

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM: ERIC WADDELL
DATE: JULY 12, 2019
RE: **REPORT FOR JULY 16, 2019 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

I am so thankful for the time away last week. As the final weeks of the school year approach, I often hear people say, "So, the school year is winding down!" and I chuckle. Anyone who has been involved in education knows that the end of the school year winds up to a fever pitch and then abruptly ends. There is no 'winding down,' at least not from my perspective. That is why this time in July is so important. It gives our students, their families, and our teachers some time to regroup and renew for the next school year (which is just 7 weeks away).

The summer is also a great time for professional development, for filling vacancies, for repairing and upgrading our schools, and for making plans for the new school year. We've been doing all of that here in the Kittery School District!

Allow me to walk you through our agenda for our only July meeting:

- Under '**Correspondence**' I have shared lots of 'Thank You' notes received from the staff. Those are for you to enjoy. I have also included a letter from the DOE indicating that our candidate to replace Mrs. Robida as Adult & Community Education Director has received her certification. MSAD 35 will now consider the nomination, and if that goes well, I will recommend that the School Committee approve the contract for her services in the Kittery School District for the 2019-20 school year. That will happen at our August 20th meeting, so stay tuned for that.

Finally under '**Correspondence**' I have added a letter to Principal Gamache from FAME regarding Mitchell Primary School's designation as a participating Champion School. The goal of the program is to build a college-going culture among students and families as early as kindergarten. I am pleased that Ms. Gamache recognizes the importance of starting the college-going conversations with children and families at a very young age.

- The bulk of our business meeting with focus on **new appointments** for the summer and fall. I will share those with you and read them into the record under my '**Superintendent's Report.**'

Also under my report, you will take action on the **resignation** of Ms. Nelson who is moving on after two years as a science teacher at Traip Academy.

- Under '**New Business**' you will consider **two teacher nominations**. The first is **Mrs. Bastianelli** who is being nominated to replace Mrs. Le at Shapleigh School. Mrs. Bastianelli actually filled that position for the majority of the last school year when Mrs. Le shifted to 7th

grade social studies (replacing another long-term absence) and during her spring maternity leave. The other nomination is **Mr. Foret** who has been nominated to replace Ms. Martin in the science department at Traip Academy. Both candidates are outstanding.

The Policy Committee has **four policy proposals** for you to consider for First Read. The first is a small change to Policy BE due to the time change last year of our School Committee meetings. The remaining three are all recommendations from MSMA. In some cases, the Policy Committee is recommending changes to existing policies; in others, the Committee is recommending adoption of the MSMA policy recommendation.

Finally under '**New Business**' you will consider accepting the **2019 Traip Trustees grant awards**. There were 13 grant applications, and the Trustees elected to fund 8 of them for a total of \$31,448.18. We are so very fortunate to have this level of support from the Trustees. They are certainly friends of the Kittery School District.

- Chairwoman Dow will take us into an '**Executive Session**' in order to review the contract for the **School Resource Officer**. Following that, the Committee will take action on the SRO contract for the upcoming school year.

That will take care of the business meeting.

Even though it is summer break, there is still a lot of activity in our schools. **JumpStart** is up and running at Mitchell Primary School, and both Traip Academy and Shapleigh School are busy with **Summer Academy**. There is also an **Expanded School Year** program in all three schools for many of our students receiving special services. Beyond that, Mr. Everett is busy with **summer maintenance and facilities projects**, and Mrs. Collins and her staff are providing a free **summer lunch program** at the Kittery Community Center.

In addition, I will be leaving on July 29th for a **9-day trip to Japan** with 9 students and 3 other adult chaperones. We are all very excited to visit our friends from Oirase and Rokunohe and to spend two nights and one full day in Tokyo. Planning for the trip began last December, and it will be exciting to see it come to fruition. I am proud to assume the mantle from Melissa Robinson and Caritha Curti who organized and executed this trip for many years. The Oirase and Rokunohe group will be returning to Kittery January 7, 2020 for a 5-day visit. This is the 26th year of the exchange program.

For your calendars:

- July 15 ~ Summer Lunch Program Pizza Kick Off! 11:00 AM KCC
- July 15 ~ Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee Meeting 5:30 PM Central Office
- July 16 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chambers
- July 23 ~ Kittery Advocates For All (KAFA) Meeting 6:00 PM KCC
- July 29 - August 6 ~ Japan 2019
- August 14 ~ Policy Committee Meeting 4:30 PM Central Office Conf. Room

- August 15 ~ PNSY Annual Back To School Bash 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- August 19 ~ Fall Sports Season begins!
- August 19 & 21 ~ School Committee Workshop 5:00 - 8:00 PM KCC
- August 20 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chambers
- August 21 ~ New Employee Orientation 8:30 AM Council Chambers
- August 28 ~ Welcome Assembly for all District Staff 7:30 AM Traip Academy Gym