

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM: ERIC WADDELL, SUPT. OF SCHOOLS
DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2020
RE: **REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1, 2020 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

It is the final day of November. Thanksgiving is behind us, and the December break is only 17 school days (and two School Committee meetings!) away. Our three schools have been open for in-person learning since September 8th with no interruptions. However, the post-Thanksgiving impact of large gatherings and relaxed physical distancing and mask-wearing practices has not yet hit us. These next two weeks will be challenging ones for the Kittery School District.

Rest assured that we are prepared to deploy in Status Red if need be with a moment's notice. If that happens, I will keep you informed (as I have since this pandemic ride began back in March). Please send positive thoughts for continued safety for our students, our staff, and their families. I write this report on the day that Moderna Pharmaceuticals has applied for FDA authorization of its Covid-19 vaccine. There is a light at the end of this tunnel, and we'll make it through!

Out of an abundance of caution, our **meeting will be a remote meeting** using the Zoom platform. I will share the link with you via email, so keep an eye out for that. Others who would like to watch the meeting may do so in two ways:

- Go to this link from the Town of Kittery website and watch the meeting streaming live: <http://www.kitteryme.gov/home/pages/kittery-channel-22-live-stream>
- For those who live in Kittery and who have cable television, they may watch the meeting live on Channel 22.

Allow me to walk you through the agenda:

- Since our meeting is remote, the public has been instructed to put their **public comments**, complete with their full name, in writing by email to Donna Schoff (dschoff@kitteryschools.com) by noon on December 1st. Comments received by then will be read aloud during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.
- We will continue with the Leadership Team check-in with **Assistant Superintendent Woodside** and **Ms. Durgin**, Special Services Director. They will share some highs and lows of the past three months from their perspective.
- **Student Representative Kofos** will also report out with highlights from the three District schools.

- Chairwoman Dow will continue her assignment discussion from last meeting related to **Standing Committee assignments**. We nailed down one (Mr. Lemont will represent the School Committee on the municipal CIP Committee which begins December 8th).
- Under my report, I will share some highlights from the **October 11 Category Report** (that will be reviewed at the Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee meeting later today).
- I will also share some **recent appointments and transfers** since our November 17th meeting. They are listed on your agenda.
- Under new business, you will take a **second look at Policies** IHAKA, IHBG, and JGAC. The Policy Committee has completed its review of 2019 policy updates as recommended by MSMA. These will be included on the December 15th agenda. I hope you've had a chance to review the Policy Committee meeting minutes from November 23rd. Let me know if you have any questions!
- You will also take an official look at the recently updated **AP Warrant Review Calendar** which reflects the changes to the School Committee from the November election.
- It's not too early to begin looking at the **21-22 School Calendar**. I included a possible draft in your materials. I can point out some important features of the calendar and answer your questions. If the 21-22 School Calendar has staff starting before September 1st, the KEA will need to give its 'OK' for that. I have been in touch with the KEA Executive Board, and they are on standby to see what form the calendar might take.
- Following Committees & Reports, you will enter into the **Executive Session** before returning to the public meeting in order to take action on Certification of Employment of the Superintendent of Schools. By statute, School Committees must meet by December 31st to elect a superintendent and then must submit a report on employment of their superintendent to the Maine DOE by January 31st. Mrs. Schoff will take care of that piece following this meeting.
- You will enter into a second Executive Session, this time to discuss contract negotiations. I do not anticipate any actions following this Executive Session.

A Few Loose Ends...

- I am pleased to report that **Traip Academy's NEASC accreditation** has been continued following the acceptance of the school's five-year Progress Report. Principal Drisko and his team now have a Special Progress Report to file by September 15, 2021. Traip Academy is scheduled to host its next decennial accreditation review visit in 2025

(postponed one year due to Covid-19). That means the review cycle begins in 2022 (probably the fall).



- Congratulations to **Cheryl Coughlin**, Traip Academy teacher and special education case manager, for being named Teacher of the Month by StuKent, the software company that created *Mimic Personal Finance*, the online curriculum Mrs. Coughlin uses for a personal finance course at Traip Academy.



- I am looking forward to having Officer Durgin join me on Wednesday, December 2nd, for **Exploring Racial Equity: Leaning & Learning**. It is an afternoon workshop sponsored by Great Schools Partnership.



- Congratulations to **November Students of the Month Rico and Carrigan!** They were honored at a recent Kittery Rotary Club morning virtual meeting by their teachers and administrators.



For your calendars:

- Nov. 30 ~ Policy Committee Meeting 3:00 PM (Virtual)
- Dec. 1 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM (Zoom)
- Dec. 7 ~ Community Conversation #3 6:00 PM (register with Donna Schoff)
- Dec. 8 ~ CIP Planning Meeting 6:00 PM
- Dec. 15 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM (Zoom)
- Dec. 18 ~ SRTC Advisory Board Meeting 9:00 AM (Zoom)
- Dec. 21 ~ Policy Committee Meeting 3:00 PM (Virtual)
- Dec. 23 ~ Start of December School Break
- Jan. 4 ~ Classes resume

