

The Public Schools of Brookline  
School Committee Meeting of Thursday, November 9, 2017  
Superintendent Report  
Andrew J. Bott  
Superintendent of Schools

**Professional Development Day: *Courageous Listening***

As you know, tomorrow is our annual Professional Development Day during which educators from across the district will gather at Brookline High School for a day of professional learning. I have attached the program for your information.

I want to acknowledge Gabe McCormick, Director of Professional Development, for his work orchestrating the day's activities, including the 50+ small group breakout sessions to be facilitated by our own educators. In addition to his work on PD Day, Gabe has also been instrumental in arranging our work with The Equity Collaborative for the year ahead. The Equity Collaborative will be providing ongoing professional learning and leadership development to school and district administrators this year, work that will accelerate our current efforts toward identifying and eliminating barriers to educational achievement in our schools. I have attached my October 27 letter to staff with more details about our partnership with The Equity Collaborative.

In addition to this district-wide work, each of our schools is engaged in site-specific equity work. The content of this work is based on the needs identified within each school community. I have referenced this work at several School Committee meetings and have attached for the Committee a detailed summary of this school-based work.

**Casco Bay High School Site Visit**

On Friday, October 27, I was joined by BHS Dean of Faculty Jenee Ramos, BHS Math Department Chair Josh Paris, BHS teachers Stephanie McAllister and Aubrey Love, and Heath School Ed Tech teacher Matt Durant, in a visit to Casco Bay High School in Portland, Maine. Casco Bay High School is an Expeditionary Learning school, and our site visit was designed to generate ideas that we might consider as part of the expansion and renovation of Brookline High School. Our colleagues at CBHS generously gave of their time, providing the opportunity for in-depth observations and questions about their project based learning curriculum, social/emotional learning and supports, and heterogeneous student grouping with course embedded honors credit opportunities accessible to all learners.

**1st Annual Brookline METCO Social**

On Friday night, October 27, I had the pleasure of attending the 1st annual METCO Social at the Golden Temple restaurant in Washington Square. Dr. Keith Lezama, interim METCO Director, organized the event to build unity and connections across the program, and provide an informal opportunity for METCO families to meet each other, METCO staff, and PSB educators. This event demonstrates the District's commitment to METCO, and reinforces the great work done to promote academic excellence and to strengthen our METCO community.

**Government Alliance on Race and Equity Training**

Deputy Superintendent Mary Ellen Dunn and Human Resources Director Lisa Richardson joined me and other Town of Brookline department heads on October 31 for the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) training, held on the grounds of Hellenic College.

GARE is a national network of governments committed to achieving racial equity and advancing opportunity for all. As stated in the May 2017 resolution approved by Town Meeting, GARE works with government jurisdictions to assess the impact of public policies and procedures on racial equity and opportunity. The GARE

approach is data-driven and includes community engagement, setting and evaluating progress toward reasonable goals, and consultation with all levels of government employees, community members and decision-makers. I believe GARE to be a powerful network and support for the District in our educational equity work and look forward to deepening our work with them. Detailed information about GARE can be found at [www.racialequityalliance.org](http://www.racialequityalliance.org)

### **School Visits**

Over the last two weeks I had the opportunity to visit several schools, including:

- Runkle School on November 2
- BEEP @ Putterham on November 6
- Lower Devotion School on November 7
- Upper Devotion School on November 8

On November 1, I enjoyed the Brookline High School Drama Society's presentation of Shakespeare's play, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. The talented cast and crew put on an amazing performance. I want to thank the performing arts teachers for all of their work and dedication in support of this production. I have attached the BHS Performing Arts calendar for your information.

### **Brookline High School Innovation Fundraiser**

It was my pleasure to attend the BHS Innovation Fund Gala-Rama fundraiser on Saturday evening, November 4, at Lucky Strike Lanes in the Fenway. The evening was a great success for the Fund in support of their terrific work developing new ideas and initiatives at the high school.

### **LGBTQ+ Open Forum for Staff**

This afternoon I attended an LGBTQ+ Open Forum for Brookline educators. This forum, which will be repeated in December, was organized and facilitated by a working group that includes Dr. Mary Brown, Dr. Asa Sevelius, Darby Neff-Verre and Kate Sullivan. The session allowed educators to ask any questions they may have about LGBTQ+ lives, history, and language, as well as seek ideas about how to support students and staff. Sub-titled "*Teachers want to do the right thing*", the forum was an honest and thoughtful opportunity for educators to learn ways to support LGBTQ+ students or staff in a safe, non-judgmental, non-evaluative space.

