

March 29, 2023

Dear Beecher Road School Families,

Daffodils are blooming outside my office at Beecher Road School! Their sunny faces greet me and remind me to appreciate the signs of spring that can be found everywhere if you look hard enough.

I wanted to take a moment to update you on a few topics important to Beecher Road School. Please be sure to read to the end to see a fabulous photo of our Board of Education in front of a beautiful banner painted by our BRS students!

Budget

On March 16 the Woodbridge Board of Finance recommended a budget of \$17,017,091 for the Woodbridge Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year. I feel this number reflects an effort on the town's part to be both responsible to our taxpayers and fair to our learning community. The \$17,017,090 represents a 1.2% reduction from the Board of Education's approved budget of \$17,225,331. Over the next few weeks I will be working alongside Donna Coonan, our Director of Business Services and Operations, and our administrative team to identify areas of reduction to our proposal for the Board's consideration that will allow us to continue to support and advance the educational mission, vision, and goals of the Woodbridge School District. Our Board of Education believes that a school district's budget reflects the commitment of the community to invest in the future of our children and we appreciate all that you do to support our learners at Beecher Road School.

Upcoming budget dates for your calendar:

- April 17, 2023 Preliminary Budget Hearing
- May 15, 2023 Annual Town Meeting

Strategic Plan

The administrative team and I are pleased to share with our board, families, and community a one-page summary of our progress and intentions for our District Strategic Plan. Our learners of the future are supported by the strategic goals centering on Contemporary Learners, Academic Framework, and Building Diverse Alliances/Building Healthy Alliances. The process has focused around an 18-month strategy, which is an excellent way to build momentum and celebrate successes in reasonable chunks of time that grow capacity. This one-page overview clarifies our intentions to continue our work. One of our indicators of success will be that by next fall, our learners at BRS should be able to talk with you about our goals and why those goals are important to their future success. Please partner in this critical learning transfer by talking with your children about what we are working on and why it is important to their lives.

Ad Hoc Committee

You may be aware that the Board of Education convened an Ad Hoc Committee to address the needs of instructional space as a result of increasing enrollment. The Ad Hoc Enrollment, Instructional Needs, and Space Planning Committee will explore possible considerations to address space issues by looking at options including modifying current space, exploring needs for new space as well as modifying current space, and exploring broader regional conversations. Again, this Ad Hoc Committee is one of initial exploration only and findings will be shared at the regular Board meeting in September.

It is exciting to watch the BRS spring calendar fill with festive events and celebrations that mark spring. Many of you will be enjoying family time during our spring vacation week in April and I want to encourage you all to invest a few hours curled up with a book. Even if you travel nowhere, you can experience the world through an author's eyes.

Board of Education Appreciation Month



Left to right: Steven Lawrence, Erin Williamson, Dr. Maria Madonick, Sarah Beth DelPrete, Brooke Hopkins, Dr. Michael Strambler, Jeff Hughes, Lynn Piascyk, Dr. Jay Dahya

As a reminder, Board members are volunteers who offer their time and expertise to help govern our school districts. I estimate that each person here has donated over 100 hours of time to our school district this year. This time, generously donated, is appreciated. It is all time that is taken away from families, friends, hobbies, pets, work, other volunteer organizations, or personal pursuits. School boards are charged with making decisions that can sometimes be quite difficult and often require sifting through a great deal of information. They provide governance and oversight to our district. They work to provide our students with the best learning opportunities possible while striving to be fair to our taxpayers. Through their dedication, leadership, and support of and collaboration with other school district staff, they are building the future of education for our current and future learners.

Please take a moment this month to personally thank a board member for their service and for advocating for excellence in education for our students in Woodbridge.

Thank you for your continued support of our school, our staff, and our learners.

Sincerely,

Vonda Tencza