

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM: ERIC WADDELL
DATE: JUNE 1, 2018
RE: **REPORT FOR JUNE 5TH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

I met with Mr. Drisko and Mr. Roberge this morning to discuss the upcoming Traip Academy Commencement. It reminded me how exciting but incredibly busy this time of year is. This week has been a busy one for sure with SRTC Awards Ceremony Tuesday followed by Traip Academy's Spring Concert Wednesday and Shapleigh School's Spring Concert on Thursday. It's all part of the culmination of a year-long educational journey, and I'm proud to play a small part of it. Allow me to walk you through our agenda for the June 5th meeting:

- Our regular business meeting will feature **recognition of several District employees** including our five retirees, Mrs. Durost, and Student Representative Gilbert. Each will be presented with a gift from the Kittery School District for their impactful contribution to our school system.
- There are a number of written correspondences that I am sharing with you. Just to be clear; I always get permission from the author of an email correspondence before sharing it publically.
- You will hear from students and staff members about the progress this year of the **Kittery Civil Rights Initiative** which you approved back in October. You will be updated on the Civil Rights Team domain as well as the KAFA (FKA Kittery Civil Rights Advisory Council).
- The **Leadership Team** will be on hand to share 'good stories' with you and to flag some big events between now and the end of June. I surely do appreciate them being present for the first meeting of the month, particularly given then number of evenings they are out already for school events.
- Under '**Resignations & Retirements**' in my report, I will share three:
 - **Lauren MacPherson** is resigning from her position at Shapleigh School after a year's leave of absence last year when she had twins! She will be dedicating her time to parenthood (the most important job there is!), and we wish her well.
 - **Mary Beth Tietgens** and her husband are moving to New Bern, North Carolina, and will be leaving her teaching position at Shapleigh School.
 - **Sandra D'Arezzo** is resigning from her position at Mitchell Primary School due to a family move to North Carolina.

- Under New Business, there are a quite a few nominations for annual part-time assignments at the building and District levels. Mr. Roberge has also submitted a nomination for a **Girls Varsity Soccer Coach**, replacing Mrs. O'Neill who is not returning for the 2018 for family reasons (congratulations to her!).

In addition, Mrs. Masury has selected her 2018 **Garden Interns**, and you will be asked to approved them. Ms. Conant has been nominated to be the half-time ESL teacher at Traip Academy. She will continue to teach Spanish half-time as well. Mrs. Collins has secured funding to hire a temporary data entry support person for the summer in preparation for the School Nutrition Programs adoption of a new data management system for the upcoming school year.

- Also under New Business, you will consider second reading of three policies that you first saw on May 15th, and you will also give a first reading to Policy DD and DJ (fully endorsed by the Finance and Policy Committees).
- The **SRTC Cooperative Agreement** must be approved annually. At the May 21st meeting, a few changes were made by the Advisory Committee (I'm part of that!), mostly as a result of the new building which will open this fall.
- Following Committee Reports, we will enter into Executive Session. I don't anticipate any action being taken, but Mrs. Dow will clarify that prior to it.

That takes care of the details involving the business meeting. For this report, I asked the Leadership Team to think of some **'fun facts'** about people on their staff--little known facts that may have gone unnoticed were it not for the inquiring minds of our Leadership Team. They came up with some fascinating (and fun!) facts, and I'm pleased to share them with you:

- Alli Gamache ~ **Anne Masury** who skillfully runs the Mitchell Primary School library, has been in the horticulture field for the last 30 years, working in areas of greenhouse, landscape, florist, landscape history and restoration, museum consulting. She has a bachelors in American Studies with a minor in Botany as well as a masters in Plant Science and in the Historic Landscape Restoration Program. She has taught classes in greenhouse production, landscape plants and many landscape history topics. She has worked in an interdisciplinary program at Strawberry Banke as they researched and installed many period gardens with the help of other departments, particularly archaeology.
- Anne Ellis ~ **Miranda Casey**, 6th grade Social Studies teacher at Shapleigh School, was born and raised in Alaska before coming to "the lower 48" to attend the University of New Hampshire. She had come to New England to visit several Universities with her brother, but UNH wasn't one of the stops. Due to the distance to travel, she wound up attending UNH sight unseen and hasn't left the area since, nor has she returned to

Alaska since college. Her family is planning to change that with a visit to Alaska next summer for a family reunion.

