

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent of Schools*

Superintendent's Report January 14, 2021

Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect.
- Alan Cohen

As this is the first formal Superintendent's report of the 2021 calendar year, it behooves me to make quick mention of the condition of optimism. Each new school year, staff, students, and families alike enter with a degree of optimism, hopes, and goals for the year. Among the many wonderful elements in the realm of education is the unique feature of a second formal opportunity that New Year's Day brings to make new commitments, identify additional goals, and express new hopes for the calendar year ahead. For me personally, it is an opportunity to reflect not only on the calendar year gone by, but also the first half of the school year. While the first full week of 2021 brought with it a traumatizing event, I remain hopeful and fully optimistic about the bountiful promise of forward progress that the second half of the school year and remainder of the calendar year will bring.

Perhaps a great deal of my optimism for the year ahead (both calendar and school year) stems from the substantive steps staff, students, and families have taken to ensure an optimal learning experience for students in the current context. This report marks the first, but I decided to include the sage advice of a famous author. Cohen's words could not more perfectly frame my thoughts about where we are, where we can potentially go, and when to begin. The pandemic and the related need to provide instruction remotely drove major changes to the way we engage almost all of our processes. Nonetheless, some really wonderful ideas and strategies emerged that might well become mainstays. Adversity need not paralyze us. Often there are opportunities for growth and positive change in the most undesirable situations. One must *begin* or proceed or get going in order to discover these opportunities. We have begun and will proceed.

We remain very much in the throes of fine tuning services for students and families this year. Nonetheless, now is the time that we traditionally begin to look ahead to and plan for the subsequent year. This year should be no different with respect to timing. Given the many additional tools, increased skill sets, and deep knowledge gained to prepare for and deliver instruction this year, we should be envisioning and planning for an enhanced experience for students next year. There will be more to come, but rest assured that the process will be feedback-rich.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Superintendent