

# Superintendent's Update

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Today was the 108th day of classes for the 2021-22 school year. We are now in the 7-week stretch of relatively uninterrupted learning from February Break to April Break. This is generally the most valuable learning time of the school year, and everyone is excited to be back in school fresh from the most recent vacation. Just a reminder that tomorrow (Thursday, March 3) is the district's second-to-last early release half-day for educator professional development.

Since we have only had 5 days of classes in our schools since our last School Committee meeting, I will keep this update brief.

Today was an important milestone in the ongoing MSBA process toward the vision of a new school to serve our Oakdale students. At today's Board meeting, the MSBA voted to welcome the Town of Dedham into the [Feasibility Study](#) stage of their multi-step process. This is another huge hurdle and victory for Dedham's School Building Rehabilitation Committee, and signals the start of a process that will take 9-12 months to complete. Dedham is one of only 4 districts to meet this threshold out of the 15 districts invited into the eligibility phase from the spring 2021 cohort.

Tomorrow members of Dedham's SBRC will be participating in a "[Module 2 Orientation](#)" to learn more about the expectations and requirements of the District and the Town during the Feasibility Stage. This training will provide guidance about how to form the Project Team, including the [Owner's Project Manager \(OPM\)](#) process and the [Designer's Selection Panel Process](#). These are critical decision steps that the SBRC will need to make during Feasibility, and I encourage Committee members to review these stages carefully in order to be fully informed. There are strict regulations and criteria that must be met to satisfy the MSBA's requirements, and these links help explain what can and cannot be done moving forward.

On another MSBA related note, during the vacation week I received a request from Weymouth Public Schools Superintendent Rob Wargo who was interested in bringing a team from Weymouth to tour and study our ECEC. Their Weymouth team will be touring the ECEC on Friday this week.

I received another call yesterday from Robert Jokela, the Superintendent of the Fitchburg Public Schools, who also asked if their district could send a team to visit the ECEC. These requests are most certainly a result of the ECEC's "Model School" status. It is a great honor to be hosting teams from around the state as we get to show off our fantastic facility!

Yesterday, 4th graders at the Greenlodge School participated in the [National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)](#) testing. This school and grade was randomly selected as a representative group from Massachusetts to complete this annual nationwide assessment. Thanks to Principal Jenny McGowan and all the impacted students and staff for their assistance in this obligation.

Coincidentally, we recently learned that 4th graders at the Oakdale School have also been randomly selected to participate in the [Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study \(TIMSS\)](#). This assessment is given every 4 years to a representative sampling of 4th and 8th graders around the world. Somehow, the 4th graders at Oakdale were selected. They will be completing this assessment later on this spring.

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