

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM: ERIC WADDELL
DATE: MAY 3, 2019
RE: **REPORT FOR MAY 7, 2019 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

As you may know, I had the opportunity to chaperone the annual MGWS 5th grade trip to Pinkham Notch last week with my own 5th grader, Ethan. I had heard so much about the trip in the past; my two daughters described it as one of the best learning experiences they've ever done, so I wanted to get a first-hand look at it. In addition, I had an ulterior motive. I would LOVE to launch a very similar field trip right here in the Kittery School District. In speaking with Principal Burnell at Marshwood Great Works School, I learned that is the 20th year of the Pinkham Notch trip for 5th graders. The idea for the trip came from a teacher, and after visiting the Center himself, Principal Burnell agreed that the experience would be valuable.

It was an incredibly engaging three day/two nights! I was tracking curriculum connections carefully, but it wasn't difficult. There is a very deliberate ecology/environmental science theme throughout the trip. In addition, the 21st Century Learning Skills that are cultivated by the trip are very apparent. **Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Communication** (what we refer to often as the '**Four Cs**' of 21st Century Learning) were front and center throughout the three days. I have already begun discussing the possibility of the trip with some educators here in Kittery. I hope to make it happen!

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

- The **Mitchell Primary School Civil Rights Team** will be joining us for a brief presentation on their work during their charter year. The group of 3rd graders will be joined by co-advisors Ms. Lantz and Mrs. Rickerich.
- The **Leadership Team** will be with us for their May check-in. This is such a busy time in schools (actually, it's always busy, but May and June are culminating months with many exciting end-of-year events). I'm sure they'll fill you in on some of these. They will be back for the June 4th meeting when they will help us to honor our retirees--a very special meeting for sure.
- I am sharing an article from the *Portsmouth Press Herald* featuring our own Wendy Collins. The topic of the article is **vegan options in public schools**. Speaking of that, during the Pinkham Notch trip, several staff members from MSAD 35 commended Kittery's commitment to offering vegan lunch options for students and staff. When you read the article, you'll realize that the options are popular and tasty!

- Under New Business, you will take action on a nomination for the second of two **mathematics teachers at Traip Academy**. I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Ward after he was nominated by Principal Drisko and his staff. I am excited to be moving his nomination forward for your consideration.
- Each year prior to May 15th, the School Committee must take action on our **Probationary teachers** (those who are within their first three years of teaching in Maine). First and second-year teachers are recommended for another year of probationary status by the leadership team, and third-year teachers are recommended for continuing contract status.
- The Policy Committee is asking you to consider **Policy IMC**. We do not currently have a policy specifically addressing guest speakers in our schools. It is a policy recommended to us by Maine School Management Association. The Policy Committee considered the recommendation, discussed it in detail, and drafted this policy for first read. Although our schools often have guest speakers invited by a teacher or a member of the leadership team, I believe it is wise to adopt a policy that speaks to this practice specifically.
- I am asking you to take formal action on the upcoming **Odyssey of the Mind World Finals trip** to Michigan State University. The proposal is in your materials. Kittery School District has one team--the Traip Academy team--heading to OM World Finals later this month.
- Finally under New Business, you will take action on the **FY20 Adult & Community Education** program funding ordinances for the next school year. Although you voted to recommend Mrs. Robida's proposed FY20 budget in March, her final budget is actually set by the Town Manager. Those amounts will now be part of Town Manager Amaral's FY20 Municipal budget, and the amounts in the ordinance reflect the Adult & Community Education budget that will be part of the town's FY20 budget.
- Following Committee reports, I do not anticipate an Executive Session.

That will take care of the business meeting. But wait; there's more!

We've had a bit of a shuffle lately among our custodial teams. With the resignation of Cordell 'Bump' Hutchins (former Traip Academy Head Custodian) last summer, and the spring retirement of Tom Nudd (former Shapleigh School Head Custodian), we've had a bit of movement among the three custodial teams. The dust has finally settled, and I'm pleased to introduce you to everyone:

- **Mitchell Primary School** is cared for by Head Custodian **Andrew Glenn** during the day, and by **Lori Everett** and **Kayla Hilton** after hours. Andrew is completing his first year as

the Head Custodian. Kayla has been with the District for over a year, and Lori just recently joined the team earlier this spring.



Lori Everett, Kayla Hilton, & Andrew Glenn

- **Shapleigh School** is in good hands with **Bruce Baker** during the day. He moved recently from the second shift at Traip Academy to replace Mr. Nudd as Head Custodian. His second shift team is comprised of **Jeff Powell** and **Ted Cole** who have been with the District for quite some time. Bruce is settling in nicely, and Jeff and Ted continue to care for the school well in the afternoon and evening.



Jeff Powell, Bruce Baker, & Ted Cole

- **Traip Academy** has enjoyed direct oversight in the custodial arena since the start of this school year by **Russ Simpson** who was previously the head custodian and Mitchell Primary School. **Jennifer Graham** and **David Hartsgrove** (new to the District this spring) are handling things well in the afternoon and evenings.



Jennifer Graham, Russell Simpson, & David Hartsgrove

Keeping our facilities clean and safe is no easy task. I am proud of our team of custodians and have very high expectations for them. I believe that a clean and tidy facility is a source of great pride for the students, staff, and community. Thank you to these hard-working custodial employees who are an integral part of each school's team.

Here are some important dates for your calendar:

- May 6 ~ Town Council Public Hearing on FY20 School Budget 6:00 PM Council Chambers
- May 6 - 10 ~ Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
- May 7 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chambers
- May 8 ~ An Evening on the Titanic~Featuring Mr. Harris (Shapleigh School Science Educator) 6:00 PM Rice Public Library
- May 9 ~ SRTC Advisory Board Meeting 11:30 AM SRTC
- May 10 ~ York County Special Olympics Spring Games at Noble High School
- May 13 ~ Keeping Teens Safe: Preventing Underage Substance Use & Misuse 6:00 PM Kittery Community Center
- May 13 ~ Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Central Office Conf. Room
- May 14 ~ College Fair~Over 40 Colleges Represented at MHS 4:00 PM
- May 15 ~ Policy Committee 4:30 PM Central Office Conf. Room.
- May 16 ~ 3rd Grade Choral Concert 6:00 PM Mitchell Primary School
- May 16 ~ Kittery School District Annual Art Show Opening Event 3:30 - 5:00 PM KAA
- May 16 ~ Financial Aid Night (Early College Planning & Saving 5:30 PM, and Understanding Financial Aid 6:30 PM) Traip Academy Library

- May 20 ~ Wellness Committee Meeting 3:00 PM Mitchell Primary School
- May 21 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chambers
- May 22 ~ Shapleigh Shark Achievement Night 5:30 PM Shapleigh School
- May 23 ~ SRTC Student Recognition Night 6:00 PM SRTC Auditorium
- May 25 ~ Kittery Memorial Day Parade 9:00 AM

As always, I encourage you to visit the comprehensive calendar on our **website's homepage** where you can see all activities going on in our District. I'd also encourage you to follow me on Twitter (@Kitteryschools) and on Instagram (kitteryschools) to receive the latest news and photos about our wonderful District!

