



Dear Beecher Road School Families and Community,

As 2024 comes to a close, it is important to me to keep you current with lots of BRS district updates. I also wanted to extend my holiday wishes to each of you and take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who help make Beecher Road School an amazing community.

Safety Reminder: *The public and pets are not permitted on our school grounds when school / programs are in session: M - F, 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM. We often see people walking and biking on our property at all hours of our school day, and we also have had multiple interactions with both leashed and loose pets. We do appreciate the public's compliance with this requirement and will be posting additional signage as a helpful reminder and for the safety of all.*

Calendar: *At the December 16 Board of Education meeting, the Board voted to add to the 2025/26 calendar the following holidays: Diwali (October 20), Lunar New Year (February 17), and Eid al Fitr (March 20). The Board conversation was robust, honest, and respectful. This calendar will be posted on our website and communicated to families so plans can be made well in advance. Through actions like this one, Woodbridge continues to demonstrate a commitment to dignity and diversity.*

Site Grounds and Expansion: *You have seen big equipment and big changes on our grounds since summertime. The anticipated point of completion was before December ends, however, much of this week looks rainy. The construction plants close for the winter, so our crew will return in the spring to complete some remaining work on the South campus and other small tasks.*

Space Study: *The BIUBC committee just received a completed BRS Space Matrix and Education Specification Study to review. Antinozzi and Associates has tentatively identified Community Workshop dates: Wednesday 1/15 and Monday 2/3, with tours of the school starting at 5:30 PM and the presentation/workshop starting at 6:30 PM. We then anticipate two Tri-Board meetings occurring shortly after these workshop sessions. We really want your input on proposed ideas and I will keep you apprised of dates and times as they are established.*

Budget: *Our budget is currently resting at 6.11%, and the Board of Education will continue to discuss it at their special meeting on January 6 (snow date January 7). The budget is on our website for our public to explore. Without the Grade 1 teacher and the four (4) sped paras added earlier this year, the percent would rest at 4.52%. Also in this budget is about 75% of the salary of a social worker who was hired with grant funds during COVID, and the grant has expired. We are making all efforts to keep this position. Other than these points, contractual obligations and rate increases comprise the remainder of the increase. I anticipate that our work together these next few weeks will result in decisions that will advance learning in our school and connections within our community.*

Holiday Wishes: *As your proud Superintendent, I wish our entire school community a healthy and happy holiday season. Our collective efforts to raise creative, kind, and collaborative learners result in a powerful impact. Our hard work is filled with commitment and a willingness to make decisions that may be hard in the present, but will have a positive and lasting influence in the future for all. Please commit to fun-filled, peaceful days with families and friends. I hope that you push the pause button and do what is good for you. May you enjoy every moment with your family, friends, and loved ones.*

With gratitude,

Vonda J. Tencza

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