



MR. GILBERT'S PARENT UPDATE



MISSION
Beecher Road School is a caring, creative community that models and inspires the joy of lifelong learning, embraces diversity, and celebrates the unique qualities of each person.

Superintendent of Schools Woodbridge School District

woodbridge.k12.ct.us

September 26, 2018

Dear BRS Parents and Families,

It was terrific to see so many of you at our three Open House evenings and to greet many of you personally. Your presence at our events is a strong indicator of your active commitment to your children's education. Thank you for that. Falling leaves – cooler temperatures: fall is here, and the school year is in full swing.

Tropical Summer Weather Takes Toll On The School Building

As you may know, unusual Connecticut summer weather conditions, including record-breaking rainfall and tropical heat and humidity, caused problems to our building including damp, uncomfortable and wet situations in some areas of the school. I would like to update you on the actions we have taken over the past month to alleviate those conditions.

All impacted areas in the building have been sanitized by Serv-Pro. In addition to the cleaning, air scrubbers and commercially-rated dehumidifiers operated around the clock in the affected areas to further improve overall comfort. With the arrival of fall weather, the commercial dehumidifiers were removed last week.

Further Action Taken

The Beecher Renovation Ad Hoc Building Committee has received updates on the situation. The committee has recommended engaging the services of Van Zelm Engineers to perform exploratory assessments of the HVAC equipment installed during the BRS building upgrade completed in the 2015-16 school year.

At a special meeting of the Board of Education held on September 4, the Board voted unanimously to move the engineering firm recommendation forward to the Board of Selectmen. At their regularly scheduled meeting on September 12, the Board of Selectmen voted to contract with Van Zelm engineers.

Summary of Engineering Services To Be Conducted

- Review all available HVAC equipment and building automation controls documents.
- Conduct site investigations to verify the as-built conditions; perform testing on Building Automation Controls and HVAC equipment to verify that components are running per original engineer's design criteria.
- Perform limited load calculations for a few representative classroom zones to determine if equipment has been sized correctly.
- Evaluate systems and information that has been gathered to determine root cause of the comfort problems (i.e. design issue or installation issue).
- Compile final report that conveys our formal recommendations to resolve the comfort issues.

Van Zelm's approach, as much as possible, is to work within the limitations of the installed systems and equipment. If it is determined that equipment changes will be required, additional engineering, and fees, will be required to specify new equipment.

Testing began on September 17 and includes both on-site and remote work. Engineers and technicians have conducted temperature and humidity checks throughout the building. We expect to receive preliminary results in the near future with hopes to perform some of the recommendations prior to the coming winter heating season.

We extend our continued appreciation to members of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, and Beecher Renovation Ad Hoc Building Committee for their support and commitment in this process.

We will keep you informed of this work as updates become available.

Special EVENT Coming
NEXT WEEK

KEEP YOUR KIDS
SAFE Online



This Tuesday, October 2, at 6:00 p.m., the PTO and Superintendent Bob Gilbert will host a special evening focused on **Internet Safety**. BRS Technology Director James Crawford and Connecticut State's Attorney Patrick Griffin will be presenting. We hope to see you there – in the library.



- **September 28:** 5:30 p.m., Food Truck Festival
- **October 2:** 6:00 p.m., Superintendent's Parents Academy - "Internet Safety"
- **October 8:** Columbus Day - No School
- **October 11:** 4:30 p.m., WBOE Curriculum Committee
- **October 15:** 7:00 p.m., WBOE Meeting
- **October 16:** EARLY DISMISSAL 1:10 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **October 18:** EARLY DISMISSAL 1:10 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **October 20:** Halloween Hoot
- **October 31:** "Truck or Treat"



Left: State Representative Themis Klarides (2nd from left) and State Senator George Logan (far right) present a special citation to BRS Teacher Liz Heagney in celebration of being named Woodbridge Teacher of the Year. They are joined by Superintendent Bob Gilbert and Principal Gina Prisco.

Do you have something to share?