- Marilyn Woodside ~ Mitchell technologist **Anna Leijon-Guth**, who originally hails from Sweden, rides her bicycle to work in most weather, clement or otherwise. She is an avid skier and sailing enthusiast, but perhaps her greatest outdoor challenge will come this summer when she joins her son, Max, and other boy scouts from around the world at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM for a twelve day hiking/backpacking trip, setting up tents each night. Philmont Scout Ranch is a rugged, mountainous ranch located near the town of Cimarron NM, covering 140,177 acres of wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of the Rocky Mountains of northern New Mexico. Go Anna!
- John Drisko ~ **Jennifer Jo Dufort** teaches Social Studies and has been at Traip Academy for six years. What you may not know about her is that, along with caring for a family of five and teaching full time, JJ, as she is known, is completing her doctoral studies in Curriculum & Instruction. On days when she takes her children to practices, you might find her in her car reading for a class or for her dissertation. How she manages all of these competing needs is nothing short of heroic. Her doctorate is expected in the spring of 2019.
- Eric Waddell ~ **Sarah Lane** is currently a part-time administrative assistant for the Special Services office right here in the Central Office, but she will be replacing Myra Cutts effective July 1st. Sara and her husband, Eric, have two children, Bobby and Marie, in the Kittery School District. Sara's 'trip' to Kittery was a circuitous one. She grew up in New York before moving to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in high school, then she moved to Colorado to attend Colorado State University where she met her husband. A job prospect brought them to Maine ten years ago, and they've been here ever since! Sara's daughter, Marie, will be in the cast of Prescott Park's summer production of *Seussical, the Musical*.
- Alli Gamache ~ **Russell Simpson** has worked at Mitchell Primary School and in the Kittery School District for many years. In the last 7 years, he has not missed a day of work when students are in session! In his previous occupation, he was a master electrician. A "fun fact" about Russ is that he is an extremely talented musician. He has been part of many bands over the years. One of his bands even played with Kenny Rogers!
- Marilyn Woodside ~ **Seth Cole**, Shapleigh School technologist and devoted husband and father to James and Emma, enjoys running as a way to balance the demands of work and raising a young family. He and his wife, Shannon, have run a few marathons, the latest being the Maine Marathon last October where they were raising money for pediatric cancer research. Before joining us in Kittery, Seth lived in Blue Hill, Maine, where his father was the principal of the area high school. After attending college in Vermont, he became the head baseball coach for Division II St. Michael's College.

Seth finally made his way back to Maine and is our technologist/educator/fixer/all around good guy and, last but not least, varsity baseball coach at Traip Academy.

- Anne Ellis ~ **Barb West**, Shapleigh School Secretary, spent several years manning an emergency answering service (similar to current day "dispatch"). While employed there she was responsible for responding to 453 phones, 1100 alarms, the Newington Sewer Alarm, the Newcastle Fire Station, the Marine Radio, and the Rockingham County Sheriff's department. No wonder she never gets flustered managing the ins and outs of the 420 students at Shapleigh School!
- John Drisko ~ **Danielle Martin** is completing her third year at Traip Academy as a science teacher. She is known as a well organized Earth and Space Systems teacher of freshmen. She is also known for riding her bike in three Treks Across Maine. The course is 180 miles long going from Sunday River to the sea. This year will be her fourth year riding on June 15th through June 18th. The Trek raises money for many lung diseases including asthma, lung cancer, COPD, and others. (Another 'fun fact' about Ms. Martin is that Superintendent Waddell was her high school ski coach 'back in the day'!)
- Marilyn Woodside ~ **Don Harkin**, district systems administrator/strict vegan/avid cyclist, is most likely the reason our technology and all that goes along with it hums along every day. His devotion to the schools, staff and students is one of Kittery's most valuable assets. Who is this quirky guy who never seems to say an unkind word to or about anyone? While some folks can name all the past presidents, Don can name every Fortune 500 CEO. A strict vegan, he also is a consummate foodie who is constantly on the lookout for the best Italian meal or the most delicious bagel. While many view huge hills as a necessary challenge when biking outdoors, Don seeks them out. In fact, when he finally takes a vacation, it often involves 100-mile rides in some of the most hilly or mountainous places (Adirondacks; Acadia National Park) in the Northeast.

