

April 22, 2024

Dear Beecher Road School Families,

*Welcome back from April vacation!* I hope your vacation afforded you time to disconnect from daily expectations and pursue moments of joy, adventure, and even of peace. I find these last few months of school exciting and even a bit hectic...please join me in giving ourselves permission to honor the fact that what we do, what we accomplish, is enough. With that in mind, I write with so many celebrations to share! Below find a few important updates that are moving our district forward in a positive way, and please read to the end where the most important celebration can be found.

**Roof and Grounds Project** – We are in the final stages of securing a vendor to start the partial BRS roof replacement work when school ends in June. We are also planning the scope of the grounds work that should help address drainage issues at BRS. This work will be conducted in phases that start when the roof work starts and extend into the early fall for the finishing touches that include plantings and final tweaks to the grounds.

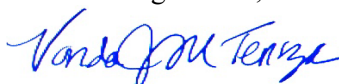
**Space Needs** – As you are aware, we are working closely with the town to examine our needs for projected increasing enrollment over the next many years. At this point the next steps and timeline are in the competent hands of the Town Beecher Road School Infrastructure Upgrade Building Committee (BIUBC), chaired by Dr. Maria Madonick of the Board of Selectmen. Our consultant from CSG, Construction Solutions Group, and we are working with the BIUBC in mid-May to interview firms that have submitted proposals which contain ideas for various options that may be considered to address our space issues at BRS. This is the first step of many that will gather information for us all to consider. I will continue to work closely with the BIUBC under their guidance, as this is a town committee, and will update our school and community as we learn more.

**Budget Update** – Woodbridge's preliminary budget hearing is Thursday, April 25 at 7:30 PM. The Board of Finance will present its recommended budget and community members will have the opportunity to ask questions about the budget priorities. I am proud of the fact that Woodbridge values education, as evidenced time after time by budget decisions, family, and board support. Once the budget is finalized by the town, the Board of Education will make any needed adjustments, and I will share all information at the May Board of Education meeting.

**Community Conversation** – We continually seek to strengthen partnerships between our school and families and to develop a sense of community in our school. We are trying to identify what communication systems are working well, what parents want to know more about in terms of better communication, and in what areas we can improve. In addition to a recent survey that was conducted, the administrative team and I are hosting a conversation on April 29 at 6:00 PM to continue discussing these topics in person, and hope that you may join us. After we gather and analyze all information, we will share what we have learned at an upcoming Board of Education meeting and through a communication to our families.

**Teacher and Staff Appreciation** – occurs the week of May 6 across the country. This is an entire week where we pause and express gratitude to all of our staff---our teachers, para-educators, lunch staff, nurses, custodians, secretaries, technology and support staff. Please take a moment to send a note of gratitude to someone at BRS who has helped shape your child's learning experience in a positive way. It is our hope that by honoring and celebrating our staff, they know that we recognize and appreciate all that they do for our district, and that this feeling of gratitude fills their cups and motivates them to finish our year together strong and full of positivity.

With gratitude,



Vonda J. Tencza