Memorandum
To: Carol Costello, Superintendent of Schools and Albert Ganem, Interim Superintendent of Schools
From: Jannel Fitzpatrick, Pupil Personnel Director
Date: August 22, 2024
Re: Report to School Committee

Pupil Personnel Highlights

The Pupil Personnel office and staff continued intensive work with families and students requiring services during the summer, implemented an Extended School Year (ESY) program, oriented a new Special Education Coordinator at Tahanto, hired new staff, planned high quality professional development, completed grant funding applications and prepared for a successful school year ahead.

New Pupil Personnel Staff for 2024-2025

- Allie Johnson – Occupational Therapist, District
- Angela Greiner – Special Education Coordinator at Tahanto
- Elena Speroni, Special Education Teacher at Tahanto
- Pamela Ames - Occupational Therapist, District

Principals will be introducing additional new PPS staff including paraprofessionals and an Adjustment Counselor.

Extended School Year (ESY)

The 2024 ESY program provided special education services to 43 eligible students for 5 weeks.

Historically, the location of the district's ESY program has rotated between BES and BMS. For the first time, ESY was held at Tahanto in the summer of 2024 to accommodate planned building work and cleaning schedules at BES and BMS. The ESY program was successful at Tahanto and the administration team will consider which location will best serve the students in the summer of 2025 in late winter/early Spring.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Federal Special Education Entitlement Grant

The IDEA grants commonly referred to as "240 and 262" grants have been submitted.

"The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Federal Special Education Entitlement Grant provides funds to ensure that eligible students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education that includes special education and related services designed to meet their individual needs in the least restrictive environment. The priorities of IDEA are to:

1. Ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free and appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living;
2. Ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected;
3. Assist states, localities, educational service agencies, and Federal agencies to provide for the education of all children with disabilities;
4. Assess and ensure the effectiveness of efforts to education children with disabilities."

FY25 Allocations:

- Part B (262) : $10,408.00
- Part C (240): $310,527.00
- Total: $320,935.00

The Year Ahead

A significant area of focus for the 2024-2025 school year is implementing the new DESE required IEP form. Training was provided to all staff last school year. There are plans to continue high-quality professional development and time for staff to align and implement the necessary adaptive and technical changes. Various opportunities for families to learn about the new IEP form will also be offered again in the upcoming school year.

Preschool planning is another considerable area of focus for the PPS office in the year ahead. The administrative team is analyzing the program review completed last Spring, which will be presented to the School Committee with recommendations at the October 2024.