

TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE VA  
FROM: ERIC WADDELL  
DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2020  
RE: **REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 12, 2020 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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We had a good run! December 3rd to February 7th is a long stretch by any standard with no snow days. Last Friday's weather made for a tough call, but I'm confident it was the right one. Freezing rain is nothing to take lightly when school buses and inexperienced teen drivers are on the road (I have one of those in my house now!). Friday was our third snow day of the season. The remainder of this week looks OK (I'm keeping an eye on Thursday morning)...hoping to get to February break with 2 snow days in the bank. Let's see what March has in store for us. I've got my eye on March 30th, the first day for the spring sports season!

**Allow me to walk you through the agenda for our January 21st meeting:**

- We will begin our meeting by convening around the large tables with the Leadership Team to discuss our progress thus far with the FY21 budget. I have included our projected revenue and expenses up to this point. I must emphasize that this is a work in progress with several remaining workshops with the Leadership Team and the Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee. I will be presenting the FY21 proposed budget at our March 3rd School Committee meeting. At the same meeting, Ms. Greer will present the Adult & Community Education FY21 budget as well. The School Committee is slated to take action on the FY21 proposed budget on March 17th.
- Under correspondence, I have shared two pieces with you. One was forwarded to me from Mr. Roberge, and I received the other from Kristen Ferullo, our School Liaison Officer from the PNSY.
- Student Representative Rubianes will share his report for February with the School Committee.
- Under my report, I've shared a wonderful article from the January School Nutrition Journal, and another one from the Portsmouth Herald about the recent penny drive at Mitchell Primary School to help support the relief effort in Australia. I have also included an article identifying Mrs. Gagnon from Shapleigh School as a finalist for the NHL's 'Most Valuable Teacher' Award. That is one that you can vote for (more than once!), so go for it!
- The Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee will review the January 11 Cost Center Report just prior to our School Committee meeting. If any questions emerge from that, I will share them with you.
- I am happy to share with you the newest round of extra-curricular appointments. These are spring athletic coaches appointments.
- Under New Business, we will review and discuss the final draft of the 2020-21 School Calendar. Since I am proposing that we begin the next school year prior to September 1st (the first official day of the new contact year), it is important to ensure that both Unit A and C are 'on board' with the early start. If I get the thumbs up from the KEA before

our meeting, the Chair may decide to take action on the proposed calendar, or we can wait until the March 3rd meeting. Stand by!

- Following Committee Reports, we will enter Executive Session on a personnel matter, and then we will return to Council Chambers to take action on my nomination of Michelle Perry as Shapleigh School's permanent assistant principal.

**That should take care of the Business Meeting. I asked each member of the Leadership Team and Department Heads to identify the 'One Big Thing' that they want to ensure you know about as we move into the end of winter and beginning of spring. Here's what they came up with!**

**Eric Waddell** ~ February has arrived, and the 100th day of school is nearly upon us. The one big thing that I want to make sure everyone knows about is a project that the Rotary Club of Kittery is working on with the Kittery PTA and the Traip Academy Athletic Boosters Club. We are teaming up to host the **Friends of Kittery 5K Run/Walk** on Sunday, May 17th. It will begin at Traip Academy and flow through the Foreside area. Proceeds will be shared among the three organizations. We'll have lots of yummy food following the run along with some great raffle prizes, awards for the age group winners, and T-shirts for participants. Believe it or not, this will be the only road race in Kittery (as far as we know). The PTA retired the Seaside 4-Miler in September. The Kittery Fire Association, the Block Party, and the Team Fox For Parkinson's Research all retired their road race events in 2019, so the Friends of Kittery 5K will be the only Kittery road race in 2020. Save the date and register today!

<https://www.lightboxreg.com/friends-of-kittery-5K?func=&mobile=1>

**John Drisko** ~ Traip Academy is planning to rethink and reschedule its **spring parent/teacher conferences**. Usually, these are held over two half-days from 3:30 to 7:30 on one day and 3:00 to 6:30 a week later. Like fall parent/teacher conferences, these have traditionally been course-based conferences. Attendance at the spring conferences has been extremely light, causing us to rethink their purpose. This year we look to have a parent/student/advisor conference in Mid-March. This would focus on the growth of the student more broadly as well as solidify course registration for the next year. Seniors would focus on their Capstone Project and plans after graduation. The other half-day would take place in late April or early May and be a "Showcase of Learning" (a working title). This could include lots of possibilities such as individual student projects, National History Day presentations by sophomores, chemistry lab presentations, an Open Gym directed by students for parents to use the high and low-rope course elements, club presentations, music, an art show, and so forth. We're excited about the change, though many of the details still need to be worked out.

**Wendy Collins** ~ The one big thing that I want to make sure everyone knows about is that the Kittery School Nutrition Program has been awarded a **national scholarship** from the School Nutrition Association. I will be attending the Legislative Action Conference in Washington DC in March and will be joining the Maine School Nutrition Association leadership team. We end the conference on the Hill meeting with our Senators to discuss current issues regarding school m

**Linda Greer** ~ One big thing I am excited about in the second half of the year is **increased access to learning**. Adult and Community Education is offering more academic classes at different times to meet the needs of students' varying work schedules. We expect this change will support the completion of high school diplomas and build skills for new jobs.

