

Monthly Report  
Superintendent of Schools  
July – August 2009

It has been a very busy and informative summer for me this year. I have met with all of my school administrators to discuss their goals and their vision for the upcoming school year. The new administration that was hired for this year are: Dr. Howard Boyaj, Taft School Principal; Tara Bennett, High School Principal; Erik Arnold, High School Assistant Principal; and Stephanie Lundberg, as our part-time Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction Administrator.

As part of my Entry Plan, I have met with several school and community leaders, such as: Marsha Petrillo, Director of the Council on Aging, Marilyn Willand, Principal at the Our Lady of the Valley School, Pam Yukna and John Nadeau, Co-Presidents of the school's unions, and several School Committee members. As this year progresses, I will meet with other members of our community, including the Town Manager, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, and other department heads.

On July 15-18, I attended the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's Executive Institute in Mashpee. The focus on this year's institute was "Leadership in Challenging Times". There were several keynote speakers that addressed topics on retirement-planning, legal perspectives, federal funding, regionalization, leadership, and numerous discussions about the challenges that school districts need to address.

On July 20-21, the Administrative Workshop was held at the High School to update and review the district's Strategic Plan. In addition, we discussed other topics, such as: opening day activities, curriculum and professional development days, professional status for staff, and other procedural topics.

I attended the New England Association of School Business Officials (NEASBO) Academy on July 24. This year the Academy addressed Labor Law issues, Cost Saving Strategies involving Facility Use, and Financial Reporting and Budgeting.

As you are all aware, we held the Educational Planning Workshop on August 3, 4, and 10. This workshop consisted of groups of teachers, administrators, students, parents, and community leaders. This Educational Visioning process helps build consensus amongst these groups and helps them to embrace change. It is the cornerstone of all educational planning. It directs deep, probing work which establishes clear statements about the most appropriate and effective educational practices, school organizational structure, and concepts for the school facilities needed to support them.

During the month of August, I met with Susan Smith, Board of Health member and Judy Donahue, our Lead Nurse, regarding the upcoming flu season and the H1N1 concerns. Attached is a notice that will be distributed to all students and staff via backpacks, newsletter, and the school website.

On August 20, I attended CORI training at the Criminal History Systems Board in Chelsea. I am now authorized and certified to access CORI reports on all employees, volunteers, etc. that are involved in the Uxbridge Public Schools.

Opening Day for all staff was on August 31. All staff attended their school buildings and prepared for the students to arrive on September 2. Opening Day packets and handbooks for staff and students will be distributed at the School Committee meeting.

Thank you.

George Zini  
Superintendent of Schools