



## **Superintendent's Corner**

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March 11, 2016

While this was a busy week in the central office, much of the work was centered on the continued development of our budget for the 2016-2017 school year. Therefore, I don't have a lot to report in this week's 'Superintendent's Corner'. Principals were meeting with one another, with the director of teaching and learning, director of special education, technology department, and with me in order to develop a proposed budget that meets the needs of our students, begins to rebuild some of the services that have been lost over the years, and provides an integrated (cross-departmental) examination of the budget. By engaging in this process, we feel confident that our proposed budget will be aligned with districtwide goals and needs, as well as specific needs of individual schools and departments.

### **Budget Meetings**

Our budget meetings are well underway. Last week, we had the opportunity to hear from the middle school, high school, and Amesbury Innovation High School. This week, presentations were made by the director of curriculum, the athletic director, and the two elementary principals. Each individual presented their priorities and goals for the upcoming school year. The documents have been uploaded to the district website (listed under the office of the superintendent). Our administrative staff continue to do an excellent job identifying the needs of our school district and have focused on the concept of 'rebuilding' our school programs and services. A major area of focus has been around meeting the diverse social and emotional needs of our students. Mr. Helliesen and Ms. Charette presented an impassioned plea to the school committee to provide the types of supports that would help us address the social/emotional learning needs that interfere with a student's ability to access academic learning. They stressed the significant challenges faced by a number of our students on a daily basis and provided specific data regarding our rising 'high needs' population.

### **Saturday School...**

No, not for the students, but for me. Tomorrow, I will be spending some time at a workshop sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees entitled "Building Sustainability: School Repair and Construction". This workshop will provide an overview of the Massachusetts School Building Authority grant process. As we continue to look towards a building project for Amesbury Elementary School, this workshop will help me to better support those efforts.

Be well and have a great weekend!

Gary