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It is hard to believe that as we return from the Thanksgiving recess we will only have three weeks until the Winter Break.

In those short three weeks, a lot of things are happening. All of our schools are abuzz with activity as you are most likely aware from the regular communications you receive weekly from each school.

At the district level, the most notable things to keep on your radar are the following:

- PrK-5 conferences on December 11 and 12.
- We continue to work with the American Institute for Research (AIR) as we progress through our districtwide Equity Audit. A very important Root Cause Analysis event will be taking place on Friday December 6 with a large group of stakeholders that AIR has invited to participate. Following that event, they will be preparing their final recommendations that will be presented to the School Committee later in the winter.
- Our FY26 Budget recommendations/proposal will be presented to the School Committee on Monday, December 9. They will deliberate on the budget December 16 with the official posted public hearing as required by law on Jan 6, 2025. Their final vote on the proposed budget is scheduled to take place on January 21, 2025 which will then lead to the Town of Westford Finance Committee Budget Hearing on January 23, 2025. All of these are open public meetings and can be accessed in person or virtually.
- The first meeting of the Robinson School Building Committee (RSBC) is scheduled for Monday December 16 in person at the Millennium building at 8:00 am. This will be an organizational meeting for committee members to meet each other, elect a chair for the committee and get an overview of the MSBA process. While the name certainly implies a focus on only one of our school buildings, the outcome of any of this work could have an impact on all of our schools in the future. So, we will do our best to keep everyone informed throughout the process.

Last week, we were able to collaborate with Westford CAT to produce our latest Superintendent Update for their YouTube channel. This episode features the ROUTES program that supports our 18-22 year old students which was established this year: [Westford Superintendent Update - November 19th, 2024](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSFZgsf6tiI) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSFZgsf6tiI>)

I hope that this long weekend provided all of you with whatever you needed to rejuvenate and reset in preparation for the increased pace that the next few weeks will bring.

Cheers!

Chris

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