

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent's Report
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We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise, we harden.
By Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

The new year is always an opportunity for everyone to renew, rejuvenate, and reflect on our successes, misgivings, and any tragedies from the previous year. It is also an opportunity to see our new pathway as a clean slate where we can learn new approaches, see tasks with a new lens, and adjust practices that we have used in the past. In the world of education, the new year represents the halfway point in our school year and an opportunity to do a formative assessment, a mid-point check-in to look at our work and adjust or make shifts. Part of this formative assessment is a self-reflection on our own work, the work we do with others, and our work in relationship to the whole district.

While the fall of 2022 has not been easy and brought with it many difficult and traumatic events, I continue to be optimistic that our students and staff will continue the forward motion in our learning and work during the second half of the school year as well as the calendar year. I have full faith in our staff and students that we will together continue to push ourselves to regain and build back all that was lost in previous years. Much of my optimism for the year ahead comes from the past couple of weeks when I had an opportunity to visit two schools, Washington School and Callahan School. I got to see firsthand the work our students and teachers are doing day in and day out. Students were interacting with the new math curriculum resource and working through the productive struggle of measurement with centimeter cubes. Classroom teachers were working with students on the writing process and how to organize their topic and details in two column notes. I also had the opportunity to hand out dictionaries to our third graders donated by the Rotary Club of Lynn and Reading Cooperative Bank. The interaction with the students around our learning together was joyful and quite honestly inspiring. Great things are happening in the Lynn Public Schools, we just need time and support to move us all forward. We will continue to fine tune the services and support needed for our students and families and will begin to look ahead to plan for summer learning and our work for the next school year.

Assessment results from the STAMP assessment have been finalized for the bilingual/biliterate stipend for staff. 123 staff participated in the STAMP language assessment in December, with 74% of staff meeting the criteria for the stipend in 7 different languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swahili) across 26 buildings. Staff were notified of results after the winter break, and we will be assessing our final 14 candidates on January 14th in 8 additional languages not offered by the STAMP assessment. Currently, 149 total staff across all buildings and bargaining units have met the established criteria for the stipend. A final update will be provided after the January 14th results are made available. Huge shout out to the MLE Department and Cara Zubricki for the organization and communication of this new initiative in LPS to celebrate our linguistic diversity.

We are also excited to announce that Kate Biel, an ELD teacher in our Dual Language classrooms at Harrington Elementary has been selected to serve on a national **Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs Bias and Sensitivity Review Team** in **Washington D.C.** in May.

The Pickering Building Project continues to move forward and make progress. We were able to collect feedback and answer questions from community members around the site location during our Community Forum meeting that was held on December 19th. The School Building Committee met on December 21st and voted unanimously to approve the Magnolia Park site as the best option for the new Pickering Middle School. As you heard tonight, Left Field, our Owner's Project Manager and RDA our Design Project Manager have been working together to finalize a draft of the Educational Plan and the Space Summary to submit to MSBA on January 18th for their feedback and approval.

Oren Wright is moving to a new position with Brandeis University to work with the security team there. We thank him for his service, and he will be sadly missed. We wish him the best in his new endeavor. We welcome John Mackin, who has been appointed as our new School Safety Officer. He brings with him many years of experience and training and we look forward to working with him in keeping our schools safe for all.

Finally, three years ago, the committee voted to authorize the superintendent the authority to evaluate registrations for students over the age of 20. Although this is not a frequent occurrence, it is one that we take seriously. As part of this decision there was a commitment to update the School Committee twice a year. At this point in the 2022-23 school year, there have been ten requests by students over the age of 20. Two were permitted to register. In these cases, the students were close to completion, and we have the appropriate support to facilitate success. Those who were not permitted were referred to local partner organizations who could better support their needs.

¡Juntos Logramos!
Respectfully submitted,
Deb Ruggiero