

# Superintendent's Update

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Today was the 157th day of classes for the 2021-22 school year. There are only 22 days of school left this academic year. The last day of the school year is a half-day for students and is currently scheduled for Tuesday, June 21. Remember, there is NO SCHOOL on Monday, June 20 in recognition of the Juneteenth holiday.

As the Committee is aware, the district's [FY23 Operating Budget](#) allocation was approved at the Monday, 5/16 Spring Town Meeting. This final approved operating budget represented a \$175,000 reduction in overall funding approved by the School Committee back in February. Based upon multiple meetings with the School Committee Budget Sub-Committee, we have assumed this additional reduction and potential risk within the Special Education Out-Of-District tuition budget line item for FY23. While we anticipate this to be an acceptable risk, it is nonetheless a risk overall, and we remain hopeful that tuition increases and possible additional outside placements do not force cuts in other areas to balance the budget next year.

This week in all of our schools was a full court press for 2022 Math MCAS testing, and the next phase of Science MCAS testing for designated grades in elementary and middle schools. The full MCAS testing schedule can be seen on the DPS website [HERE](#).

I have posted in tonight's School Committee folder the [confirmation from DESE](#) on our district's vote to NOT participate in the School Choice program for the 2022-23 school year.

This Thursday Dr. Oneida Fox Roye and I will participate in the 7th session of [DESE's Teacher Diversity Professional Learning Community](#) seminars and also the [DESE's Influence 100 Program](#) to promote greater diversity in school and district leadership in Massachusetts. Oneida and I also participated in the [Massachusetts Partnership for Diversity In Education \(MPDE\)](#) annual spring conference last Wednesday. These programs compliment our ongoing work in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the district. Given the horrible and tragic racist events from this past week across our country it is clear that we have a continued need for investments in the

educational community to work toward more equitable opportunities within our schools and our society.

Work in the DHS library continues to move along briskly with a target opening date of the first day of school in the fall. This work, supported by the Town's FY22 Capital spending appropriation, will make for a far more welcoming and inviting space for students and faculty. Current progress can be seen in photos [HERE](#).

We continue to make very effective progress at filling open administrative positions within the district. Over the past two weeks we have finalized appointments for [DMS Assistant Principal \(George Benzie\)](#), and [DHS Assistant Principal \(Kelly Cook\)](#). We have begun the Riverdale Elementary School Principal search and expect that the 15-member search committee will secure an appointment there prior to the end of this school year.

Ed Gotgart, Denise Moroney and I have continued our considerable effort to work with the SBRC to provide information to the many firms that have expressed interest in the Oakdale Elementary School Owner's Project Manager opening. Last Wednesday there were [more than 20 groups](#) that attended a site walk-through at Oakdale to gather more information about the scope of the project. This is a good sign, and for the next few weeks we will be working to narrow these proposals down for an eventual selection.

Student summer enrichment programming for children in grades PreK - 8 remains [open for registration on the DPS website](#). Please spread the word about the availability of these offerings!

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