

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent's Report
February 9, 2023

*I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel.*
By Maya Angelou

First, I want to acknowledge the terrible event that happened on Tuesday evening to one of our LEHS students while working at a local business. As an update, I have spoken to a family member with the use of an interpreter to express our sadness of what happened and to offer support to the family and student during this difficult time. The student is still in the hospital and is being supported there but LPS and LEHS will also be available to them to help get through this and to get him back on track with his education. Yesterday we welcomed over 2,000 grade 8 students into City Hall Auditorium for the Stop the Violence 8th Grade Speaker Series. This program is put on by a dedicated group of citizens who are looking to make our community safer. The guest speakers were the Honorable Ina Howard-Hogan, First Justice of the Lynn District Court and Thomas Koonce, Program Manager for Teen Empowerment who spoke to the students around their role in stopping the violence and making our community a safer place for all of us. They also shared their own experiences growing up and how important the choices they made molded who they are now. It was inspirational to listen to and to watch our students engage in this important topic. This week is National School Counseling Week. It is a time that we need to acknowledge the work of the staff who help our students and families during their most difficult times. To our school clinicians hearing this message, I want you to know that we see you. We see you jumping in every day to help support our students, families and teachers. We see you show up for work with a smile on your face every

day even though sometimes that smile is forced due to exhaustion, sadness, or feeling sick. We see your efforts in lifting up the spirits of all you work with by giving encouragement day in and day out. All day, every day. We see you doing whatever it takes to keep it together and keep going. We hear your enthusiasm and dedication to your work. Your compassion for your students and your empathy for our families. We hear the stress in your voice when you sense your students are struggling. We hear you listening to the pain of others and yet also celebrating accomplishments and progress. We all just want to say THANK YOU! Thank you for showing up, being there, always listening, being kind, being compassionate, caring so much, being so brave, being a school clinician. In a world where we are measured by academic performance and ratings, you are valued beyond measure.

Our Superintendent elect and I have been in contact and have met a few times already in preparation for the transition into taking her official role as our Superintendent. I have truly enjoyed our meetings together and am looking forward to working with her to move Lynn in a positive direction in our educational work. She will officially be present in our district beginning March 1 and she will be involved in many meetings, visits, and trainings to begin acclimating to the work LPS has been doing and where it needs to go.

I have been continuing my visits to schools to see firsthand the learning and instruction going on in our classrooms. Over the past couple of weeks, I have been able to visit Aborn, Hood, Breed, Classical, Tracy, Lynn Woods, Pickering, and Lynn English. In all cases I could see the efforts our teachers are putting in on the implementation of new curriculum resources, the planning of their lessons, and the integration of our district focus of Academic Discourse. I watched as kindergarten students said hello to each other in 12 different languages. I was able to see many classrooms of students who worked together on the productive struggle in math, science, and language in collaborative groups. It is the best part of my job to be able to interact and observe learning in action. We are always striving to improve and refine the work we do as educators but there are great things happening in our schools and I am looking forward to seeing more as I continue these visits.

Finally, I would like to publicly apologize to the teachers who were impacted by the disruption to their classrooms with the heat and materials. Our jobs as educators are never easy and having interruption to that role makes it more difficult. The city and the school department always work together to make every effort to ensure our buildings are cared for and running properly. Unfortunately, we all know that our buildings are very old and difficult to maintain at times. The city knows this and works very hard to provide solutions to resolve these issues. We will continue to work together to provide solutions to the heating issues, the communication process, and quick resolutions wherever possible. Again, we are not trying to make your job harder than it already is and we all agree that our students and staff deserve educational spaces that are appropriate.

¡Juntos Logramos!
Respectfully submitted,
Deb Ruggiero