Memorandum

To: BBRSD School Committee
From: Sally-Ann Stukuls
Director of Curriculum and Grants, Grades 6-12
Date: 6/18/24
Re: End of School Year 2023-2024 Report

The Wellness Committee is pleased to report that we were invited to attend the "Healthy Kids, Healthy Programs Summit" in Norwood on May 21, 2024, where members Lisa Lamoureux, Lisa Mair, and I not only attended workshops to help inform us for year two of the Wellness Committee cycle but we were also recognized by Acting Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Russell D. Johnston as "Wellness Champions" for our collaborative work with DESE and the SWITCH Massachusetts School Wellness Coaching Program. We received a special banner and most importantly, were able to network with other districts to gather information and ideas pertaining to next year's work. We plan to develop a presentation that can be shared and presented to stakeholders regarding the new wellness policy that was developed this year and that will be going in for a final vote in the fall and will proactively share ideas for how staff, students, and families can adjust to the new policy as we transition to it.

The Career Fair, originally scheduled for April 4, 2024 but postponed to June 6, 2024 due to inclement weather took place at Tahanto's gymnasium. Twenty participants from various workplaces presented and spoke to sophomores and juniors to help them gather ideas for their post secondary pathways. Participants were from various workplaces and careers ranging from pediatricians, nurses, and dental hygienists at various health care centers, various positions at multiple banks, realtors, scientific research labs, Dexcom, Inc. sales, Engineers, Speech Language Pathologists and Special Education Coordinators from public schools, Delta aircraft mechanics, the military, CREST Technologies, Consulting companies, the Fire Chief from Boylston's very own fire department, business owners (Keith's Music House), and the Director at the United Way. Some participants who were not able to reschedule from the April date still had informational trifolds (which were created by our own "Tools For Living" class students') on display. This was our second career fair and we plan, as part of our Job Shadow and Internship program, to continue this new tradition as students found it to be very educational. Several participants have already expressed interest in returning next year.

On Thursday, May 23rd, I attended the Department of Elementary and Secondary Educations' DLCS (Digital Literacy and Computer Science) End of Year Conference in Westborough, MA. In addition to attending several beneficial workshops about topics such as a reading book lists that focus on the topic of DLCS, Fostering AI Literacy, Demystifying AI Concerns, as well as learning about Professional Development opportunities for our staff in this area, I also had the pleasure of presenting to discuss our successes in this area. Successes include having Computer Science Discovery classes now available for all middle school students in grades 6, 7, and 8, and Computer Science Principles course offerings at both the college prep and Advanced Placement levels available

to high school students. We are also looking into additional coding classes to be offered in the future and have been able to take our students to field trips to learn more about AI in science at the Boston Museum of Science as a result of a grant we have through organizations associated with DESE such as PACE and CSforMA.

It was exciting to talk to high school students who participated in the Civics Action Project Display in Tahanto's Cafe and Media Center on Thursday, June 6th. Students worked collaboratively together on projects they feel will be beneficial to the community and included topics such as Deforestation concerns in Boylston, the need for additional student parking at Tahanto, the need to create a more positive environment in school restrooms, mental health awareness, a movement to improve the basketball courts in Boylston, and supportive discipline just to name a few. I was also invited to view Civics Action Project presentations from grade 8 throughout the year to discuss concerns in the areas of recycling, extra curricular activities, mental health awareness, school lunch, pollution, the ability to carry backpacks in middle school, and installing sidewalks in Boylston, just to name a few topics.