

District

Champions for Children



Creating A Culturally Responsive High Performing Learning Environment
Where Students Thrive Academically, Social-Emotionally, And Civically.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS

- The Bigelow sponsored “BPS Girls Who Code Summer Camp” has enjoyed an unexpected extension activity. Spear-headed by their personal interest as students at FCW Information Technology and Software Engineering, and their participation, several female students have crafted their senior project around further exposing girls to coding.
 - Bridgeport Girl Coders is a non- profit organization and we are committed to helping the females in Bridgeport explore their interests in the STEM field. Our goal is to help end the dominance of boys in the STEM fields. The Team consist of seniors, all of them served as tutors in the summer camp. Officers are:
 - Callie Valenzisi – COO
 - Nicole Dejusti – Co-Director of Technology/ Accountability
 - Keyna Morales – Co-Director of Technology
 - Abbigail Reyes – Director of Finance
 - Jacqueline Leal – Director of Public Relations
 - Our monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, at Fairchild Wheeler from 6-8pm. Asst. Supt. Janet Brown Clayton was invited to sit in as a mentor.
- Phase II of the Bigelow sponsored grant is underway. There is an afterschool coding program held at Geraldine Claytor Magnet Academy three days a week and provides an extended learning opportunity for Claytor boys and girls.
- BPS continues its representation on the Board of the following Charter Schools:
 - Janet Brown-Clayton: New Beginnings Family Academy, December 3, 2018: “I’m pleased to share that Dr. Johnson’s goals and vision for a culturally responsive education, including trauma sensitivity training for staff, makes us a model for what NBFA is attempting to cultivate.”
 - Dr. Otuwa: Great Oaks Charter School Board meeting on December 12, 2018: The school is going through accreditation and the principal shared the progress of the school in NWEA Assessment as well as In and Out of School Suspension. The budget was also reviewed at this meeting.
- The 4th Annual Minds in Motion Conference will convene on Saturday, March 9th. It will be held at the Inter-district Discovery Magnet School, 4510 Park Avenue. Check in is from 12:00 pm to 12:45 pm. The event begins at 1 pm and continues through 4 pm. There will be over 25 fast-paced, hands-on workshops for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. We are encouraging on-line registration ONLY to prevent overcrowding. We are working on and anticipate having bi-lingual interpreters for the parent workshops.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning is beginning for the 47th Annual Parent Convention on May 29th, 2019. This year’s conference will, again, be held at Housatonic Community College’s Beacon Hall. The goal is to surpass the 300+ attendance from 2018 convention. More information will be forthcoming. • HCC has waived the BPS portion of the student tuition for the eight Bassick students in the Advanced Manufacturing Technology program enabling the dual-enrollment program to continue this spring. • The students in grades K-2 will continue to have access to Lexia because of a \$40,000 grant from the United Way. Lexia serves to support students with digital instruction and practice in the areas of phonological awareness, phonics, high-frequency words, vocabulary, and comprehension. Last year, the average usage was 20% for students. This year, the average usage is up 12%, which means 32% of the students who have licenses have met or exceed usage recommendations. Two schools have set a new usage goal for the district this year. Hallen and Multicultural Magnet schools have had usage levels of 70% or more this school year. This is the new usage benchmark for all schools – 70% or more of the students who have licenses should meet their individual usage prescriptions. Congratulations Hallen and Multicultural Magnet schools. • The Early Childhood Office has worked to make the mission of BPS a reality - to <u>"model excellence and equity in education for every child at every level by focusing on quality instruction and providing efficient systems and structures in schools to sustain a culture committed to success."</u> Preschool enrollment has been maintained and when openings have occurred preschool slots have been filled swiftly. Currently, 395 slots are filled with only 4 openings. All preschool teachers are certified in CPR and First Aid. Facilities are safe and revenue from the Care 4 Kids subsidy school district has been activated, which provides additional dollars to maintain preschool quality. Systems and structures such as staff qualifications, resource management, and safety are being put in place to sustain a culture committed to ongoing success. The next four school improvement days will be devoted to building meaningful curriculum for all BPS students to model excellence and equity in education for every child.
<p>FACILITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hallen: Facilities roofer in the process of sealcoating lower addition roof. (address/repair roof leaks) • Hallen: Waiting for contractor (purchase order) to schedule to set up and prepare to repoint brick work on outer rear wall. Once set up contractor will continue to work and complete weather permitting (no rain, dry, and temps above 32) • JFK: Completed installation of new boiler. • Blackham: Repairing 3rd (back up) boiler.
<p>FINANCE</p>	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>(1) 2017-18 Education Finance System (EFS): FY18 EFS reports have been posted to the BPS website, following completion of the 2017-18 audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017-18 Education Finance System (EFS) Notes • 2017-18 EFS Prior Year Comparison - District • 2017-18 EFS Summary By District • 2017-18 EFS Summary by School • 2017-18 EFS Schedule Report <p>(2) Fiscal Forecast 12-31-18: The second formal fiscal forecast of the fiscal year has been completed as of 12-31-18 and posted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present, based on current projections, analyses of trends and utilization of all available fund sources, it appears that the district may achieve a balanced operating budget by year end. However, as stated in the notes that follow, reserve funds are at a minimal level and the <i>budget is subject to multiple risk factors</i>, that

could have a potential negative impact on the condition during the course of the fiscal year.

