



District

Champions for Children

At-A-Glance

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

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS

- The District Science Fair is taking place on January 30th. Students in grades 7-12 with winning projects from the different schools will compete in the District Science Fair. Winners from the District Fair will then move up to compete at the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair to be held on March 12th at Quinnipiac University, Hamden.
- Discovery Museum received a grant through which the Museum educators teach Discovery Magnet School students in grades K-8 about Rocketry. This is a 5 year program called "Discover NASA." Beginning in Kindergarten, weekly hands-on explorations help students understand concepts like forces and motion, flight, planetary science and satellite usage. Some specific investigations include: building a hovercraft, riding a gyroscopic platform, watching live sunspots on the sun with telescopes, designing, constructing and launching various types of rockets, designing, constructing and testing a space helmet for "eggstronauts", space suit design, life on the ISS, bringing rockets home after a mission and participating in Challenger Simulator missions at the Museum are just to name a few!
- In the month of January, HMH and Science Director collaborated to run Science Dimensions Professional Development for Grades K-5 Teachers from 10 Schools. This was well received by all teachers and Principals who participated. There will be ongoing professional development for All K-5 Teachers in the months to follow.
- Minds in Motion presented by Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders and Bridgeport Public Schools – Connecticut Association for the Gifted will host an interest based, hands-on workshop for students in K-8 and their parents on March 10, 2018. Presenting for parents at this event will be an NGSS based workshop and a few Teacher led Science demonstrations.

FACILITIES

- Marin: Installing 3 new sets of double doors in stairwells with hardware
- Read: Ongoing painting of all student restrooms
- JFK: HVAC work and upgrades continue

FINANCE

- The status of the 2017-18 budget remains precarious, in light of the adverse impact of severe budget reductions in federal and state grants imposed to date and continued uncertainty around the state magnet school and special education excess cost grants.
 - As announced in December, the district suffered a reduction of close to \$1M (-15%) across the three (3) Priority grants [main, summer, extended school hours (ESH)].
 - In addition, the state FY18 appropriation to Aquaculture, \$1,239,904, is \$36,166 lower than in FY17, which is due to a combination of lower enrollment (-7 students) and an overall state reduction in funding for agriscience centers.
 - In the area of adult education, we have confirmed that two (2) federal grants totaling \$75,000 and a supplemental state grant of approximately \$91,000, received in prior years, will not be awarded in 2017-18, due to cessation of the fund streams.
- The district also confronts, on a continual basis, recurring risk factors (e.g., special education, utilities, legal services), and through ongoing intensive fiscal oversight, seeks to maintain budgetary balance.
- Deficit Prevention Mode continues, as a strategic element of effective fiscal management. This mode encompasses a Hiring Freeze, continuation of stringent position control, intensive review of procurement actions, and rigid enforcement of cost management

	<p>practices. The goal is to generate monetary savings to help prevent the occurrence of a deficit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2018-19 Budget Request and Budget Gap/Impact Plans will be presented to the Board of Education at the January 22nd meeting. • Following receipt of the final Priority Extended School Hours (ESH) grant appropriation, the district moved forward to allocate funds to the ESH schools --- Batalla, Bryant, Claytor, Johnson, Read --- for implementation of programs in the February - May period. In addition, Classical Studies continues as an ESH grant recipient, as part of the district's funding plan for the CSMA extended time model.
<p>HUMAN RESOURCES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgeport PS is participating in a Connecticut State Department of Education initiative examining "Unconscious Bias in the Hiring and Selection Process". The first of 4 scheduled sessions was held January 11, 2018 at Central Connecticut State University. This initiative is designed as part of Building the Cultural Competence of the Educator Workforce. • The issue of Volunteers in BPS and background checks is being explored to determine the appropriate policy and protocol.
<p>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Technology Services has been busy implementing a new protective wireless strategy across all of our sites in Bridgeport. This strategy is allowing us to fend off the continued network attacks we have been under due to rogue clients and malware bots we face. Our new network now offers Visitor Guest Services and WPA2 Enterprise Secure Faculty/Staff/Student Wireless. We have seen a dramatic performance increase in the wireless network because of this new design and we have significantly improved security that blocks compromised clients from being able to be controlled remotely. ITS is continuing to deploy new Voice-over-IP Services to various sites within the District and renew existing older sites that are beginning to fail. Once this project is completed we hope to see a significant savings on our telecommunications bill as part of an overall strategy to reduce our operating costs while enhancing services to meet our ever growing need. ITS User Services continues to address a significant amount of Projector and SmartBoard related issues due to the relative age of our devices and we are working on creating a District action plan to address this holistically. Our ChromeBook fleet is in the continued process of being repaired and picked up and we hope to be receiving replacement parts very soon to renew the useful life of the devices as part of our recent equipment grant. Finally, ITS is completing our capital project plan submission to the City of Bridgeport for potential funds for addressing several key infrastructure systems to bring them up to date with our vendors recommendations.
<p>NUTRITION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nutrition department combined its Parent and District Wellness committees this month to discuss the draft of goals and action plan for the upcoming year. It was important for the members of both committees to meet and work on the action plan together. In addition, the committee members participated in a taste test of some new items we are considering for the cycle menu. We also held a taste test with K-8 students and their parents. Parents received an eye opening experience that their taste preferences were not necessarily in harmony with their children.
<p>SPECIAL EDUCATION</p>	<p>BLC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 more schools have had their crisis teams trained on January 10. This brings the district up to 21 trained crisis teams. • BLC welcomed BoysTown, for an intensive training/refresher for 1.5 days, in conjunction with the Safe Schools Healthy Students team on January 9th and 10th • 13 Staff attended CPI refresher training on January 9th and 12th • 6 Schools received outreach support from BLC staff so far this month: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black Rock Barnum Edison Hooker Hallen Beardsley

SVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport has sent invitations to our volunteer tutors to join us for an open house during the week of February 5th through 9th. Tutors are encouraged to give a book a month from SVAB's collection to the students they tutor to build their own home libraries. This will be an opportunity for the tutors to select books that best match the interest of the students with whom they work. This is also an opportunity for them to network with other tutors and tell us about their successes and challenges.
SUPERINTENDENT'S SUMMARY	<p>The decision rendered from the State Supreme Court on Wednesday, January 17th reversed the lower court's ruling related to the CCJEF case. While the State Supreme Court's decision focused on the state's compliance with four factors, facilities, instrumentalities, curricula, and personnel, it was Judge Thomas Moukawsher who rightfully focused on the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula. Albeit the State Supreme Court's decision maintained the position that "although the plaintiffs have convincingly demonstrated that in this state there is a gap in educational achievement between the poorest and neediest students and their more fortunate peers, disparities in educational achievement, standing alone, do not constitute proof that our state constitution's equal protection provisions have been violated." Connecticut remains the home of the largest achievement gap in the nation, where less than one mile divides the haves and have nots. Recognizing that education is the great equalizer of opportunity, my students deserve equitable learning opportunities and access to the funding and resources that come along with the ills and barriers to receiving a high quality education. As we pass by what would have been Martin Luther King Jr.'s 89th birthday, we continue to advocate for resources that will level the playing field for our students, Brown vs. the Board of Education and Roberts vs. City of Boston are only two cases of many that speak to the injustices that have occurred in our educational systems across the nation.</p> <p>Minimum and Adequate are not Enough, Our Children deserve the Best, just like the Rest.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.febps.org</p>

School	Date of Visit
Aquaculture	
Barnum	10/04/17
Bassick	10/02/17
Batalla	10/10/17
Beardsley	10/18/17
Black Rock	10/23/17
Blackham	10/24/17
*BLC	09/01/17
BMA	10/17/17
Bryant	11/17/17
Central	10/12/17
CSMA	11/08/17
Claytor	11/03/17

Columbus	09/25/17
Cross	10/06/17
Curiale	11/14/17
Discovery	11/9/17
Dunbar	12/6/17
Edison	12/7/17
FCW: Aero	10/30/17
FCW: IT	12/18/17
FCW: Zoo	11/01/17
Hall	11/27/17
Hallen	11/20/17
Harding	11/20/17
HHM	11/06/07
Hooker	11/29/17

Johnson	12/08/17
Madison	12/12/17
Marin	09/22/17
MCM	11/06/17
PCM	11/8/17
Read	12/15/17
Roosevelt	12/11/17
*Skane	08/31/17
Tisdale	10/27/17
Waltersville	10/04/17
Winthrop	11/30/17
*Detention Center	08/21/17
*University School	10/17/17
Adult Education	

Students that arrived from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands -- Distributed in 11 schools

School	Quantity
Barnum	5
Bassick	6
Batalla	48
Central	7
Columbus	8
Harding	24
Johnson	1
Marin	76
Roosevelt	5
Tisdale	1
Waltersville	2
	183

As of 1/16/18