

VIA

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FROM: ERIC WADDELL

DATE: DECEMBER 27, 2017

RE: **REPORT FOR JANUARY 2ND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

I hope you are all having a restful holiday break. Our next meeting on January 2, 2018, happens to fall on the first day back from the December break, and there have been only two school days since our last meeting, so I am abbreviating my bi-weekly report to highlight several important items on the January 2nd agenda as well as to remind you of some important dates coming up in the month of January.

- In your packet for this meeting, you will see the Request for Bids for the next school bus **transportation contract**. Our current contract is with Ledgemere Transportation (STA), and we are in the fifth of a five-year contract. The new RFB is provided to you by the Finance Committee for your review. If it looks favorable to you, will be release it on January 3rd. Please note that I have added language in the contract to account for possible changes in school start times in the event that those change during the life of the contract (page 13, 6-3). I have also added the option of an additional afternoon bus run to the PNSY which will help to alleviate so scheduling issues due to traffic and gate security.
- The search for the next permanent principal at Horace Mitchell Primary School is on. As you know, Mrs. Durost is holding down the fort this year as our interim principal. Applications will be received through the end of the day on Friday, January 12th. We will need representatives from the School Committee to serve on the search committee. If you are interested in being involved, be sure to let Mrs. Dow know prior to our January 2nd meeting.
- Mrs. Dow will be discussing members-at-large on some of our standing and ad hoc committees at our January 2nd meeting. Of course, all our standing and ad hoc committee meetings are public meetings, and members of the public are always welcome. However, it may be helpful to have sitting members of the public on these committees. We currently have one community member on the Policy Committee, and I have recently sought interested community members to serve on the ad hoc search committee for the Mitchell Primary School Ad Hoc Search Committee and the Exploring Later School Start Times Ad Hoc Committee. Other committees such as Finance, ACIL, Facilities, and Policy (for a second member) may also benefit from having sitting committee members-at-large. Give this some thought before our January 2nd meeting.

- At the January 2nd meeting, you will be considering a request from Principal Drisko to financially support a Traip Academy through the School Committee's Student Success Fund. Mrs. Dow and I can answer your questions that may arise when you consider this during the meeting. As a general guideline, the School Committee has supported similar requests up to \$2500/team and up to \$500/person. In this particular request, a student who competing at last year's Maine State Science Fair has the opportunity to present and submit her research in a competition at the national level later this month.

- In your packet, you will see an update on the Robert W. Traip Trust Grants Program. The most recently round of grants was announced in October, 2017. I thought you might appreciate an update on this grant awards, how they are being used, and what remains to be done from the recent awards from the Trustees. A Request for Proposals for the next round of grants will be in early spring. Of course, I must thank the Traip Trustees again for their generous support of our teachers and unique programs that may not be possible without their grant funding.

- The FY19 budget-building process has begun. There are some dates that you should put in your calendars:
 - January 16th ~ School Committee seeks public input on the FY19 budget (6:00 PM prior to School Committee Meeting)
 - February 6th ~ Budget Workshop during School Committee Meeting 6:30 PM
 - March 6th ~ Supt. and Business Manager present budget to School Committee (during regular business meeting)
 - March 20th ~ School Committee votes on budget during regular business meeting
 - April 9th ~ School Budget presentation to Town Council
 - May 7th ~ Town Council votes to adopt school budget as it will appear on the June 12th ballot
 - June 12 ~ Town of Kittery School Budget Referendum Vote

- We have two technology-related upgrades that will enhance our commitment to providing a safe, healthful and respectful school culture. The leadership team will be meeting with representatives from Safe Stop next week to review their school bus tracking app for schools and families. The successful launch of Safe Stop will allow families to track our school buses so that students do not need to stand in the cold at the bus stop. Also, we are launching text messaging to our already existing School Messenger system so that families can receive text messages about school cancellations and delays in addition to phone calls and e-mail messages. We're covering all the bases!

- Finally, I hope you have put January 17th on your calendars. That is the day that Steve Bailey, Executive Director of Maine School Management Association, will be here to conduct a 90-minute workshop with our School Committee about the topics that you shared with Mrs. Dow. The workshop will be held in Council Chambers from 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

That's all I have for this bi-weekly report. I hope you all have a wonderful New Year celebration. I will see you all in 2018!