**Michael Roberge** ~ As the 2019-2020 winter sports season comes to a close, we start to shift our thoughts to the spring sports season. The 2020 R.W. Traip Academy **Boys Lacrosse** team will be charting new waters as they will compete at the varsity level for the first time in school history. The Rangers will compete in the Maine Principals' Association Class C division along with fifteen other schools. We are all excited to open pre-season activities on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Join me in wishing the best of luck to all the coaches and student athletes participating in the boys lacrosse program this spring. GO RANGERS!

**Michelle Perry** ~ This first year as an administrator feels like everything is BIG and EXCITING, but I am particularly excited as we move into the second half of the year to be **getting into classrooms** and diving deep into instructional coaching, teacher growth, and student learning.

**Alli Gamache** ~ The one big thing that I want you to know is coming up is that the week of May 4 - May 8 will be **STEM Week** at Mitchell School and will involve a family STEM night on May 6th. This is an expansion of the Family STEM night that we had last year. We are in the planning phase of this project and hoping to have lots of families attend our second annual event like this on that evening. Our goal this week is to help expose students to activities that may lead to the eventual pursuit of passions in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. Although students at Mitchell are young, we hope to spark an interest early in one of these fields!

**Anne Ellis** ~ The One Big Thing that I am excited about for Shapleigh School is our continued work with consultant Mike Anderson on **Social Emotional learning**, and more specifically the topic of student motivation. In January, Mike presented to the whole faculty about the five types of intrinsic motivation; 1) Belonging / Connection 2) Autonomy / Power 3) Mastery / Esteem 4) Purpose / Significance and 5) Fun / Curiosity. In early February Mike returned to work with each teaching team around an issue of motivation and building intrinsic motivation identified by that grade level or teaching team, and each team committed to trying a few things around that issue. Mike will be returning on April 7th and again on May 5th to check in on progress and build upon this work. We're looking forward to seeing the growth and improvement for all as a result!

**Marilyn Woodside** ~ I am very pleased to introduce our new ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) teacher, **Mr. Gary Venenga**, who began working at Mitchell Primary and Shapleigh Schools on February 4<sup>th</sup>, after the mid-year departure of Judy Webb. Mr. Venenga has taught high school English/Language Arts in the United States as well as teaching English Language Learners in South Korea and Thailand. That experience allowed him to develop a variety of classroom management and instructional techniques, modes of assessment and means of communication. Having spent the last seven years in Thailand, Mr. Venenga has also acquired a discerning taste for Thai cuisine. Welcome, Mr. Venenga!

**Jane Durgin** ~ Looking out at the dreary February weather my thoughts turn to longer warmer spring days. On Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> more than 23 athletes from Kittery will travel to Noble High School in North Berwick Me to participate in the **York County Special Olympics Spring Games**. The rain date is Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is the third year that Noble High School has graciously hosted the event. Our students are always decked out in the coolest Special Olympics t-shirts and positively represent our community. Upon my reflection of last year's rained out event, Kittery's Chief of Police Robert Richter and his staff saved the day. The KPD volunteered and proudly handed out medals to our athletes. The day was a huge success

because of the support of our great community. Special Olympics is a day that many students look forward to all year long. I hope we see you at Noble High School on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May!

**For your calendars:**

Feb. 10 ~ Policy Committee Meeting 4:00 PM Central Office Conference Room  
Feb. 11 ~ Traip Academy Girls Basketball Team at Monmouth Academy for Girls Class C Southern Maine Prelim game 6:30 PM  
Feb. 12 ~ Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee Budget Workshop 4:00 PM Central Office Conference Room  
Feb. 12 ~ School Committee Meeting Council Chambers 6:00 PM  
Feb. 12 ~ Traip Academy Boys Basketball Team at Hall-Dale HS for Boys Class C Southern maine Prelim game 6:30 PM  
Feb. 14 ~ SRTC Advisory Board Meeting 11:00 AM  
Feb. 17 ~ Presidents Day ~ No Classes  
Feb. 18 - 21 ~ School Break  
Feb. 24 ~ Raising Adolescent and Young Men Today 6:00 PM KCC  
Feb. 25 ~ Kittery Advocates For All (KAFA) Meeting 6:00 PM KCC  
Feb. 28 ~ MSSA Executive Committee Meeting 9:00 AM  
March 2 ~ Vision 2025 Kick-Off Event 6:30 PM KCC  
March 3 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chambers  
March 3 ~ Talking Race & Kids (a three-part series) Traip Academy 6:00 PM  
March 5 ~ Kittery & Maine's Bicentennial feat. Bob Gray 6:00 PM Traip Academy Lib.  
March 6 & 7 ~ MPA Drama Festival feat. Traip One-Act Play Time TBA Scarborough HS