### **Anti-Defamation League World of Difference Peer Training for Middle School**

As I mentioned in my report to you at the last meeting, we are working with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to bring their Peer Training Program to our middle school students. We have finalized the logistics for the training of Peer Leaders from Heath, Lawrence, Lincoln and Pierce Schools; a complete summary of the training sessions is attached. We are extremely grateful to Wheelock College for providing classroom space to us for all of these sessions. As I mentioned last month, we look forward to bringing this training to students at Baker, Devotion, Driscoll and Runkle schools in the 2018-2019 school year.

### **Kindergarten Registration Family Information Sessions**

In preparation for the opening of 2018 kindergarten registration in January, the Office of Student Affairs will be hosting five Kindergarten Registration Information Sessions between November 30 and December 13. Last year these sessions were very well attended, and provided parents with the opportunity to learn about the registration process and ask questions. The flyer announcing all of the sessions is attached for your information. We look forward to once again helping our newest families enter the school district!



**The Public Schools of Brookline**  
333 Washington Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445  
617.730.2401

**Andrew J. Bott**  
Superintendent

October 27, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to announce that the Public Schools of Brookline is partnering with Jamie Almanzán and Graig Meyer from [The Equity Collaborative](#) for a year of ongoing professional learning and leadership development. This partnership will include the opening address on our November 10 professional development day, professional learning with the District Leadership Team and individualized coaching for school and district administrators on leading for equity. By partnering with the Equity Collaborative, the Public Schools of Brookline will accelerate our current efforts towards identifying and eliminating barriers to educational achievement in our schools.

### **Professional Development Day**

On November 10, Mr. Almanzán will address all Brookline educators in his keynote, "Courageous Listening: Using Listening to Interrupt Implicit Bias." The keynote and the breakout discussions that follow will explore how listening creates opportunities for increased cultural responsiveness, builds alliances across race and role, and can catalyze change across a school system. Mr. Almanzán's interactive keynote will also explore neuroscience research that shows how our brains react when addressing racial bias and the types of techniques that can catalyze change related to equity and bias.

### **Leadership Team Support and Coaching**

In addition the work we do together on November 10, the Equity Collaborative will work directly with the District Leadership Team. Currently, staff in all of our schools are engaged in powerful work on equity during professional learning times, faculty meetings, and release day professional development. Our partnership with the Equity Collaborative will directly support principals so they are better prepared to support school teams in this critical and complex work that we all believe in deeply.

Mr. Almanzán and Mr. Meyer will facilitate six full days of professional learning with all principals and the District's senior leadership. The series of workshops will offer frameworks and tools to help leaders identify and assess the ways district and school climate, classroom structure, and teaching practices promote high achievement for all learners. School leaders will also examine their coaching and facilitation styles with a focus on educational equity, and will practice specific coaching skills that support equity work in our schools. The Equity Collaborative will also explore how local and regional context shapes the way systemic oppression and structural racism impact educational equity.

In addition to the workshops, Mr. Almanzán and Mr. Meyer will provide individualized coaching support to school and district leaders on becoming equity-focused educational leaders. Through coaching, leaders will learn to analyze the impact and effectiveness of instructional programs and engage in meaningful reflection that guides future action on providing equitable opportunities and achieving equitable outcomes. Additionally, leaders will work on developing and sustaining strong structures, routines, and roles for adult learning related to how race, class, and culture impact academic and educational outcomes.

The Public Schools of Brookline extends great appreciation to the Brookline Education Foundation for their continued support in making this partnership a reality.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Bott  
Superintendent

# BHS PERFORMING ARTS CALENDAR

## 2017-2018

### **Camerata & Orchestra Concert**

Thursday, Nov. 9, 7:30 PM  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Improvised Music Festival**

TBA  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **BETCo/Needs Improvement**

Friday, November 17, 7:30 pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **The Freshman Play**

**“Peter and the Starcatcher”**  
Wednesday, Dec. 6, 3:30 pm

Thursday & Friday, Dec. 7 & 8, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, Dec. 9, 3:30pm and 7:30 pm  
The Black Box Theatre

### **The Winter Concert**

Thursday, Dec. 14, 7:00 pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Holiday Revisions!**

Thursday, Dec. 21, 3:30pm & 7:30pm  
Friday, Dec. 22, 7:30 pm  
Dance Studio One

### **Needs Improvement**

Friday, Jan. 5, 7:30  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **All-Town Chorus Festival**

