

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM: ERIC WADDELL
DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2020
RE: **REPORT FOR OCTOBER 6, 2020 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

I apologize for the brevity of this bi-weekly report. Our work here in the District is moving at a feverish pace, and we're all doing our best to keep up. Nothing is happening 'automatically' as it sometimes can under much more normal circumstances. Every situation is unique; every question is relevant and sincere. At times, I feel like I am waiting for the phone to ring or for my email to 'ding' with the next challenge. We are all working under tremendous pressure (teachers, support staff, leaders, students, and families) as we do what we think is right for our students. Be patient with us! Successes and failures will be plentiful as we progress through this school year.

Our first October meeting will be hosted in person at the **Kittery Community Center's Star Theatre**. However, there is limited seating available (16 total), so it is important to note that the meeting may be viewed virtually in two ways:

- Go to this link from the Town of Kittery website and watch the meeting streaming live: <http://www.kitteryme.gov/home/pages/kittery-channel-22-live-stream>
- For those who live in Kittery and who have cable television, they may watch the meeting live on Channel 22.

Allow me to walk you through the agenda:

- Under **Correspondence**, I have shared with you in your packet a terrific new booklet published by the *Kittery Historical & Naval Society*. It's the bicentennial edition, and I know you will enjoy it.
- Under my report, you will see the **Quarterly Reports** from various departments in the District. These reports are brief and are intended to keep you abreast of things happening in the District within those departments. Remember; the Quarterly Reports are archived here on the District website:



Scroll to the bottom where you'll see this:

Quarterly Reports

Adult & Community Education

The reports are archived from as far back as February 2018. It is interesting to click back and see the progress we've made, even in the throes of a pandemic.

- The latest versions of the **Student/Parent Handbooks** for each school are in your materials. These resources are linked to each school's website, so they live somewhat dynamically there. If you find any errors in them, or if you see a typo, please let me know (I've already noticed a few myself!). There are no substantive revisions here. The changes are mostly updates and reflected policy changes. We were careful to keep the Student/Parent Handbooks and the reopening information for each school separate. Each school has a reopening document that clarifies the specifics of the School Committee-approved Reopening Plan. You won't find anything about Covid-19 in these Student/Parent Handbooks. Frankly, we hope we won't need to be concerned about Covid-19 when you review the 2021-22 Handbooks. Won't that be awesome?
- I am pleased to include a list of **appointments** since our last meeting. Just as a reminder, I won't be appointing any interscholastic or co-curricular coaches/advisors/directors unless I know for sure that those particular programs will run. I am working closely with Mr. Roberge, Activities Director, on this, and I will keep you informed. The MPA will not sanction any interscholastic programs in a county whose **Health Advisory System** designation is not 'green.' I do not anticipate York County having a 'green' classification for some time.
- Under **New Business**, you will consider a nomination of **Joanne Reeve** for a one-year-only position at Shapleigh School that will be funded with CRF and ESSERF grant funds.
- The School Committee is required by statute to approve the school-appointed physician each year. I am pleased to nominate **Dr. Vinograd**, a pediatrician affiliated with York Hospital.
- The **FF&S Committee** is recommending that the School Committee approve funding the Shapleigh School Sewer Pump Replacement Project through the CIP Equipment Reserve Fund. This is an unanticipated emergency of sorts. There are two sewer pumps. One is non-functional, and the other is the same age. Both have outlived their anticipated life.
- The FF&S Committee also heard a presentation from Town Manager Amaral and Chiefs Richter and O'Brien about the Town of Kittery **Communications Town Expansion Project** which is on the site of Mitchell Primary School. The Town has secured funding for the project and intends to move forward with site preparation in the spring (during a school break) followed by erecting the tower in the summer of 2021 when no students

are on site (late June is ideal or the second/third weeks of August). I will coordinate site work with the Town Manager to ensure there is no disruption to the school's operations.

It is important to note that a smaller communications tower already exists at MPS. It is connected to the gymnasium roof. This replacement tower will be taller, but it will be free-standing adjacent to the school. Furthermore, it will emit the same watts as the current tower (100 watts). The tower upgrade is essential for effective public safety communication capabilities in the Kittery Point area where current coverage is spotty and interrupted.

- We will have a short **Executive Session** related to a personnel matter; Chairwoman Dow will determine if any action will be taken following the Executive Session.

And in other news...

- I am happy to announce that Traip Academy senior **Jordan Kofos** will serve as the Student Representative to the School Committee this year, replacing the Bowdoin College first-year student Alajiah Rubianes. Jordan's first meeting will be October 20th. Welcome to the School Committee, Jordan!



Jordan started his education in the fall of 2008 at Mitchell Primary School, and he has been with the District every step of the way!

- The Traip Academy Student Council-sponsored **Meet the Candidates Night** is set for Wednesday, October 7th, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. It will be hosted at the KCC's Star Theatre. However, no one will be in attendance; all attendance will happen virtually two ways:
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For your calendars:

Oct. 1 ~ The Start of National Principals Month

Oct. 6 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM at KCC's Star Theatre

Oct. 7 ~ Annual Candidates Forum (Sponsored by Traip Academy Student Council) 6:00 PM

Oct. 9 ~ Professional Dev. Day (No Classes)

Oct. 12 ~ Indigenous Peoples Day (No Classes)

Oct. 12 ~ National School Lunch Week

Oct. 13 ~ Policy Committee Meeting 3:00 PM (Virtual)

Oct. 19 ~ National School Bus Safety Week

Oct. 28 ~ Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee Meeting Meeting 3:30 PM (Virtual)