



## Superintendent's Corner

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Superintendent

April 28, 2017

Welcome back from vacation! I hope you and your families had an enjoyable and relaxing time together. I had the pleasure of watching my cousin participate in the Boston Marathon over vacation. I'd love to say that I ran it along with him, but I'm not even sure I could walk 26 miles in a day. I certainly give those athletes a lot of credit, particularly this year when the weather was so warm!

We've had a slow transition back from vacation, but below are some of the activities/events I was involved in during this week...

### **School Committee Policy Subcommittee**

The Policy Subcommittee met on Monday evening to review and update policies around the administration of the athletic program and extracurricular activities for our students. Two policy updates were discussed and will be presented to the school committee for a first reading at the May 1, 2017 school committee meeting. The first policy, GCAA, addresses the approach to hiring and evaluating athletic coaches. The second policy, JJ, discusses a similar approach, but is focused on our extracurricular and co-curricular programs.

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### **Coordinated Program Review**

Every six years, districts in Massachusetts participate in a review process through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education called a Coordinated Program Review. This review examines our policies and practices in three distinct areas: special education, civil rights, and our English Language Learner program. This spring, we are completing the document review and upload process of this review. This step allows us the opportunity to review state and federal regulations and self-identify areas where we might need to update our practices, procedures or policies. The central office staff have worked very hard this past week (and during the April vacation) to engage in this process and have included our staff from all schools in the collection of data. We are required to upload our documentation by mid-May for review by the state. The next step in the process will be for a review team from the state to come out to our district to observe our practices and to conduct interviews with school staff, parents, students, community members, and school committee members. I anticipate that this visit will occur next winter and will keep everyone updated regarding the dates and opportunities to be involved in the process.

### **Rotary Club Luncheon**

On Thursday, I attended the Rotary Club luncheon at Molise. Let me first begin by sharing how wonderful the food was and how attentive the staff at Molise was to the club. We are so fortunate to have access to so many great restaurants in the community! At this luncheon, members of the high school's Interact Club presented to the Rotary members about the various types of activities the group has been engaged in during this school year. This year, the Interact Club has merged with our Peer Leader group. This has provided the

group the opportunity to reach a greater number of charities, both local and international. One such charity that the group has coordinated fundraising efforts for is to purchase livestock (goats) for Esinamutu widows in Africa. These goats provide the widows with financial opportunities, as the widows are able to sell the milk from the goats.

### **AEFI Hall of Honor**

This morning, Amesbury High School students had the chance to hear from this year's recipients of the AEFI Hall of Honor Award: Peter Hoyt, Joan Miller and Graham McKay. Each participant sent the students a powerful message about what they can do with an education from Amesbury High School and about the benefits of giving back to the community of Amesbury. These three individuals will be presented with the Hall of Honor award this evening at a reception at Northern Essex Community College.



Joan Miller



Graham McKay



Peter Hoyt

Be well and have a great weekend!  
Gary