



News & Notes from the SBRSD Superintendent
~ March 4, 2020 ~

Spring is almost here! Daylight savings is this Sunday March 8th, and the clocks move ahead bringing brighter days! Please see the following things I would like to share with you ~

Staff News ~

After much thought and discussion with the Administrative Team, I have decided to make the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development a .5 FTE beginning on March 1st. I have appointed Dr. Amy Lyn to the .5 Director position, and she will remain at .5 Assistant Principal in the Elementary Schools. Dr. Lyn has both an extensive background in curriculum, instruction and professional development and a passion for this work. She has held a variety of administrative roles in schools and is also an adjunct professor teaching courses around social emotional learning. Please join me in welcoming her in her new role. Not only does the team feel lucky to have her background and expertise to help us continue our work, but we feel this internal promotion is reflective of our commitment to be efficient and effective with our resources while being fiscally responsive to our school community's needs.

Coronavirus Update ~

There has been a steady stream of information and advisories coming in from the Department of Public Health, the state organizations, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and from the national level. We have met as an

Administrative Team as well, and have come up with the following plan to date:

- *An on-going review of resources from DESE, MASS, MASC, DPH and other agencies to aid with our plan.*
- *To share any information received to date with our Nursing Staff.*
- *To consider having preventative care assemblies for students and staff with a focus on healthy practices such as the importance of hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes etc.*
- *To discuss the addition of a Pandemic Plan with the District-wide Safety Team for review and possible inclusion into the District's Emergency Response Plan.*
- *I will be doing a separate communication with the most up to date information to our school community in the next day or so.*
- *To provide training on Google Classroom for all staff tentatively in March.*
- *To plan for the possibility of issuing staff who may need it – District technology resources such as laptops, as well as to develop a plan for student accessibility to technology if necessary.*
- *To meet with the Director of Facilities regarding needs such as additional sanitizing supplies.*
- *To consider a possible review of the remaining days in the School Calendar for a contingency plan if needed.*

We will continue to communicate any updates we receive as more information comes to light.

FY21 Budget ~

This Thursday night, at 5:00 pm in the Mt. Everett Library, is the Public Hearing on the Proposed FY21 Budget. I want to thank the Faculty and Staff and the Administration for all their hard work and thoughtful recommendations to this proposal as I think this is the most collaborative process we have had to date at SBRSD! We have done our very best to ensure that this budget supports our goals as outlined in the District's

Strategy for Continuous Improvement. We are committed to being as efficient and effective with public funds as possible while keeping staffing intact, and to enhancing or developing programming that best prepares our students for their future. If you are available, please join us for any of the upcoming meetings as your support is always appreciated. The School Committee Community Input and Outreach Subcommittee will work with us to develop an informational flier to be mailed to all homes in the District prior to town meetings in an effort to share how your investment in our schools is being spent.

After-School Programming ~

Attached to this memo is the March flier for SBRSD's After-School Programming which highlights the many things going on after the regular school day for our students. If you have any ideas to share we would love your input! Please reach out to Mrs. Julie Barros at jbarros@sbrsd.org.

The 2020 US Census ~

Once every ten years, there is an effort to count all the people who live in the United States which in turn directly impacts our communities including determining the number of political representatives, the size of Districts, and the financing of programs for schools, cities, agencies, protective services, and health care facilities. The timeline for the 2020 Census is below:

- March 12th to 20th – Households start to receive official Census Bureau mail with how to respond through mail, phone or on-line
- March 30th to April 1 – The Census Bureau will count people experiencing homelessness.
- April 1st – Census Day is observed nationwide.

- Throughout April, Census takers will visit college students on campuses, senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people. Quality check interviews will also take place to ensure accuracy.
- May to July – Census takers will visit homes that have not responded to help make sure everyone is counted.

Our eighth graders are engaged in learning about this process and how to raise awareness and help our communities which is the theme for this grade level. We will continue to send regular reminders about this vital count!

Things to Share ~

There are always wonderful things going on each day! I had the pleasure of attending the Mt. Everett Grades 6-9 production of Frozen Jr., Middle School Expo Night, and to read to students in the Southern Berkshire Child Care Program for Read Across America Week. As always, be sure to check out all the wonderful events happening at SBRSD on the Event's Calendar at: <https://www.calendarwiz.com/calendars/week.php?crd=sbrsd&PHPSESSID=06934f836b14c26a64ded48f4e388c5e&jsenabled=1&winh=963&winw=1920&inifr=false>

Thank you for sharing your children with us each day!

Beth Regulbuto, Superintendent of Schools