

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent of Schools*

Superintendent's Report
September 26, 2019

I am pleased to report that we are beginning to settle into a stride. At all levels, the beginning of the school year is very much about making connections, building trust, and establishing routines in addition to teaching. By my observation and reports from building leaders, this is happening in wonderful ways across the district. We expect factors to push the norm in one way or another, but it is clear that we are moving and moving smoothly.

This past summer was the first for the Technical After School Program (TAP) summer extension. The summer session ran from June 24th to July 17th. Students entering grades 9-12 as well as those entering the Discovery Academy engaged in programming at Lynn Vocational Technical Institute three days a week from 8am to 1:30pm. Students were offered five vocational areas which included Culinary Arts, Auto Collision and Repair, Intro to Plumbing, Graphic Communications, and IT. From 8am- 12pm students received a hands on vocational experience. Every student had the opportunity to get an industry recognized certification. Culinary - Servsafe and allergen certifications, and IT - HTML5 certification. From 12:30-1:30pm students worked on obtaining an online OSHA certification. Students participating in the summer programs for Breed Allstars and Marshall Project YES came to TAP for a day. Those students were exposed to culinary arts and screen printing. Each student left with a screen printing T-shirt and a bag of cookies. All of which they made themselves. In total, a little more than 100 students (including the middle school participants) participated in the TAP summer program.

We intend to launch the TAP program again this year, leveraging Title IV-A funds. A snapshot of the fall programming and cost is attached. TAP is a unique, forward-thinking program designed to broaden vocational opportunities for interested students. The program has been an enormous success thus far. Now is as good a time as any to inform you that we have applied for additional grant funding through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The focus of this funding is to build upon the success of TAP to include after-school

vocational offerings in industries currently struggling with the scarcity of skilled labor, such as health technology, IT, and advanced manufacturing.

As part of the resource selection process, I want to inform you that the English Learner Education Department and the Curriculum Department will soon begin the resource review process for the Spanish/English Dual Language Program, Compañeros, at Harrington School, opening in Fall 2020. Also, we would like to formally update you with a presentation on the progress in the planning process and next steps for the Fall 2020 opening of Compañeros during a November School Committee meeting.

By way of reminder, much of the planning work for the dual language program was done in partnership with the Salem Public Schools under the DESE grant the district sought and received last year. I just referenced an application for another DESE grant to deepen our Technical After School Program. At our next meeting, you will hear about the implementation of a transitional support program at Classical, paid for in full by a grant applied for and granted during the 2018-19 school year. On the advice of one of the members, we will be adding a tab to the Lynn Public Schools website that will offer high level information on the grants the district has sought and received. We intend this to offer general information for anyone who seeks it, but also to highlight the district's efforts to seek additional funding to support meeting student needs.

In recent years, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has made an effort to ensure that practices are equitable in schools. Specifically, there's an effort to identify and address practices that negatively impact historically marginalized groups at rates disproportional to their counterparts. I am pleased to report that DESE has analyzed data for the Lynn Public Schools for the past three school years, and has not identified significant disproportionality by race or ethnicity in special education identification, placement or discipline (see attached).

Last, but certainly not least, by now I am certain that you received formal notice that the district will receive additional transitional aid in the amount of \$1.3 million. This is a onetime allocation that may be used in any way the district sees fit. Given that the challenges we are currently experiencing with over enrollment, particularly at English high school, it seems prudent to earmark those funds in total to support the installation of modular classrooms at Lynn English. This would provide some relief to the class size issue beginning Fall 2020. I mentioned this to Mayor McGee in a recent meeting and I will make a formal proposal to the school committee at our next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Tutwiler