- Within the fiscal projections, we have incorporated shortfalls that result from the delay in transition of non-certified unions to the CT Partnership health insurance plan, facilities expenses (e.g., overtime) in excess of projections in the FY19 budget gap plan. In order to help offset these shortfalls, it has been necessary to redeploy funds in grants (\$300,000) originally set aside for curriculum renewal (excluding Title IVA).
- In order to compensate for the gap resulting from the lower than anticipated level of state ECS - \$485,240 - we have implemented a three-part plan: (1) deployment of accrued funds in grants; (2) use of savings from an administrator vacancy and recall; and (3) application of remaining surplus funds in the Internal Service Fund.
- It is important to understand that the budget is in a precarious state, due to the continuing under-resourced condition and competing needs. The budget remains subject to multiple stress factors. If expenditures related to any of these factors, such as special education and/or severe winter weather, should spike upward at any point during the school year, the budget condition could turn negative, leading to a potential deficit.
- As part of Deficit Prevention Mode, which continues in force, we will seek to capture all accrued funds, in order to expand reserves to help offset shortfalls and prevent a deficit condition.
- Following standard operational practice, we will continue to monitor carefully budgetary expenditures and, if any negative trends emerge, alert the Superintendent of the causative factors and recommended timely interventions.

(3) Special Education

- In 2017-18, the upward trend in special education enrollment (17.36% in June 2018) and mandated service needs was a major concern, in view of the heightened pressure on extremely constrained fiscal resources and reduced fiscal capacity to provide services for general education students. **The 1-1-19 SPED count was 3458 (16.94%), compared to 3418 (16.35%) at the same point last year.**
- The annual growth in out of district expenditures and special education transportation are two areas requiring oversight and exploration of potential measures to reduce the overall expense.
- The FY19 State cap on out of district reimbursements is not yet known. In 2017-18, the cap was 27.56%, up from 24.61% in FY17. The cap pertains to the percentage of cost that the district incurs, after absorbing 4.5 times NCEP for each OOD placement. Until the FY19 cap and the associated district allotment are known, it cannot be determined definitively whether the district will be on track to end the year in balance, without further intervention (i.e., elimination and/or reduction of positions and/or services).

(4) 2019-20 Budget Request

- The initial budget request will be presented to the BOE Finance Committee in January; The initial base FY20 monetary need is currently projected at \$12M. This number may increase, decrease or remain stable, as budgetary data in FY19 and projections for FY20 are continually examined in the coming months.
- The total budget request will be \$18.6M, encompassing \$12M (base) plus \$3M (kindergarten paras) plus \$3.6M (discretionary services).

(5) Low Performing Bond Grants

- On December 5th, we conducted a webinar with 17 schools eligible to apply for 2019-20 low performing bond grants (either \$125,000 or \$250,000 maximum, as determined by the guidelines). Schools are required to apply for funding for critical facilities and/or technology projects, based on the determinations of the Facilities/Technology Departments. Applications are due to the Grants Office by January 9th.