The Beecher Road School Community/Diversity Committee is looking for parents who are willing to share their expertise, experiences and/or talents with our teachers and students. We are creating a list of topics that parents can offer that will serve as a resource to teachers to support the curriculum and/or other activities. We are especially interested in areas that enhance diversity, but certainly welcome all areas of expertise that one might have. Please go to Mrs. Prisco's online Principal's Newsletter to share your expertise and talents. woodbridge.k12.ct.us

Get To Know Your Woodbridge Board of Education

Margaret Hamilton – Chair



Margaret Hamilton has served on the WBOE since 2010, is currently the Chair, and has held that position since 2011. Margaret has been an active member of the BRS community, as a member of the BRS PTO from 2007 and served as PTO president from 2009 through 2012. Her daughter attended BRS from 2006 through 2013 and is now a junior at Amity High School. Margaret is a native of Wisconsin. She earned her BBA from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In addition to her responsibilities as Board of Education Chair, Margaret is ex-officio of all committees and actively serves on the Curriculum, Facilities, Finance and Policy committees.

Nancy Maasbach – Vice-Chair



Nancy Maasbach has been a Board member since 2016. She has lived in Woodbridge since 1999. She is the President of the *Museum of Chinese in America*; over 12 years experience in non-profit management at the *Council on Foreign Relations* and the *Yale-China Association*; 10 years in finance at *Goldman Sachs & Co.* and *Center for Finance and Research Analysis*. She is a member of the *Council on Foreign Relations*, a board member of *New Haven's International Festival of Arts & Ideas*, and holds an MBA from the Yale School of Management and an AB in diplomacy and world affairs from Occidental College. Nancy chairs the Policy Committee and serves on the Finance and Curriculum Committee.

Maegan Genovese – Secretary



Maegan has a child in the MAG program and one at WCSU. She earned a BA in Psychology from WCSU and an MS in Research, Statistics, and Measurement in the Behavioral Sciences from SCSU. She has been a town resident since 2013 and is a professional data manager and analyst with over 13 years' experience in research initiatives covering child welfare, behavioral health, juvenile justice, health, social services and education. Maegan is employed at The Consultation Center at Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Division of Prevention & Community Research. She was elected Board Secretary July 2017.

Claire Coleman

A BRS alumna, Claire has two children in BRS, was appointed to the Board in 2017, and is an attorney for Connecticut Fund for the Environment. Claire has also worked in private practice and as Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform Committee. She holds a law degree from Northwestern University and a BA from Cornell. She has served on the Woodbridge Board of Ethics and the Board of Assessment Appeals. Claire serves on the Policy and Wellness Committees and the Ad Hoc Enrichment Committee.



Steven Fleischman, M.D.

In Woodbridge since 2004 with four children, three at Amity, one at BRS. Dr. Fleischman is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Albany Medical College and Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Fleischman serves as President of the Board of Directors for *B'nai Jacob*, as well as the Board of Directors for the *Connecticut State Medical Society* and the *New Haven County Medical Association*. Is currently the Associate Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Yale New Haven Hospital. He has been a member of the WBOE since 2009, Vice-Chair until 2017, and Chair of the Finance Committee.



Todd Jokl

A Woodbridge resident since 2009, Todd currently has two children in BRS and is the Dean of the University of New Haven's Lyme College of Fine Arts. Todd earned his BA from Yale, his MFA from UConn and his doctorate from SCSU. He currently sits on the board for The Global Institute for Arts in Leadership, the Arts Council of Greater New Haven and New Haven Site Projects.



Garett Luciani

Garett is a lifelong 4th generation Woodbridge resident, elected to the Woodbridge Board of Education in 2015. He is a VP, Market Manager at People's United Bank, specializing in Financial Services. He also attended BRS and has one daughter that attends Beecher and one daughter that graduated from Beecher in 2016. Garett is a graduate of Amity Regional High School and Quinnipiac University. He is a member of the Finance Committee.



Lynn Piasczyk



After retiring from BRS in 2013, Ms. Piasczyk was elected to the WBOE in 2015, chairs the Curriculum Committee, serves on the Facilities Committee and is the BOE Liaison to the Safety and Security Committee. A town resident since 1964, she is a graduate of BRS and Amity High School. During her 36-year tenure as a Grade 1 teacher, she was the 1993 Woodbridge Teacher of the Year. Lynn holds a BS, MS, and Sixth Year Degree of Advanced Study as a Teacher Specialist. She is also a Justice of the Peace.

Paul Testa

Paul, a lifelong resident of Woodbridge, attended BRS and Amity and has two children at BRS. His BS, magna cum laude, is from Quinnipiac University and his JD, magna cum laude, is from Quinnipiac School of Law. Paul is an Employment and Labor Law Associate at the law firm of *Littler Mendelson, P.C.* in New Haven. Member of the Connecticut, Florida and Massachusetts bars, the U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut and U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the *Beth-Wood Baseball League* and has also served as a team manager for the past 6 years. Paul is a member of the Facilities Committee.

