

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM: ERIC WADDELL, SUPT. OF SCHOOLS
DATE: JULY 19, 2021
RE: **REPORT FOR JULY 20, 2021 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

I am pleased to provide you with my bi-weekly report for our only July School Committee meeting on July 20, 2021. I hope you have been able to rest a bit following a most challenging school year (for those with school-age children). Even in your capacity as School Committee members, you shouldered plenty of responsibility (and stress) for the operations of the District during a year that I hope never to repeat. Thank you for your support!

During my week of vacation in early July, my daughter snapped this photo of my younger son. We call it 'A Boat, A Boy, and His Dog.' It was taken at sunset, and I think it is just remarkable.



Around the same time, I was enjoying one of my favorite hikes and came upon the quite famous Robert Browning line from his poem, *Prospice*, which was carved into tree:

For sudden the worst turns the best to the brave...

Together, the photo (now proudly displayed in my office) and the Browning line give me hope for the coming year.

Allow me to walk you through the agenda:

- 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**, Assistant Superintendent Woodside will return to this meeting to offer you an opportunity to ask questions (and receive answers) related to her presentation last month about **ESEA grants**. This is an annual requirement of the ESEA federal grants program.
- Asst. Superintendent Woodside will also provide you with a summary and general overview of **ESSER III** (Part of the American Rescue Plan). She is in the process of completing and submitting the grant application which must be fully obligated by September 30, 2024.
- As part of my report, I will review the **11 Cost Center Report** ending May 31, 2021. Mrs. Harkin will prepare one final report ending June 30, 2021 in the FY21 fiscal year as she prepares for the FY21 audit which begins August 2nd.

- In your packet, I hope you had a chance to review my **Progress Report** on the next vision for the Kittery School District. I will go over that with you during my report. It is important to note that the work is still in draft form and will resume in September.
- I've included an update in your materials from the **SRO Task Force**. They continue to work during the summer months and prepare recommendations for your consideration later in the upcoming school year. Speaking of the SRO, I am working closely with Chief Richter of the Kittery Police Department to find just the right person to replace Sgt. Durgin as our SRO. My goal is to bring a MOA to you for this position at our August 17th meeting. However, if that doesn't happen, we have another meeting on September 7th which is just five days into the school year. I know Sgt. Durgin and Chief Richter would make sure our schools are covered for those five school days prior to the first September School Committee meeting. I will keep you updated and will follow our recently revised SRO-related policies every step of the way.
- Mrs. Schoff and I keep a comprehensive list of **21-22 Staff Changes** for the Kittery School District. I will share the latest version with you at the meeting. In the past, you have appreciated seeing this report. It always seems a little daunting to see the number of staff changes each year. It is very common for all school districts to have some movement of staff during the summer. Our Leadership Team is working hard with building-level interview committees to make nominations to me in order to fill these positions before the start of the new school year. We've got this! You will receive several teacher nominations from me at the August 17th School Committee meeting, just in time for the August 18th **New Employee Orientation!**
- Similarly, I will also share a comprehensive list of **fall interscholastic athletic coaching appointments and vacancies**. I know that it is important to have these fall positions filled immediately. I'm working closely with Mr. Roberge to make that happen!
- As you can see from the agenda, there is a long list of **New Appointments** since our last meeting over a month ago. I will read these into the record at our meeting during my report.
- I have received **six resignations** since our last meeting in June which I will read into the record during my report. They are listed on the agenda. Our Leadership Team is working hard to find just the right people to fill these important positions.
- Regarding recent **Health & Safety Guidance** from the Maine DOE, there are three main points as we look to the new school year:
 - *Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.*
 - *CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms.*
 - *School buses are considered 'public transportation.' Therefore, masks must be worn by everyone riding the school bus.*

- Under **New Business**, you will consider **JEA and JEAA** for a second read.
- I am pleased to nominate **Zofie Meffert** for the new School-based Social Worker position and **Melissa Cantara, RN** for the school nursing position vacated by Shay Stathoplos, RN who has moved to Traip Academy to replace Betsy Burke, RN who recently retired.
- Also under New Business, you will consider a **propane fuel bid** recommendation from the Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee, as well as two recent grants/donations as noted on your agenda.
- Following Committees & Reports, I do not anticipate an Executive Session for this meeting.

For Your Calendars:

July 20 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chambers

August 17 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chambers

August 18 ~ New Employee Orientation 8:30 AM in Council Chambers

August 24, 25, 26 ~ Staff Workshop Days

August 30 ~ First Day of School!

August 30 21, Sept. 1 ~ Kindergarten Screening

Sept. 3 - 6 ~ Labor Day Weekend Observed; No Classes

Sept. 7 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chambers

Sept. 21 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Council Chamber

Sept. 23 ~ Policy Committee Meeting 3:30 PM Central Office Conf. Room