(6) McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgeport was not awarded the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth grant in 2018-19. This grant has been awarded, in the amount of \$40,000, continuously in prior years, and the funds were applied consistently to the cost of transportation of homeless youth. Therefore, the loss of funding was unexpected. The explanation indicates that, of the 22 proposals received, grants were awarded to the top 13 eligible LEA proposals. • In 2018-19, the district will need to absorb the added expense of \$40,000 for transportation services. The McKinney funding cycle may be 3 years, so we are not certain at this time whether a new competition will be announced for 2019-20. The Grants Office will inquire about a future competition, as well as request the review notes for the FY19 competition. <p>(7) Priority ESH (Extended School Hours) Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSDE has indicated that the internal RFP competition for Priority ESH grants is to occur on an annual basis, not a 2-year cycle. Therefore, the district's fall 2018 announcement of the Priority ESH competition will apply to 2019-20 grants only, and the district will announce a new internal RFP competition in fall 2019 for 2020-21. <p><i>Budget Notes.....</i></p> <p>(1) CT Partnership Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-certified unions have transitioned or are expected to transition to the CT Partnership as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LIUNA: 10-1-18 ▪ AFSCME: 11-1-18 ▪ TRADES: 12-1-18 ▪ Unaffiliated "J": 11-1-18 (follow AFSCME) ▪ BCSA, Unaffiliated "Z" (follow BCSA): 1-1-2019 ▪ NAGE: 2-1-19 ▪ Nurses: arbitration - scheduled 1-11-2019 <p><i>Continuing.....</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In regard to the SRO arbitration decision, on 10-9-18, the City Office of Labor Relations issued letters to the laid off SROs requesting submission of specified financial documents no later than October 26th. The calculations have been completed and presented to the Superintendent. It is the BOE's position that the City should be financially responsible for the monetary compensation determined to be due.
HUMAN RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This school year has marked the first time that the District did not have to use the 90 days probationary period to terminate any of new teachers. This is evidence that we are making progress in identifying the right candidates and providing new teacher support. They are still going strong! •
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information Technology Services department has been addressing the recently discovery cyber-attack that has befallen our server systems. Currently, there is no evidence obtained of data exfiltration associated with this event and therefore is not classified as a data breach. The District's data was not stolen, but rather was encrypted on our own systems by a virus and held for ransom, as has happened in increasing intensity to other Districts, companies and organizations as of late. ITS has been working with our Principal Security Architect of the District's Information Security vendor in conjunction with Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) and law enforcement officials of the City of Bridgeport to continue to review the incident and resolve it in the most expeditious manner possible. Over the winter break the ITS department spent as much time as possible catching up on equipment migrations, decommissions and pickups to assist in the new equipment deployments occurring around the District. Schools throughout the District will be and have been receiving new multi-touch displays for classrooms as well as new student computing devices through grant programs. ITS continues to do

	<p>the best it can with the resources and staffing made available during this fiscally challenging time and appreciates the patience of all students, faculty and staff that may have to wait longer for work order resolution.</p>
NUTRITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
SPECIAL EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 12/18, representatives from Wells Fargo Bank came to BLC for a Read Aloud for students in our Primary/Elementary classes. It was a great event and the students were excited to have them visit in the classrooms.
SVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
SUPERINTENDENT'S SUMMARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of the BEA/CEA/NEA and the BBOE Grievance – Contract Interpretation: Unilateral Health Care Change, the arbitrator has received the briefs from the CEA Attorney and Berchem Moses, the hearing was declared closed as of January 8, 2019, the arbitrator has until February 7, 2019 to render the award. • The Harding High School Band was invited to participate in Governor Ned Lamont's Inauguration Day Parade • The next Community Conversation is scheduled for Wednesday, January 16th at 5:30 pm at Black Rock School. • Councilman Pete Spain has committed to investing his taxpayer-funded stipend to cover the cost for 6 Bridgeport public schools students to participate in the CT Audubon program. Two students from Black Rock, Claytor, and Bryant School may participate at \$120 each in the CT Audubon's 6-session after school enrichment program starting January 16th at the CT Audubon Center at Fairfield, 2325 Burr St, Fairfield, CT 06824. Dates (all Wednesdays): Jan 16, 23, 30; Feb 6, 13, 20. In addition, he has worked directly with the finance office to provide \$1,500 from his taxpayer-funded stipend to the Board of Education for the students in the 3 public elementary schools to support reading programs in Black Rock School, Bryant School, and Claytor School. • We have partnered with Groundworks to provide experiential learning opportunities for 20 BPS students and ACCESS to provide support the 2nd Annual Lego League Jr. Competition. • BPS students are scheduled to participate in the Debate Tournament at Yale University on February 23rd. <p style="text-align: right;">www.febps.org</p>

School	Date of Visit
Aquaculture	11/16
Barnum	9/5
Bassick	11/5
Batalla	9/6
Beardsley	9/7
Black Rock	9/12
Blackham	9/13
*BLC	11/2
BMA	9/14
Bryant	9/17
Central	9/18
CSMA	9/20
Claytor	9/21

Columbus	11/7
Cross	11/8
Curiale	11/28
Discovery	9/27
Dunbar	11/29
Edison	11/19
FCW: Aero	10/2
FCW: IT	10/2
FCW: Zoo	10/2
Hall	10/3
Hallen	10/4
Harding	10/5
HHM	10/10
Hooker	11/9

Johnson	10/11
Madison	10/12
Marin	10/15
MCM	10/16
PCM	10/17
Read	10/19
Roosevelt	10/18
*Skane	11/20
Tisdale	10/25
Waltersville	12/3
Winthrop	10/29
*Detention Center	
*University School	10/31
Adult Education	11/1