

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM: ERIC WADDELL
DATE: MAY 20, 2019
RE: **REPORT FOR MAY 21, 2019 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

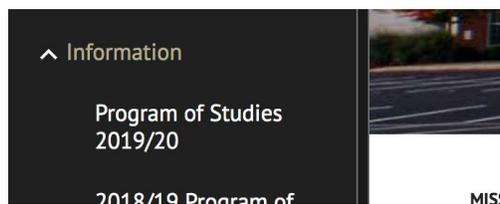
It is difficult to fathom that we have only three more meetings in the 2018-19 school year. It may be my age or the fact that I have four busy, school-aged children of my own, but time seems to be increasingly fleeting, and it doesn't appear to be slowing down anytime soon! Thank you all for the work that you do for the Kittery School District in your capacity as School Committee members. Public service can often feel like a thankless job, but I hope you all know how much I appreciate your work and your commitment to helping make our schools in Kittery second to none!

Allow me to walk you through our agenda for the second May meeting:

- Under Correspondence, you will see a press release from Principal Drisko announcing that **Mrs. Agnes Bowen** will deliver the Commencement Address at the 2019 Traip Academy Commencement. Mrs. Bowen retired as a teacher from Shapleigh School the year that the Class of 2019 had her as a 7th grade teacher. Remember; if you are planning to attend the Commencement Exercises, you will need to contact Donna Schoff to reserve your seats. Admission to the Traip Academy Commencement is by ticket only.
- For 'Reports & Presentations' you will hear from a group of Traip Academy **students who traveled to Peru** during last month's school break for a cultural and service-learning travel opportunity. The group partnered with Marshwood High School for the trip, and I am excited for you to hear about it. These students visiting with the Kittery Rotary Club last week to make a similar presentation. You are in for treat!
- **Student Representative Denholm** will also be sharing his monthly report with you. I'm hoping this won't be Tristan's last report since our June 18th meeting will be after his graduation from Traip Academy. I believe Student Rep. Gilbert joined us last year for this post-graduation School Committee meeting. We'll see what Tristan decides to do and if his summer schedule will allow it. Who knows? He may even decide to attend meetings until he leaves for Colorado!
- Under 'Unfinished Business' you may remember that **2019-20 student breakfast and lunch price increase** was on a previous agenda earlier this spring. The School Committee asked if we could delay action on a recommended price increase from Mrs. Collins and the Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee until the FRAC calculator for 2019-20 was released by the USDA. In the interim, the calculator was provided by the

USDA and supported Mrs. Collins' request to increase breakfast and lunch prices for students not eligible for the free/reduced cost meal benefit by 25 cents. The increase will fall within the recommended meal priced by the USDA. It will also keep us in line with meal prices of neighboring schools in York County. Student lunch prices for 2019-20 will be \$3.00/meal (K-8) and \$3.25/meal (9-12). Student breakfast prices for 2019-20 will be \$1.75/meal (K-8) and \$2.00/meal (9-12). The previous meal increase was in 2016 when prices increased 15 cents (K-8) and 25 cents (9-12).

- Under my report, I will be announcing that the **2019-20 Program of Studies** has been released by the Traip Academy administration and posted on its website for easy access. The Program of Studies may be accessed here:



The link can be found on the Traip Academy website homepage on the left side menu under 'Information.' The *Program of Studies* serves as a catalog of learning opportunities offered either on site, remotely, or on line. Students work closely with their school counselor to map out a plan to demonstrate proficiency of the graduation standards within 9 domains during their high school careers in order to graduate from Traip Academy in accordance with Policy IKF (*Graduation Requirements*). These standards are aligned with the *Maine Learning Results: Parameters For Essential Instruction* which are developed by the Maine Department of Education.

The *Program of Studies* is reviewed annually by the Traip Academy Building-Level Leadership Team (including Ms. Woodside) and Content Team Leaders. Learning experiences are added and removed from the *Program of Studies* based on student interest. Although a learning experience may be listed in the *Program of Studies*, that does not mean that it will be offered. The eventual master schedule is determined primarily by student interest during the course selection process which takes place in the spring. The goal of Principal Drisko is to provide each returning student (including incoming new students) with a course schedule before they leave for the summer.

Although the *Program of Studies* is dynamic, it represents the 'how' of the curriculum (how will our students demonstrate proficiency of the graduation standards?). The 'what' of the curriculum is static. That is established by the Maine Department of Education through the *Maine Learning Results* and set in policy by the School Committee with Policy IKF.

