

The Public Schools of Brookline  
School Committee Meeting of Thursday, September 28, 2017  
Superintendent Report  
Andrew J. Bott  
Superintendent of Schools

### School Registration for Students Impacted by Recent Hurricanes

Over the last week we have received a handful of calls from Brookline residents inquiring about the possibility of registering nieces, nephews, grandchildren, etc. who have been displaced from their homes in Puerto Rico due to Hurricane Maria. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shared guidance with school districts on Wednesday regarding this issue.

DESE reminded all districts of the following: students who live with friends or relatives due to loss of housing, including those who lose their home in a natural disaster, are covered under the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. These students, when they arrive, may lack the typical registration paperwork such as birth certificates, prior school records, etc. (these records having been lost in the disaster or are unable to be obtained because of the disaster). The lack of this documentation is no reason to delay registration. The few families who have called so far have indicated that their relatives can't yet get flights out of Puerto Rico, so no students have actually arrived. However, if and when they do, we are prepared to register them without delay and provide them with whatever services they may need to successfully adjust to their new school in Brookline.

### Enrollment Update

As of September 28, 2017 our enrollment numbers are as follows:

- K-8 Enrollment = 5,486
- 9-12 Enrollment = 2,067
- Total K-12 Enrollment = 7,553

Current kindergarten enrollment is 613. School by school, our K-8 enrollment numbers are as follows:

	September 28, 2017	September 6, 2016
<b>Baker</b>	763	759
<b>Devotion</b>	803	792
<b>Driscoll</b>	613	583
<b>Heath</b>	533	548
<b>Lawrence</b>	725	706
<b>Lincoln</b>	579	576
<b>Pierce</b>	858	843
<b>Runkle</b>	612	597

## **School Visits and Meetings**

Since our last School Committee meeting, I have had several highly productive school visits. Vicki Milstein and I visited our BEEP classrooms at Lynch, Beacon and Putterham. My visit to Putterham coincided with the school's parent/guardian back-to-school morning meetings - wonderful events where our BEEP educators were able to share all of the exciting things that will be happening in the year ahead. I also joined principals for extended visits at Heath, Runkle, Driscoll and Lawrence Schools over the past two weeks.

This past Tuesday, September 26, I joined Dr. Talukdar at the Driscoll School Faculty meeting. While a wide range of important information was discussed and shared during this meeting, it was the spirit and energy of the Driscoll Team that is worth noting here. Both in the faculty meeting and during the time I spent visiting classrooms, there is high energy, innovative teaching, strong collaboration and much excitement for all that will happen at Driscoll School during the year ahead.

We hosted our first monthly *Superintendent's Meeting with Parent Leaders* on September 20. This monthly gathering - that includes PTO Presidents and School Council Co-chairs from all schools - is an important part of our efforts to keep parents informed of the district's priorities and work, as well as to hear directly from parent leaders about issues and concerns in their school communities.

## **Steps to Success**

At the last School Committee meeting, I introduced Jeanette Lindor as our new Steps to Success Coordinator. With Ms. Lindor's hire, the Public Schools of Brookline now has eight full-time employees working directly with our Steps to Success students. In addition to Ms. Lindor, these positions include four elementary program advisors supporting students who attend Devotion, Lawrence, Lincoln and Pierce Schools. The positions also include three program advisors working directly with the students who attend Brookline High School. With Ms. Lindor now coordinating and supervising services across schools in our district, we expect to see consistent and improved supports for Steps to Success students. To support this structure, the district has increased funding by nearly 25% over last year's budget allocation. Deputy Superintendent Nicole Gittens and I believe this to be the right structure and level of support for our students. Ms. Gittens will work closely with Ms. Lindor as she transitions into her new and important leadership role.

## **Professional Development Day**

The details for the annual staff Professional Development Day have been confirmed. We are pleased to announce that Jamie Almanzan from The Equity Collaborative will lead our work, titled "Courageous Listening: Using Listening to Interrupt Implicit Bias". I have attached PD Day flyer that has more details. In addition to the facilitated sessions on PD Day, Mr. Almanzan will also provide on-site coaching for district leaders in the coming months. We are grateful to the Brookline Education Foundation for their generous financial support of Professional Development Day.

## **"A Gift of Music" to the Performing Arts Department from the Brookline Education Foundation**

The Performing Arts Department of the Public Schools of Brookline, under the leadership of K-12 Curriculum Coordinator Kenny Kozol, has been awarded the Brookline Education Foundation's 35th Anniversary Gift. Throughout the school year, students will benefit from "A Gift of Music." World-renowned composer and conductor Jim Papoulis has been commissioned to create original songs with and for Brookline students, K-12, that come from, embody, and represent the spirit of Brookline schools.

Jim will work with every K-5 elementary general music class to create a song for every grade. These songs will become part of Brookline's K-5 Performing Arts repertoire and curriculum. He will also collaborate with 6-12 chorus, orchestra, band, guitar/ukulele, music production and general music classes and compose a musical piece. The world premiere event conducted by Jim Papoulis will take place on January 9th and 10th, 2018, at the All-Town Choral Concert (BHS Auditorium at 7pm, open to the public). Save the date!

# COURAGEOUS LISTENING

## USING LISTENING TO INTERRUPT IMPLICIT BIAS

A day of professional learning for all Brookline educators.

10 November 2017

Brookline High School

Keynote by  
**Jamie  
Almanzán**  
The Equity Collaborative



Jamie Almanzán is a facilitator, teacher, curriculum developer, leadership coach, and owner of The Equity Collaborative in Oakland, CA. He has focused his career on working with school and district teams to create more equitable learning environments to best meet the needs of underserved populations.

The keynote address will be followed by small-group breakout discussions facilitated by Brookline educators.



This day made possible with generous support from the  
**BROOKLINE EDUCATION FOUNDATION**