

March 24, 2025

Dear BRS Community,

Signs of spring are cropping up at BRS! We see daffodils popping up from the ground, buds emerging from the tree branches, sunshine extends later in the afternoon, and learners sprouting taller and taller. In between all the great things happening, I wanted to share a few district updates with you.

**Community Math Night:** On Thursday, April 3 from 6:00-7:15 PM in the BRS Café all K-6 parents and guardians are encouraged to come check out our math resources used for differentiation and enrichment, as well as learn more about math talk, math games, and all things math-y. We want to hear from you! Snacks and raffle prizes are part of the fun!

**Building Site and Drainage Work:** We look forward to the return of Guerrera Construction in early April as they complete the remainder of the concrete and paving and drainage improvements to our grounds.

**Building Expansion:** The BIUBC meets every two weeks and their agendas welcome public comment. At the most recent meeting, the architectural firm presented a few more options for possible space considerations. They are closer to sharing costs, and no decisions have been made by the town. This information is all being shared with the community as it develops and will be available for all to review on the town and school website.


**Teacher of the Year:** Principal Sherman shared some exciting changes to the Teacher of the Year process. This year, parents/guardians are welcome to nominate a BRS teacher for this honor! Look for more details from Principal Sherman, and please consider nominating a teacher who has positively impacted your child's life. We have so many fantastic teachers.

**Budget:** Last Thursday night the Board of Finance reduced the Board of Education's approved 2025-26 budget in the amount of \$166,000, resulting in an approved budget for the 2025-26 school year in the amount of \$18,525,855. This is a 5.18% increase over this current year's budget. Much of this decrease is accommodated by the recent reduction in insurance rates for next year, which were not finalized when the budget needed to be completed. We appreciate the Board of Education and Town support of our efforts in preparing this budget that puts student learning at the center of our work.

**U.S. Department of Education:** Much has been in the news about the executive order recently signed by President Trump calling for the dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education. The implications of this are unclear and please know that our superintendents in Connecticut are kept informed through a variety of professional organizations. I want to assure families and our community that our staff, administration, and board of education continue to work every day to meet the needs of our learners and families. In Woodbridge, my priority remains focused on our community of learners and educators we support. We are doing great things here!

**Board of Education Appreciation:** This Board, and many other community boards, is built by a spirit of volunteerism. For zero pay, people gather regularly, share their talents and passions, and work toward a common vision. I am grateful for this high performing Board of Education, and as a retiring Superintendent, I am confident someone will be very fortunate and honored to share this seat. Board of Education decisions directly affect students and staff. Their vision and their priorities shape our educational system and our future. Their knowledge and skills that they bring to our table contribute to well-informed decisions of a collaborative nature. I am so grateful for their expertise, leadership, and above all, for their sincere love of children and this community.

With gratitude,

  
Vonda J. Tencza