

# Superintendent's Update

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Today was the 118th day of classes for the 2021-22 school year. Therefore, we will be two-thirds of the way through the school year as of this Friday, March 18.

While I was not able to attend the SBRC Meeting on Monday, 3/14, I know there was significant discussion about the upcoming request for services to recruit and enlist an "Owner's Project Manager" (OPM) for the project. There is also ongoing work to comply with the next phases of the Feasibility Study.

Virtually all of our emphasis in the district over the past two weeks has been dedicated to this week's [DESE/AIR Comprehensive Review](#). The review team from DESE has been visiting classrooms, meeting with focus groups, and interviewing teachers and central office staff all week.

Another major part of the district's work over the past month has been a focus on the important administrative searches going on simultaneously. The timelines and important milestones for each of these positions are listed below:

[Assistant Superintendent for Student Services](#)

[Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance](#)

[Greenlodge Elementary School Principal](#)

[Dedham Middle School Assistant Principal](#)

Human Resources Administrator

Earlier this month we were fortunate to conclude the search for the district's ESD/ESY Director. I am pleased to inform the committee that [Alyssa Freda](#) has accepted the district's offer and began her work in the district this week. As the Committee is aware, we are using ARPA funds to provide a gradually decreasing percentage of funding for this position, and we are excited to help coordinate the many different summer programs in a more comprehensive manner.

Dedham High School was fortunate to have a number of teams rewarded for their hard work with MIAA tournament appearances. Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Boys

Hockey all made it to the tournament and won at least one first round game. Congratulations to all winter sports athletes.

Dedham High School and Dedham Middle School students and families are now deep into the process of signing up for courses for next year. These course requests will drive class section numbers and teacher assignments as we work hard to provide offerings for all students in all content areas at multiple levels. Both schools have [conducted assemblies](#) to discuss this process and guidance counselors have been meeting with students to review graduation and content area requirements. DHS Principal Jim Forrest and DMS Principal Karen Hillman are here tonight to answer any questions the Committee may have about this process.

The Class of 2022 and the DHS Performing Arts will present *Hairspray* at DHS on March 25-28. Dates for additional Fine Arts programming may be found on this [DPS Fine Arts Spring Calendar](#).

I wanted to share with the Committee some [pictures and video of the Avery AfterSchool Homework Club](#). Avery ELL Teachers Alexis Tochka and Mary Gallagher have partnered with DHS ELL Teacher Joseph O'Connor to have high school students supporting elementary students in mentoring relationships after school. Please take a moment to review these smiling kids!

Included in the Committee Folder tonight is an obligatory summary of our [SOA \(Student Activity Act\) funding allocation for FY22](#). This is supplemental funding for schools similar to Chapter 70 funding that was given to all districts across the state. While many districts received a significant infusion of funds, Dedham received the minimum funding increase of \$35 per student for a total of about \$80,000. This relatively small additional allocation requires significant documentation and notification regarding the manner in which these supplemental funds are used. This also requires an endorsement vote of School Committees. I am providing this material to the Committee tonight with the opportunity to review this information and I would request a formal vote at our next meeting so that we can comply with this requirement.

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