

Superintendent's Update

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Today was the 86th day of classes for the 2021-22 school year.

On Friday, January 7 we experienced our first no school “snow day” of the year. This was a substantial storm, and virtually all districts in eastern Massachusetts called off school for a full day. Amy Hicks put together [a map of districts calling off school](#) on that day.

Because this snow day will have to be made up at the end of the year, our last (180th) day of school is now pushed to **Friday, June 17, 2022**. I am sure many of you may be wondering how many snow days we have in a typical school year. This [Dedham Snow Days School Cancellations History](#) provides a review of snow days/dates in Dedham for the last 20 years, and gives some perspective on what may occur. I make no promises that past history will predict future outcomes...

Most of what I will be discussing tonight is regarding the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in the community. This will be covered in a separate update.

Most of our efforts over the past two weeks have been on fine-tuning the FY23 Budget. We have continued to meet and refine our request with the Budget Subcommittee. The [FY23 Facilities and Technology Capital Budget requests](#) were presented to the Capital Expenditures Committee on Tuesday, 1/11. At last night's CEC meeting the committee voted to move forward with **ALL** \$1,675,000 of the Schools' facilities and capital requests. This is the first time in my tenure as Superintendent that this has occurred, and I want to thank the CEC for their support of our district's needs.

On Wednesday, 1/12/22 Ed Gotgart and I met with Town Manager Leon Goodwin and Finance Director John Arnett to discuss our preliminary FY23 Operating Budget. This was just a “big picture” discussion about how the budget was shaping up and what the town might expect.

On Thursday, 1/13/22 I participated in a virtual MSBA meeting with members of the SBRC and the School Committee to review our Oakdale Statement of Interest. The district's application is on track to be reviewed by the MSBA at their next board meeting

scheduled for March 28, 2022. At that meeting I expect Dedham's project will be voted into the feasibility stage of the process.

In your folders is an updated copy of a DRAFT MOA for the use of a portion of the Capen School by the Parks and Recreation Department for your review and consideration.

Next week I will be presenting my annual "State of the Schools" message to the community.

Lastly, today I was able to attend the end of semester presentations by ten DHS students who completed internships in the DELTA (Dedham Early Learning and Teaching Academy) program. This is the DPS faculty/staff preschool housed in the former superintendent's office at DHS that currently serves 20 three-four year olds. These students work alongside DELTA professional staff to learn about child development and try on the role of early childhood teachers.

To say these high school students were significantly impacted in a very positive way would be a gross understatement. Their presentations reveal how much they enjoyed this experience, and how many of them are now considering careers in education as a result of this opportunity. This is a fantastic program that is a "Win-Win-Win". A win for the staff, a win for the pre-schoolers, and a win for the high school students.

Please take a moment to [look at their presentations](#).

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