

# Superintendent's Update

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Today was the 51st day of classes for the 2021-22 school year.

Congratulations to the DHS Girls Varsity Soccer team! The girls have progressed to the finals of the MIAA Division 3 Tournament and will play Norwell for the championship this Saturday (location and time TBA). Over the past two weeks in the MIAA tournament the girls have defeated:

1. Rockland (4-0)
2. Medway (1-0)
3. Groton-Dunstable (5-0)
4. Foxborough (3-0)

The girls are now 18-0-6 on the season and hope to complete an undefeated run this weekend.

At Monday night's annual Fall Town Meeting, the Oakdale MSBA Feasibility Study was approved by a unanimous vote. This paves the way for the next round of MSBA board votes in May to move into this stage of the process.

Last Friday the district received the final [MSBA "Final Project Cost Audit" figures](#) for the completed ECEC construction project. These final figures show that the Town of Dedham received \$10,406,774 in reimbursement from the MSBA out of a final total project cost of \$28,742,179. This is over a million dollars under the amount originally allocated by Dedham taxpayers for completion of this project.

On Thursday, November 4 Dedham High School students completed the MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey. This survey was completed online for the first time ever. Dedham Middle School students were scheduled to complete the survey on Friday, November 5 but a server issue (outside of DPS) prevented completion. The new date for the middle school is Friday, December 3.

Last night the Dedham Public Schools Curriculum Advisory Committee met for the first time. Dr. Kelly will brief the Committee on progress made.

## **COVID Update**

The most recent data regarding COVID cases in Dedham and the Dedham Public Schools are shown below:

1. [COVID-19 data for Dedham](#)
2. [COVID cases in MA schools](#) (For comprehensive statewide results, click [HERE](#))
3. [Positive Cases in DPS Schools](#)
4. [DPS Pooled Testing Participation and Results](#)

Today was unfortunately a very busy day tracking down COVID-19 cases. There were 4 positive pools from yesterday's districtwide pooled testing. In addition, there were 5 additional cases districtwide that were uncovered outside of the pooled testing program. As a result of these positive pooled tests, there were over 70 students who participated in the district's "Test and Stay" rapid followup testing program this morning.

Due to the onset of cold weather, we have decided to move the "Test & Stay" program to the Capen School. This allows for the testing to be performed in an easy drive-through format along the side of the building while testers can remain inside out of the cold (and eventually cold rain and snow too). This new site was piloted successfully this week, and will continue until further notice.

As the Committee is aware, DPS has partnered with the Dedham Health Department to provide a COVID-19 vaccine clinic this Saturday, Nov. 20 and Saturday, Dec. 11 at Dedham Middle School. The health department secured 300 pediatric doses of vaccine and as of 10:00 this morning there were only 14 shots still available. Families can also obtain vaccinations by visiting the state's [VaxFinder website](#), and pediatric doses are readily available at the Dedham CVS on Bussey Street.

Last night I met with the Dedham Parks and Recreation Commission along with Town Manager Leon Goodwin to continue our ongoing discussions about the possible use of the Capen Elementary School by the Parks & Recreation Department. These discussions are ongoing and I hope to provide a more concrete plan on how this may unfold at a future meeting. No agreements have yet been reached on a timeline moving forward. Ed Gotgart also met this week with Police Chief Mike D'Entremont about the possibility of leasing a portion of the 2nd floor of the Capen to a group that

provides classroom in-service training courses for police officers. I will continue to brief the Committee on these discussions.

I have included in Committee members' folders a [report recently released by the Rennie Center for education policy research](#). This report examines the gender and racial disparities among education leadership positions in Massachusetts K-12 school districts. I found it a fascinating read and encourage you to give it a look.

I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.