

TO: KITTERY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM: ERIC WADDELL, SUPT. OF SCHOOLS
DATE: JULY 13, 2017
RE: REPORT FOR JULY 18TH MEETING

My first report to you as your new superintendent of schools will be brief. I was lucky to have the first week of July off, and my family and I spent the week lakeside in Northern Maine (buggy but beautiful and relaxing). They are still there, in fact, and I plan to head back for a long weekend this evening.

Out With the Old; In With the New

On my last day as the principal of Traip Academy (June 30), I packed up my things and moved them all into the superintendent's office...and left! I returned from vacation on July 10, and with the help of Donna Schoff, I unpacked and moved in. It is a comfortable office, and I've settled in nicely. We've been busy with 'set up' tasks including the phone system, letterhead, website updates, reconfiguring Frontline (Aesop), NEO, etc. It feels good to have this behind me so that I can hit the ground running on July 17th.

I have already come to realize how incredibly important Donna Schoff will be as I continue my transition to the superintendent's office. She is highly competent and extremely organized. I look forward to working with her and the entire office staff. It's a high-functioning team! I am hosting a lunch (on me!) for the office staff on July 19th to thank them for their support during this leadership transition.

JumpStart

With 12 students, the program launched for the summer on July 5th and will wrap up August 8th. The Kittery Rotary Club will be presenting books to these students on their last day, and I'll be there for that!

Summer Academy

The Traip Academy Summer Academy will start Monday, July 17th, and will run through August 11th. Mr. Roberge will be overseeing the program at Traip Academy (Mr. Drisko will observe!), and Mrs. Ellis and Mrs. Beach are overseeing the Shapleigh Summer Academy which runs July 10th - August 3rd.

Summer Facilities/Maintenance Projects

As you know, summer recess is the perfect time to execute major projects. Mr. Stilphen and his staff are busy with major carpet projects at Traip Academy and lighting projects at Mitchell School. Shapleigh School will have new stair treads by summer's end. Once the summer rush is over for capital improvements, I will invite Mr. Stilphen to provide the Committee with a comprehensive update.

Extended School Year

Special Services is providing ESY services to students at all three Kittery Schools. ESY is critical for many students to help curb the 'summer slide' which can be especially detrimental to students with a particular learning challenge. Ms. Durgin and her staff are overseeing ESY 2017.

Welcome New Principals!

On July 13th, I am spending the day with our two new principals, Mr. Drisko and Mrs. Durost, along with their respective assistant principals, Mr. Roberge and Ms. Gamache, for a day of orientation. This is something I would have truly benefited from when I arrived in the summer of 2012. We will visit all three Kittery schools with a tour by Mrs. Ellis, Mr. Roberge, and Ms. Gamache. I have also arranged for a tour of PNSY including their simulation training center and a tour of the USS Hampton.

The PNSY has such a presence in our community, including our schools. I believe it is critical for our school leaders to understand and appreciate the magnitude of the PNSY and the role that it plays in Kittery and in the US Navy.

We will have a working lunch as well where Ms. Johnson, ELO Resource Coordinator, will brief the group on her role and on current projects that will impact the schools. Along the way, the new principals will meet key personnel, become acquainted with the geography of Kittery, and visit some neighborhoods from where our students come each day. I'm looking forward to it!

Upcoming Events

- July 20 – Traip Academy Kids Garden Camp
- Traip Academy Ranger Market open every Saturday from 9 AM – 1 PM
- July 25 – Finance Committee Meeting 5:30 PM
- August 1 – School Committee Meeting 6:30 PM

Looking Ahead

- August 14th – Fall Sports Begin at Traip Academy
- August 18th – Back To School Blast at PNSY 11 AM – 2 PM
- August 22nd – School Committee Retreat 5 – 8 PM
- August 23rd – Leadership Team Meeting noon – 3 PM
- August 23rd – School Cmte. Retreat (Day 2) with Leadership Team 5 – 8 pm