Brookline Elementary & BHS Choruses  
Two programs:  
Day one: Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7:00 pm  
Day two: Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7:00 pm  
Snow date: Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:00 pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Emerson Festival**

Thursday, Jan. 25, 7:30 pm  
Friday, Jan. 26, 7:30 pm  
The Black Box Theatre

### **The Musical, “Pippin!”**

Wednesday, Feb 7, 3:30 pm  
Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 8-10, 7:30 pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Chamber Music Festival**

Thursday, Feb. 15, 7:30 pm  
The Black Box Theatre

### **State Drama Festival**

Saturday, March 3, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **The Spring Play**

Wednesday, March 7, 3:30 pm  
Thursday & Friday, March 8 & 9, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, March 10, 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm  
The Black Box Theatre

### **State Festival Play**

Wednesday & Thursday  
March 14 & 15, 7:30pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Acappellafest**

Friday, March 16, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, March 17, 6:00 pm & 7:30 pm  
Dance Studio One

### **All-Town Orchestra**

Brookline Elementary & BHS Orchestras  
Wednesday, March 21, 7:00 pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Camerata Masterwork Concert**

Wednesday, March 28, 7:30 pm  
BHS Atrium & MLK Room

### **Music Collective Concert**

Thursday & Friday, April 5 & 6,, 7:30pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Progressions Dance Concert**

Thursday-Saturday, May 3-5, 7:30 pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Needs Improvement**

Friday, May 11, 7:30 pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Spring Music Festival**

Thursday & Friday, May 17 & 18, 7:30 pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Student Directed Acappella Concert**

Monday, May 21, 7:30 pm  
Black Box Theatre

### **Student Directed Festival**

Performances:  
Tuesday & Wednesday, May 22 & 23, 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Needs Improvement Battle**

Friday, May 25, 7:30 pm  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Música y cultura**

Friday, June 1 during the school day  
Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

### **Carolyn’s Open Mics**

Nov. 21 Dec. 20, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 23, April 27, & June 8, 7:00 PM  
Band Room (120)

ADL Peer Training  
 Public Schools of Brookline  
 8:00am to 2:00pm  
 Wheelock College – Brookline Campus  
 43 Hawes Street

**Heath and Lincoln Schools**  
*Kellee Terkla and Corey Clifford*

Session #:	Day:	Date:	Room #:	ADL Trainer:
1.	Wednesday	12/6/17	002	<i>Lora DeSalvo</i>
2.	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>12/14/17</i>	003	
3.	Thursday	1/4/18	003	
4.	Wednesday	1/10/18	002	

ADL Peer Training  
 Public Schools of Brookline  
 8:00am to 2:00pm  
 Wheelock College – Brookline Campus  
 43 Hawes Street

**Lawrence and Pierce Schools**  
*Zoe Kern and Kate Sullivan*

Session #:	Day:	Date:	Room #:	ADL Trainer:
1.	Wednesday	12/6/17	003	<i>Andy Petigny</i>
2.	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>12/12/17</i>	201	
3.	Thursday	1/4/18	002	
4.	Wednesday	1/10/18	003	

All training dates between the two cohorts overlap, except for session #2.  
 Classrooms 002 and 003 are adjacent to each other.

**FOOD:**

- We will have morning snacks for arrival.
- We will serve lunch at about 11:45 each day.
- Betsy will be in touch with you in terms of the food details over the next couple of weeks.

**SUPPLIES:**

- Betsy will meet you at Wheelock each morning to get you settled and to deliver supplies (easels, pads, name tags, etc.).

**TRANSPORTATION:**

- We will provide bus transportation for all schools; details will be finalized with you over the next couple of weeks.

# KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

## FAMILY INFORMATION SESSIONS ARE COMING!

Public Schools of Brookline  
Office of Student Affairs  
617-264-6492 | [studentaffairs@psbma.org](mailto:studentaffairs@psbma.org)

2018/19 Kindergarten Registration is almost here!

Join the Public Schools of Brookline for a Family Information Session about Kindergarten registration.

### Dates:

- November 30 8:30 am Town Hall, 5th floor, School Committee Room
- November 30 5:00 pm Town Hall, 1st floor, Room 111
- December 4 5:00 pm Putterham Branch, Brookline Public Library
- December 5 8:30 am Town Hall, 5th floor, School Committee Room
- December 13 11:30 am Town Hall, 1st floor, Room 103

We look forward to seeing you.

## NEXT STOP, KINDERGARTEN!

