

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM: ERIC WADDELL, SUPT. OF SCHOOLS
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2021
RE: **REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

As I write this report, the fourth school day of the 2021-22 school year is nearly half over. Those four days were preceded by three days of professional development last week. While many schools are still in summer mode, we in the Kittery School District are fully up and running. School routines are getting traction; bus routes are nearly perfected. Morning and afternoon drop off and pick up routines are becoming more efficient by the day. Our students and staff have established a breakfast and lunch routine. Our new kindergarten students and teachers wrapped up two days of screening and are on day two of learning the ropes en masse. Staff and students in grades K through 8 have accepted mask-wearing as a routine mitigation effort, and students and staff in grades 9 - 12 realize that a mask recommendation can be upgraded to a mask requirement at any moment if/when it is warranted. Fall athletic programs have begun, and first countable games are slated for this weekend.

Under the circumstances, we are doing well. Our school nursing team is processing hundreds of pooled testing consent forms as they prepare for a launch of that program on September 13th. Lauren Lawson in the HR department is preparing the first of a monthly required DHHS report of staff COVID-19 vaccination data which will be published online. I am in constant communication with York County Emergency Management Agency, Maine Department of Education officials, and my colleagues at Maine School Management Association regarding ongoing updates related to COVID-19. Yes; under the circumstances, I'd say we are doing well. It is not the way I pictured the new school year back in June. Nevertheless, we are making the best of it with deep support from our families, students, and employees...and from the School Committee too!

Allow me to walk you through the agenda:

NOTE: MASKS ARE CURRENTLY REQUIRED IN THE TOWN HALL INCLUDING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SO PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR A MASK IF YOU PLANNING TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

- Those wishing to **speak publicly** during the meeting may do so during Public Comment. Pre-registration is not required. When guests speak, they are asked to share their first and last names and where they reside unless they are under the age of 18).
- Under **Reports & Presentations**, I will share a visual presentation of our new employees for the 2021-22 school year. I will also include a presentation of employees who have hit a longevity benchmark.

- Under my report, I will update you on **2021-22 staff changes**.
- For the record, I will share a list of **new appointments** since our August 17th meeting. We have one remaining fall interscholastic athletics vacancy at Traip Academy (JV Girls Soccer), but Mr. Roberge reports to me that he has a plan in place. Fall sports programs at Shapleigh School begin September 8th.
- I'm sorry to report that Mimi Duncan (began last year at Shapleigh School as an Ed. Tech.) has tendered her **resignation** in order to return to school.
- Under **New Business**, you will consider a leave of absence request from Kendra Downs. This is more of a technicality. You have hired her as the Instructional Practice & Intervention Specialist (a grant-funded position to address learning gaps resulting from programming interruptions since March, 2020), currently a one-year position. Mrs. Downs is requesting a one-year leave of absence from her current position in Grade 2. Contractually, the School Committee must approve leaves of absence requests. Of course, this request should have been made during the same meeting that Mrs. Downs was hired for the specialist position.
- Also according to policy, the School Committee must approve **professional development requests** from School Committee members. Mrs. Matso has made a request for your consideration.
- Assistant Superintendent (and Director of Technology) Woodside reported to me last month that Apple now required School Committee approval of its **lease and financing agreements**. Please take a look at the corresponding memo from her in your materials pertaining to this agenda item.
- Thank you to Kim Bedard for flagging a most important new policy at our August 17th meeting. **Policy BED** will allow the School Committee to resume remote meetings if necessary now that Governor Mills' State of Civil Emergency has been lifted. I am recommending that you first take action to waive policy BG-R (requiring two 'reads' of a new policy) before taking action on policy BED.
- We've received **two generous gifts** since our last meeting that require your formal acceptance. One is to support the breakfast program, and the other is intended to support Project Playground.
- Following Committees & Reports, I do not anticipate an Executive Session.

A Few Loose Ends...

I had the pleasure of meeting our four **international exchange students** recently. They are Eva (Spain), Pedro (Brazil), Pietro (Italy), and Omar (Italy). All have host families here in Kittery,

and all are attending Traip Academy. They have jumped feet first! They are all participating in fall interscholastic athletics which is such a fun way to meet new friends. I am so pleased that they will be joining us this year!



For Your Calendars:

- Sept. 3 - 6 ~ Labor Day Weekend Observed; No Classes
- Sept. 7 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chambers
- Sept. 10 ~ Recognition of 20th Anniversary of Patriot Day (9/11)
- Sept. 13 ~ First day of Pooled Testing Program
- Sept. 14 ~ Facilities Finance & Safety Committee Meeting (Zoom) 3:00 PM
- Sept. 14 ~ 6 Keys to Building a Resilient Family with Sue Badeau 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- Sept. 15 ~ Traip Academy Fall Open House 6:00 PM
- Sept. 16 ~ Visioning Steering Committee Meeting 2:30 PM
- Sept. 21 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chamber
- Sept. 23 ~ Policy Committee Meeting 3:30 PM Central Office Conf. Room

