

Superintendent's Update

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Today was the 142nd day of classes for the 2021-22 school year. Students and faculty/staff were grateful for last week's annual 1-week April vacation. We have fewer than 8 weeks of school left. The last day of the school year is a half-day for students and is currently scheduled for Tuesday, June 21.

In December 2021, Governor Baker signed *An act concerning genocide education*. Beginning next school year, this legislation requires that districts provide instruction about the history of genocide to middle and high school students in a way that is aligned to the content standards laid out in the 2018 Massachusetts History and Social Science Framework. The Department recently released a [Genocide Education: Frequently Asked Questions document](#) (*download*) which includes additional guidance about the legislation, examples of how genocide education might be provided within various middle and high school courses, and links to resources. Questions about genocide education requirements may be directed to HistoryCivicsDESE@mass.gov.

The district continues to aggressively pursue the appointment of district and school level administrative positions. As the Committee is aware, in the last week [Dr. Sara Stetson](#) was recently appointed as the district's Assistant Superintendent for Student Services beginning July 1, and [Ed Paris was appointed the new incoming Principal at the Avery Elementary School](#). Updates and timelines with important milestones for additional pending hires/appointments are listed below:

[Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance](#)

[Dedham Middle School Assistant Principal](#)

[Dedham High School Assistant Principal](#)

I'm excited to announce that after 2+ years of pandemic cancellations, DPS will be bringing back the Aspiring Leaders Academy spring seminar next Tuesday, May 3 from 3:30 - 5:00 PM at the [MIT Endicott House](#).

Some School Committee members will remember the top notch educators we've hosted in past Aspiring Leaders sessions including MTA President Barbara Madeloni, Diversity Educator Kalise Wornum, DESE Commissioner Jeff Riley, Teachers 21

President John D'Auria, and Chair of MA Joint Committee on Education Rep. Alice Peisch. Tuesday's session will feature guest speaker and **DESE Associate Commissioner Rob Curtin**. Rob is head of the DESE Center for District Supports, and is also in charge of designing the MCAS Accountability System for all MA schools and districts. He will talk about his own personal leadership journey then give us a window into the future of MCAS and accountability systems in the post-pandemic era. This will certainly be an interesting conversation. All School Committee members are cordially invited to attend.

As the Committee is aware, tomorrow night the Board of Selectmen will consider the approval of two additional MSBA "Statements of Interest" (SOI's) for the **Greenlodge** and **Riverdale** elementary schools. These are a necessary requirement in the event of a consolidation of the Oakdale Elementary School with either of these buildings. The specific verbiage of this request is very important, and the last step of filing these complete SOI's is the signed letter from our Committee and the Town Clerk. These letters and the SOI's will be submitted to the MSBA by this Friday's deadline. More on this during the Subcommittee Reports portion of tonight's meeting.

Internally within the district we have been discussing the addition of language at the end of all district-issued emails that makes note of the "public record" nature of this form of communication. After consulting with legal counsel, we have proposed the following specific language for email footers:

"When writing or responding, please remember that the Secretary of State's Office has determined that email is a public record. This communication may contain privileged or other confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, or believe you have received this communication in error, please do not print, copy, re-transmit, disseminate, or otherwise use this information. Also, please indicate to the sender that you have received this email in error and delete the copy you have received." We expect to implement this prior to the end of this school year.

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