



Superintendent's Corner

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Interim Superintendent

April 1, 2016

We've had some really nice weather this week... don't look now, but I'm hearing about some snow on Sunday and Monday (and this is no April Fools Joke)! Hopefully, there will be a minimal accumulation.

Budget Meetings

Monday evening, the school committee finance of the whole met to discuss the proposed budget. It was a healthy conversation about the budget for each school, including the additional requests for the upcoming school year. I am feeling confident that we are moving in the right direction. This budget is reflective of some hard work of staff members at the central office and school level, as well as some critical input from community members that I obtained through conversations during the past six months and during the various budget workshops. The final proposed budget will be voted on this Monday evening at the regular school committee meeting (Monday, April 4 at 7:00). As always, these meetings are public meetings and members of the community are always welcome!

MASS Drive In Conference

Thursday morning, Lyn Jacques (Director of Teaching and Learning) and I attended a conference being sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS). The topic for the conference was *Preparing for Next-Generation Learning, teaching and Assessment*. Commissioner Mitchell Chester provided some open remarks. One of the key components that I gleaned from his comments was that we need to shift our thinking **from** becoming technologically ready to handle the next generation assessments **to** becoming technologically ready to teach our students the 21st century learning skills using technology. This is a paradigm shift which encourages us to focus on learning, not on the annual assessment. During this conference, we also learned about some potential funding sources that could support our continued work around increasing computer access and wireless capacity in our schools.

Saturday Evening

How are you spending your Saturday night? Looking for something fun to do that also supports a wonderful cause? Come to the *Cruise into Summer!* Fundraiser to support Our Neighbor's Table. It is being held on Saturday, April 2nd from 7-11 pm at the Amesbury Sports Park. Wear your best cruise apparel, whether it be a casual Hawaiian shirt or something more formal. I look forward to seeing you there - I'll be the one with the crazy Hawaiian shirt and leis... that is if my wife lets me out of the house looking that way!!

Be well and have a great weekend!

Gary