Although Mr. Harkin lives in rural Maine and loves biking, he also loves the city, particularly Manhattan, where he and his wife often visit their son, Alex. Comedy clubs, all types of music and cutting edge, little known restaurants interest him. Finally, Don has a passion for all things Apple, as evidenced by his collection of Apple stickers, tee shirts and numerous devices. His dream is to someday visit or take a class at the new Apple campus, the "spaceship" headquarters in Cupertino, California, and take in the lasting aura of Steve Jobs.

- Anne Ellis ~ **Blayne Matty**, Gifted and Talented Coordinator for the Kittery School District, got her start in public school education in Hawaii! Blayne and her husband followed a family friend who was looking to get into scuba diving to Hawaii where they both easily found jobs teaching in Hawaii's underserved schools. Sadly, the community and home that Blayne lived in while she was there is in the same area affected by the erupting volcano and is likely no longer standing.

- John Drisko ~ **Donald (Donny) Gagnon**, is not just the creator of the Physical Fitness and Group Dynamics course required of all sophomores. Donny is completing his tenth year at Traip Academy. He also is a trainer for the national organization SOLO, which offers wilderness experiences and outdoor medical training. Donny is one of their go-to trainers, and has trained people at numerous universities as well as the FBI in Quantico, Virginia.

That is merely a sampling of the rich, fun stories that characterize our hardworking and dynamic faculty and staff. Perhaps I'll make this a regular 'feature' of my bi-weekly reports to the School Committee!

Looking Ahead

- June 1 - 5 ~ Shapleigh School Book Fair
- June 2 ~ State Class C Track & Field Championships at Massabesic HS
- June 4 ~ Kittery Adult Education Graduation 6:00 PM
- June 4 ~ Varsity Softball @ Telstar HS (prelim. Playoff game) 4:00 PM
- June 5 ~ Varsity Baseball hosts Carrabec/Madison (prelim. Playoff Game) 3:30 PM
- June 5 ~ Traip Academy Yearbook Release Party 2:10 PM
- June 6 ~ Shapleigh School Showcase of Learning 4:00 PM
- June 6 ~ Mr. Traip Pageant 7:00 PM
- June 8 ~ Sarah Mildred Long Bridge Opening Ceremony 10:00 AM
- June 11 ~ Traip Academy Spring Sports Awards Ceremony 6:30 PM
- June 12 ~ Mitchell Primary School Fort Foster Field Trip 11:00 AM
- June 12 ~ Traip Academy Senior Banquet at York Harbor Inn 5:30 PM (by invitation only)
- June 12 ~ Town of Kittery School Budget Referendum Vote
- June 14 ~ Shapleigh School annual 8th Grade trip to Fun Town
- June 15 ~ Shapleigh School Field Day
- June 15 ~ Traip Academy Senior Assembly 12:30 PM
- June 15 ~ 2018 Commencement 6:00 PM (ticket required)
- June 16 ~ Annual Kittery Block Party
- June 18 ~ Shapleigh School 8th Grade Promotional Ceremony 5:00 PM
- June 19 ~ Last day of school for students
- June 20 ~ Professional Development Day

Remember! Keep an eye on our **District calendar** (on our website homepage) for other important event information, and follow me on Twitter (**@Kitteryschools**) for photos, updates, and announcements.