- I will be providing you with an up-to-the-minute schedule of **Senior Capstone Presentations** at the meeting. Although the schedule is set, it has many moving parts (not the least of which is scheduling outside mentors to come to the school for the presentations), so there have been some slight changes. I hope you all can attend at least one presentation, but if you can't, my plan is to have one volunteer senior (graduate!) join us on June 18th for a modified presentation so you can see for yourself what emerges from this semester-long process. Principal Drisko and Mr. Roberge promise to find a topic (and presenter willing to join us!) that will be interesting for our Committee.
- The **11 Cost Center Report** was reviewed by the Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee at its last meeting. I'm including it in your materials for your information.
- In the May issue of AASA May publication, I read an excellent article about **equitable grading** that I wanted to share with you. It captures my own professional philosophy about student evaluation and why traditional and commonly held practices are inequitable and just plain inaccurate. The article certainly offers a solid rationale for changing assessment practices which we are fully committed to doing here in the Kittery School District. Although 'grading' is often erroneously and synonymously viewed as 'standards-based learning', the actual grading or evaluation of student learning is its own thing. The article illustrates best practice in assessment, with or without a PBL system of teaching and learning. It's excellent!
- You'll see we have a short list of new appointments since our last meeting along with two resignations. **Mr. Kiernan** has been the full-time school counselor at Traip Academy for four years now, and **Mrs. Page** worked one day/week at Shapleigh School this year in the main office.
- Under New Business, you will consider several funding recommendations from the Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee for **CIP projects** (Facilities, Equipment, and Student Success). You will also consider a trip request to Washington DC for the upcoming National History Day Contest, as well as the concept for a service-learning trip to Panama in April 2020.
- The **Kittery Rotary Club** has made a donation for the proposed National History Day Contest as well (pending your approval of the trip). You will also be taking action on the second read of Policy IMC which you first viewed at the May 7th meeting.
- Also under New Business, you will consider the **2019-20 SRTC Cooperative Agreement** which is essential a cost-share for equipment for the school. The cost-share is determined by the students enrolled in the programs for the following year.

- Finally under New Business, you will discuss and hopefully reach consensus for **July and August School Committee meeting dates**. For the past several years, we have had one meeting in July and one in August which is fairly standard for School Boards and School Committees during the summer. My recommendation (and given my vacation and Japan 2019 travel plans for the first week in July and August) would be to have our July 16th meeting and August 20th meeting as scheduled. Speaking of summer plans, the Chair will also lead you in a discussion of possible **School Committee Workshop dates for August**. You will see in the agenda that the corresponding dates for 2019 are Monday and Wednesday, August 19 and 21 (remember; August 20th is scheduled to be a business meeting date). Regardless of what we decide, it will be important to get these dates in our family calendars so we can all plan around them!
- At this time, there is no plan to enter into Executive Session.

That will take care of the business meeting.

As you well know, this next month in the School District will be extremely busy. I wanted to do for all of you what I've recently done for my parents and their grandchildren's events--creating a list of events, dates, times, and locations so you'll know what is happening in our three schools related to end-of-the-year activities. I certainly don't expect you to attend everything (it's not humanly possible!), but I just wanted to make sure you knew about things in case you wanted to attend (no pressure!).

Mitchell Primary School

- June 4~Mentor Celebration 9:30 AM

Shapleigh School

- May 22~Achievement Awards Night 5:30 PM in the Gymnasium
- May 25~ Memorial Day Parade, step off at 9:00 AM
- May 28~Meeting for rising 3rd grade families 6:30 PM
- May 30~Spring Concert (Grades 5 & 6 at 5:30 PM, Grades 7 & 8 at 7:00)
- June 6~Celebration of Learning 5:00 PM
- June 13~8th Grade Promotion Ceremony 6:00 PM

Traip Academy

- May 22 & 23~Senior Capstone Presentations (see schedule)
- May 23~ SRTC Awards Night 6:15 PM
- May 29~Spring Concert 7:00 PM at the Star Theatre (KCC)
- June 3~Adult & Community Education Graduation 7:00 PM at KCC

- June 5~ Spring Sports Awards Night 6:30 PM Gymnasium
- June 13~Senior Assembly 12:30 PM Gymnasium (no ticket required)
- June 14~2019 Commencement 6:00 PM (ticket required)

Finally, our **June 4th** School Committee meeting will be preceded by the School Committee-hosted **Retiree Reception at 5:00 PM in the Central Office**. This lovely reception will include light refreshments and a relaxing time for you all to thank our retirees, meet their families/guests, and appreciate their many years of service to the District. Following the reception, we will move into Council Chambers for our Business Meeting when the principals or designees will speak about each retiree, and Chairwoman Dow will present each retiree with the coveted Kittery School District retirement chair or lamp (depending on their years of service). It's a very special and emotional meeting.