TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM: ERIC WADDELL, SUPT. OF SCHOOLS
DATE: JANUARY 4, 2021
RE: **REPORT FOR JANUARY 5, 2021 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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Welcome to 2021! I enjoy going back to the archives and reading my old reports from a year ago. Last year at this time, I noted how difficult it would be to remember to write '2020' for the date. One year later, I can assure you that I will have no trouble at all remembering to write '2021' when I write the date. In fact, I may have started writing '2021' last month! Although not too much has changed since last week, it does seem hopeful to be able to take down the 2020 calendar and replace it with 2021. I did that this morning in our office. You'll find no references to 2020 in this office!

As you know, the Kittery School District engaged in a full remote deployment on December 21 and 22. I won't explain the rationale behind that decision here. You can re-read my communication from December 16th that offers a very valid epidemiological explanation. What I do want to share with you is that our first two full remote days in the District went extremely well, all things considered. Attendance was excellent, technology supported our plan, and families were pleased with the experience, by and large. Will that be our only full remote experience this school year? Probably not, but when we 'go remote' again, we can do so knowing that our plans are solid, our hardware and software perform well, and all stakeholders know what to do. That gives me great peace of mind.

I want to reiterate that we now have a **COVID-19 Dashboard** for families, students, and staff. The link is right on our homepage (http://www.kitteryschools.com/); it is bright yellow and red:

(Correspondence, Reopening Info, Reports, Videos)

COVID-19 PARENT, STUDENT, and STAFF DASHBOARD

If you are looking for any information or communications related to this pandemic, that is where you'll find it. The dashboard is school-specific, although some information is relevant to all three of our schools. I hope you find the dashboard useful and informative, and **I CANNOT WAIT TO TAKE IT DOWN WHEN THIS WHOLE THING IS OVER!**

Out of an abundance of caution, our **meeting will be a remote meeting** using the Zoom platform. I will share the link with you via email, so keep an eye out for that. Others who would like to watch the meeting may do so 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:

- Since our meeting is remote, the public has been instructed to put their **public comments**, complete with their full name, in writing by email to Donna Schoff (dschoff@kitteryschools.com) by noon on January 5th. Comments received by then will be read aloud during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

- We will have **two presentations** at this meeting. The first is from **Student Representative Kofos** who will share some highlights from all three District schools.

- The second presentation will feature Traip Academy Junior **Olivia O'Leary** and Senior **Mary Lombardi.** These two students are also Career & Technical Education (CTE) students at Sanford Regional Technical Center (SRTC). I have invited them to our meeting to share details about their CTE experience. Each student will have about 5 minutes to share, and then you may ask them questions about their CTE journey. I am pleased that they will be joining us!

- Under my report, I will be announcing the **resignation of three dedicated staff members** who will be retiring at the end of the current school year. Congratulations to Mrs. Masury, Mrs. Burke, and Ms. Torr who have collectively **served the Kittery School District for 67 years.**

- Under New Business, the Policy Committee recommends **Second Read** of five policies with recommendations for changes in Policy BIA (noted in your meeting materials).

- The Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee will be giving a final look at the District's **Emergency Management Plan** on January 4th. It is a requirement that the School Committee review and approve the plan annually.

- At our December 15th meeting, we established February 23rd as a meeting date since February 16th falls during February school break. Unfortunately, Council Chambers is not available. Your choices are to keep the February 23rd meeting with a recording of the Zoom meeting which can then be played back on Channel 22 and online. The other option is to move the meeting to February 24th when Council Chambers is available.

- Following Committees & Reports, you will enter **Executive Session** on the topic of contract negotiations. The plan is for the Committee to return to public session to take action on the Unit A and Unit C Collective Bargaining Agreements.

A Few Loose Ends…

● Families have until January 15th to notify their student's principal if they would like to change their status for Phase 3 (beginning February 1st). Families were notified on December 16th via memorandum.

● Now that January is here, Assistant Superintendent Woodside and I will be meeting with Great School Partnership coaches to plan the **January Visioning Event** (Phase 2 of the District's Visioning Plan). This will be an evening remote event, so watch for details. A follow up of the three Community Conversations from the fall, the Visioning Event will offer all stakeholders an opportunity to share perceptions/priorities/beliefs. Participants will be guided to build upon Phase 1 data thereby pushing visioning to the next level.

● January 19th is not only a School Committee meeting day. It is also the day that we are **welcoming input from the community about the FY22 School Budget.** It will be a little challenging this year since we are hosting a remote meeting on that date; however, written input is most welcomed (emailed to dschoff@kitteryschools.com). Input received by noon on January 19th will be read into the record. Input received after that date will be shared directly with the School Committee.

For your calendars:

Jan. 4 ~ Facilities, Finance, & Safety Committee meeting 3:00 PM (Virtual)
Jan. 5 ~ School Committee Officers/Municipal Officers meeting re: FY22 Budget 5:00 PM
Jan. 5 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM (Zoom)
Jan. 6 ~ CIP Meeting #1 6:00 PM (Zoom)
Jan. 11 ~ Wellness Committee Meeting 2:30 PM
Jan. 12 ~ Equity Workshop for Leadership Team 9:30 AM
Jan. 13 ~ CIP Meeting #2 6:00 PM (Zoom)
Jan. 18 ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ~ Schools & Offices Closed
Jan. 19 ~ School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM (Zoom)
Jan. 19 ~ Public Input Welcomed on FY22 Budget