

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
FROM: ERIC WADDELL  
DATE: JANUARY 11, 2019  
RE: **REPORT FOR JANUARY 15, 2019 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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Happy New Year again to everyone! We've settled into 2019 nicely and we're moving along. I continue to be pleased that we have not yet had any student snow days (and only two delayed starts). We did need to cancel school on a staff development day prior to Thanksgiving. Our tentative last day of school is Friday, June 14th, although I fully expect we'll have a snow day or two before we're completely out of the woods. Some schools in Maine have already accrued 6 or 7 snow days...yikes! We are fortunate to live so close to the coast where rain often predominates. Our time will come, however. I know our students look forward to a snow day...sort of a rite of passage!

**Allow me to walk you through our agenda for January 15th:**

- I'm happy to share a neat article from **Fair Tide**, a community-based organization right here in Kittery. The story focuses on the Pillow Project which originated in New York and made its way to Kittery, Maine, and Traip Academy. I know you will enjoy the story.
- Student Representative **Denholm** will share his monthly report with you at this meeting.
- Under "**Unfinished Business**" you will take action on the second read of two policies and an 'one and only' read of a procedural policy. As I've noted, the language that we added to DJ and DJH is required by law~the Federal Uniform Grant Guidance. DJ-R, the procedural policy for DJ, is also the Federal Procurement Manual. It is our legal counsel's recommendation that we adopt the Federal Procurement Manual as our DJ-R since we did not already have one.
- You will see the **11 Category Report** for activity ending December 31, 2018, in your materials. The Facilities, Finance, and Safety Committee will have had an opportunity to review the Report at its meeting on Monday, January 14th, prior to our Business Meeting, so Julie, Kim, and I should be able to address any questions you may have.
- You'll see some **new appointments** since our last meeting. These are resulting from Mitchell Primary School's after school intervention program (two 6-week programs that are offered in mathematics and reading in beginning in January) and Adult & Community Education's addition of a math and chemistry teacher for the new semester.
- I've received two **retirement notices** since our January 2nd meeting which will require action of the School Committee.

- Under **New Business**, you will take action on an amendment to 2018-19 Schedule A of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement for Unit A.
- Also under New Business, Chairwoman Dow will discuss the feasibility of holding a School Committee meeting on **February 19th** which is during the Maine school vacation week.

**That takes care of the business meeting. Let me share some other updates with you:**

- If you are following the **Traip Academy winter sports** teams, you'll note that the boys varsity basketball team is doing quite well under first-year coach Ed Szczepanik. The team is currently 7 wins ~ 3 losses and ranked 5th in Southern Maine Class C. The team has its eye on post-season play in Augusta. It will be fun to see how far this young team will go in the annual basketball tournament. The girls team is not out of it yet. With 8 games remaining in their regular season schedule, the Traip Academy girls basketball team is ranked 16th with their sights set on breaking into the top 13 teams who are eligible for post-season play. This is a young team as well with a very promising future.

We also have a 40-member indoor track team as well as students participating in cooperative teams in wrestling, skiing, and ice hockey. **Thank you to Mr. Roberge** for ensuring that our athletics program continues to move in a positive direction and is adapting to the interests of our students.

- I continue to work with the Leadership Team and a consulting to firm up a plan for developing a **new K-12 five-year Vision** for the Future for the District. We've been informally referring to it as 'Vision 2024'. After careful consideration and analyzing the costs associated with a comprehensive visioning process, it is my recommendation to put this project into the FY20 budget and begin the work after July 1st. My initial plan was to make this a winter/spring 2019 project, but I believe the costs are prohibitive given our tightly crafted FY19 budget. If all goes as planned, we'll have a new Vision for the Future or Vision 2024 for the School Committee's adoption by the end of December (which may cause us to name it Vision 2025!).
- For those of you on the School Committee who have been around a while, you've heard of the **ED 279 (State Calculation for Funding Public Education)** which is a report from the Department of Education; it details our state funding for the following year. I'm expecting our ED 279 later in January and will share the result with you when it comes through. Before funding can be determined, the Governor's budget must be finalized. Stay tuned!
- Just a brief update on the **FY20 budget-building process**. The Leadership Team met to review new program proposals for 2019-20. It was a long process but an exciting one. It is inspiring to hear what our leaders are looking at to enhance the educational experience for our students. Of course, not all new proposals will be funded. Those that

are not may be reviewed for alternate funding sources (like grants), or they may be left in the queue for considering for future budgets. You will learn about the new program proposals when the leadership team presents the work we've done to date at the February 5th budget workshop with the School Committee. I have notified our families about Tuesday's FY20 budget public input prior to the start of our business meeting. Finally, I am looking forward to meeting with Town Manager Amaral and the Town Council leadership next week to ensure that positive lines of communication remain open during the FY20 budget-building process.

- Although the **Policy Committee** did not meet on January 9th as planned (my fault), I did want to report that the Leadership Team took a lot of time at its regular meeting recently to review the proposed KLGA-R, and we have some important recommendations for the Policy Committee which I will share at the next Policy Committee meeting on February 13th. I also wanted to identify the policies that are in the queue for review by the Policy Committee:
  - KLGA-R (procedural policy related to the recently adopted KLGA)
  - EBCB-R (procedural policy related to evacuation drills)
  - ADC-R & JICH-R (procedural policies related to marijuana offenses in school)

Speaking of marijuana, I will be joining our school nurses along with some members of the leadership team for a webinar next week with our legal counsel on the topic of **medical marijuana** and recent changes in the law. I'll be there to ensure that our policies are aligned with the new laws.

- Here's a quick update on the **ESSA Report Cards**. They are still public, likely due to a slew of errors in the reports. I was thankful to resolve the errors related to our per public spending as reported by the the DOE in the report cards, thanks in large part to Nancy Embry, our data manager, who was able to work with the Help Desk staff at the DOE and determine that a simple coding error resulted in our initial per public spending rates being ridiculously high. The data is now correct, and if/when the report cards are made public, the data in them will reflect correct information.

#### **And important dates for your calendars:**

- January 14 ~ Facilities, Finance & Safety Committee meeting 6:00 PM in the Central Office Conference Room
- January 15 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM (following public input on the FY20 School Budget)
- January 16 ~ ACIL Meeting 2:45 PM Central Office Conference Room
- January 16 ~ Japan 2019 Trip Commitment Meeting 7:00 PM Shapleigh School Library
- January 17 ~ Shapleigh School PBL Parent Advisory Group Meeting 6:00 PM
- January 17 & 18 ~ MSSA Winter Convocation in South Portland
- January 17 ~ CIP Meeting 5:30 PM Town Hall Conference Room
- January 21 ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observed ~ No Classes

- January 22 ~ KAFA Meeting 6:00 PM KCC
- January 23 ~ CIP Meeting 5:00 PM Town Hall Conference Room
- January 23 ~ Exploring Later School Start Times Meeting 6:00 PM Traip Academy Library
- January 24 ~ Mitchell Primary School PBL Parent Advisory Meeting 6:00 PM KCC
- February 5 ~ School Committee Meeting (FY20 Budget Workshop with Leadership Team)
- February 6 ~ Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (grades 7 - 12)