

## VIA

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
FROM: ERIC WADDELL  
DATE: JANUARY 3, 2020  
RE: **REPORT FOR JANUARY 7, 2020 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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Welcome to a new decade! I'm not sure what I think of more when I hear '2020'...Barbara Walters saying "This is 20/20", my optometrist reminding me that my eyesight isn't perfect, or a reference to the 'Roaring 20s' and F. Scott Fitzgerald's famed novel, 'The Great Gatsby.' As usual, it will take a bit of time to remember to write '2020' for the date; even the smallest changes can be a challenge.

Speaking of change, the District deployed the new bus route schedules yesterday. I have been working with Ledgemere for most of the fall on these (the principals have been helpful as well). We have really capitalized on the new routing software, Traversa, to ensure that we are using our 7 school buses as efficiently as possible. Overall, the results have been positive. It's a change, and we know that change (no matter what it is) is challenging. However, once our three schools get into a new dismissal routine in the afternoon, I am confident that the wholesale route schedule changes will better serve our students. The goal, of course, is to keep students on the bus for as little time as possible.

Already, I'm seeing many ride times cut in half. The 'old' route schedule had multiple buses criss-crossing each other within the same neighborhoods. That is no longer the case. Our biggest challenge is getting all stakeholders to understand that our transportation system is not a door-to-door service but rather services all students with 'neighborhood' stops. That is especially challenging for families who have, heretofore, enjoyed a bus stop directly in front of their home. Some neighborhood stops are, in fact, at residences because of their central location within a neighborhood. However, the model of neighborhood stops is essentially static. In other words, the route stops are established not by who is riding the bus but by geographic locations within a neighborhood.

I continue to encourage our families to utilize SafeStop, the school bus tracking app, which adapts pick-up and drop-off times in real time to account for traffic delays, unannounced PNSY gate closures, and the like. Families can track their student's bus on their cellular device for pick-up and drop-off times so that they are not waiting unnecessarily at the bus stop.

I think it was Mark Twain who said, *"I'm in favor of progress; it's change I don't like!"*

### **Allow me to walk you through the agenda for our January 7th meeting:**

- Hopefully, we will have everyone in attendance so you can elect permanent officers following the November 2019 election! Fingers crossed...

- Sally Manninen from the Choose To Be Healthy Coalition, will be here to share some insights into the recent **Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS)** results for Shapleigh School and Traip Academy. She will identify areas where our youth are doing well and areas where we may want to concentrate a bit more. Sally brings such a deeply informed perspective as the director of the Coalition. I know you will appreciate her perspective on the health and wellness of our youth.
- The Leadership Team will be here to offer a quick '**check in.**' The same afternoon/evening (January 7th), the Rokunohe students and adults are arriving at Shapleigh School, so Mrs. Ellis and Mrs. Perry may need to be there as the hosts of the arrival reception and potluck dinner, but otherwise, I'm expecting the whole gang to be here with us!
- Under '**Unfinished Business**' you have two items that we carried over from earlier meetings (**Committee Assignments** and the **Common Mascot** discussion).
- Under my report, I've shared an article with you about the highly popular '**Chef-to-School**' program that Mrs. Collins has launched this school year. If you follow her on Twitter (@Kitterylunch), you know what I'm talking about! Wendy Collins also received a scholarship to attend a national industry conference in the future. I am very proud of the work that Mrs. Collins and her staff is doing in the District.
- I do have **one retirement** notice to share with you. Mr. Williams, a long-time teacher in the District, has announced his retirement effective at the conclusion of the 2019-20 school year.
- Under **New Business**, we will discuss the draft of a proposed **2020-21 school calendar**. We will also take a look at the **month of February** and decide what the best meeting date option(s) are for the School Committee (recognizing that it is a short month with two weeks of school vacation--one for Maine and one for New Hampshire).
- You will also take action on a slew of generous **donations** to the District!
- Following Committee & Reports, we will enter into **Executive Session** for the purpose of School Committee and Superintendent evaluations. I do not anticipate any action being taken following the Exec. Session.

**That should take care of the Business Meeting. Allow me to share a few other details with you:**

- I have some dates and times for you to get involved (to the extent that you can) in the **Japan 2020** visit. It's a short visit, but there are some opportunities for you to get to know our visiting students and adults from Rokunohe on the following dates/times:

- ❖ Wed., January 8th ~ Welcome Assembly at Shapleigh School 8:30 AM
  - ❖ Friday, Jan. 10th ~ Skating at Puddle Dock Pond at Strawberry Banke 6:30 PM
  - ❖ Saturday, January 11th ~ Farewell breakfast at Shapleigh School 7:00 AM
- By our January 7th meeting, the Leadership Team and I will have had a planning meeting with Steve Workman regarding the launch of **Vision 2.0**. I'll have some details for you Tuesday evening.

**For your calendars:**

- Jan. 7 ~ Japan Welcome Reception & Potluck at Shapleigh School 5:00 PM
- Jan. 7 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chambers
- Jan. 8 ~ Japan Welcome Assembly at Shapleigh School 8:30 AM
- Jan. 11 ~ Farewell Breakfast for Japanese Friends 7:00 AM Shapleigh School
- Jan. 13 ~ Policy Committee Meeting in the Central Office Conf. Room 4:00 PM
- Jan. 13 ~ Municipal/School District Leaders Budget Discussion 5:30 PM
- Jan. 14 ~ Facilities, Finance, & Safety Comm. Meeting in the Central Office Conf. Rm. 4:00 PM
- Jan. 16 ~ Dropout Prevention Committee Meeting in the Central Office Conf. Rm. 2:30 PM
- Jan. 16 ~ Shapleigh School-based Parent Advisory Group Meeting 6:00 PM
- Jan. 16 ~ Athletic Boosters Meeting at Traip Academy 6:30 PM
- Jan. 17 ~ Professional Dev. Day ~ No Classes
- Jan. 20 ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observed ~ No Classes
- Jan. 21 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chambers

