day Charter Public School, an Administrative Intern with the Director of Special Education at Framingham Public Schools, the School Psychologist and Team Chair for Fort Lee High School in New Jersey, and the Program Coordinator and Residential Teacher at the May Institute for Neuro-Rehabilitation.