

# District

*Champions for Children*



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

<b>ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linda Connor Lambeck, CT Post Journalist, visited the classrooms of two teachers at Bassick and one teacher at Bridgeport Military Academy and shared her visit in the CT Post on Sunday October 7, 2018. She visited the schools to observe the new courses which are now graduation requirements for this year's freshman class, Class of 2022. The classes, African American Studies, Latin American Studies &amp; Perspectives on Race are semester long courses that are very popular among our students. One student at BMA said that what she is learning is changing the way she views America.</li> <li>SAT School Day was held on October 10<sup>th</sup> and the district saw an increase in participation of almost 6% from last year. We have also completed LASLinks Placement Assessment and presently have 3723 English Learners in the district. Twenty-six administrators and 52 teachers participated in a Greg Tang Math session and the department is also sponsoring a competition titled "The Amazing Math Problem Solving Race".</li> </ul>
<b>FACILITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilities preparing for annual districtwide fall grounds clean up</li> <li>Facilities assessing all snow removal equipment and staff</li> <li>Nearing completion of new roof at Skane School</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCE</b>	<p><b>New....</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are in the process of preparing the first formal Financial Condition Report of the fiscal year, as of 10-31-18, based on intensive fiscal analysis and fiscal forecasting.</li> <li>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. These documents are required in order to calculate any financial liability that may exist to "make the SROs whole" in accordance with the decision.</li> </ol> <p><b>Continuing....</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the 2018-19 budget, the City has removed \$250,000 from the City appropriation, so the 2018-19 budget will be short \$250,000, as compared to the 2018-19 level authorized by the City Council. OPM has decided to remove \$250,000 from the 2018-19 appropriation, on the premise that, in 2017-18, when the City allocated \$387,393, a portion of this amount (\$250,000) compensated for the \$250,000 holdback in State ECS. OPM incorrectly believes that, in 2018-19, with the increase in State ECS (+\$1,638,099, compared to FY18), the City no longer has an obligation to continue the \$250,000 contribution initiated in 2017-18 (as part of the City's contribution of \$387,393). This reasoning is illogical, as the City Council appropriated the additional amount in FY18, \$387,393, prior to the announcement by the State of the ECS holdback. Furthermore, once funds are appropriated as part of the City share, those funds become part of the MBR permanently. At the direction of the BOE, the Berchem/Moses attorney has prepared a letter to the</li> </ol>

	<p>Mayor, documenting the obligation of the City to restore \$250,000 to the FY19 BOE budget.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. At the FCW campus, the Aerospace High School has not met the residency standard (RS) required of inter-district magnet schools as of 10-1-18. The RS at Aerospace is 23.16%, which is below the required standard of 25%. It will be necessary for Aerospace High school to prepare a corrective action plan for submission to the CSDE in early November, so that approval may be obtained by December 1<sup>st</sup> (in accordance with the state guidelines). In the four magnet schools, total enrollment is <b>1,879</b>, compared to 1913 in 2017-18. Suburban enrollment is <b>510</b>, compared to 549 in 2017-18.</li> </ol> <p>The 2018-19 budget is subject to several significant risk factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In regard to the CT Partnership plan and the resultant health insurance savings built into the FY19 budget gap plan, the AFSCME union will transition to the Partnership on 11-1-18. An effective date for NAGE has not yet been announced, but 1-1-19 is the expected date to be set after conclusion of the arbitration process. Continuation of the current health plan in the September - December period will reduce the anticipated savings in the budget gap plan. The reduction in savings is projected in the range of \$275 - \$350,000. As part of Deficit Prevention Mode, which continues in force, we will seek to capture all accrued funds, in order to build reserves to help offset this projected shortfall and prevent a deficit condition.</li> <li>2. 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 10-1-18 SPED count was 3347 (16.42%), compared to 3286 (15.81%) at the same point last year. In 2018-19, new special education classes have been opened and while the redeployment of existing resources is partially supporting these new classes, the level of commitment of resources to special education is higher due to the supplemental expense for related services. The rise in out of district expenditures is another area requiring oversight and exploration of potential measures to reduce the overall expense.</li> <li>3. A balanced budget will be dependent upon attainment of the projections that comprise the Budget Gap Plan, including the savings to be derived from Deficit Prevention Mode and the designated elimination of positions. 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.</li> </ol>
<p><b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Technology Services successfully completed meeting the needs of the District schools for the kick-off of this year's beginning benchmark testing. Our ITS Data Center Operations division is continuing to enhance the security and network platforms of the District with recent network technology upgrades to Winthrop, Park City Magnet, Beardsley and Johnson Schools. We will be continuing our efforts in the weeks that come to upgrade Roosevelt School, which when completed brings the District-wide wireless network upgrade project at all sites within the city to a close. This upgrade provides enhanced security, accountability and accessibility to our students, faculty, staff and visiting guests to the District. Many schools around the District, including Cross, Barnum, Batalla, Waltersville, Marin, Harding, Edison and Bryant are currently in receipt of the new District standard multi-touch SmartBoard and Aver branded displays for usage in the classroom to replace the failing legacy traditional "SmartBoard"/projector combinations. ITS is currently recommending that all schools replace their projector-based technology with this new standard in lieu of the past projection standard. It is recommended that the Board of Education look to plan funding, wherever possible, to address this continuing concern for schools across the District. In addition to displays, ITS is working with our vendors to deploy a multitude of new Windows 10S student computing devices to replace our failing ChromeBooks in schools who recently received School Improvement Grants. Our ITS Data Management division has been working to integrated all of our student curriculum sites and access portals together in the MyBPS</li> </ul>

	<p>portal for the ease of use for students, faculty and parents. The User Services division of ITS will be beginning our standard block based rotation through the schools to meet the needs of all schools to the best of our abilities with our current staffing levels. Please note that we continue to experience an excessively high demand for all our services in all schools and this year we have the added load of our Sprint 1 Million Tablet project and the opening of the new Harding High School. We significantly appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we do the best we can to address the ever growing need for technology to meet the educational demand during these fiscally challenging times!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>NUTRITION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Supervisory staff of the Bridgeport Food &amp; Nutrition Department is determined to offer new and exciting menu items to students! Over the next couple of months students will enjoy a host of new breakfast entrees that are sure to please everyone. We are looking forward to providing these healthy new offerings to ours students throughout the district.</li> <li>• Strawberry Scone -</li> <li>• Oatmeal Square –</li> <li>• Pancake sandwich –</li> <li>• Zucchini Loaf –</li> <li>• Raspberry Cream Bar (un-iced) –</li> <li>• Orange-Cranberry Muffin –</li> <li>• Pumpkin Swirl –</li> </ul> <p>Bon Appetite!</p>
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skane School continues to focus on the social and emotional development of our preschoolers. The implementation of the RULER program and Feelings Curriculum is off to a productive start and the Tauck Foundation awarded Skane another grant this year to continue our work. Due to the drastic increase of Skane's preschoolers placed in foster care and/or suffering from attachment difficulties due to developmental issues, maltreatment, and trauma, Skane teachers are participating in 8 consecutive sessions of the Circle of Security program. This program provides <a href="#">evidence-based</a> interventions that focus on understanding trauma and healing and building relationships to better meet our students' diverse and challenging needs.</li> </ul>
<b>SVA</b>	
<b>SUPERINTENDENT'S SUMMARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.febps.org">www.febps.org</a></li> <li>• Berchem &amp; Moses has sent the letter to the City of Bridgeport administration (10/17/18) regarding the withholding of the \$250,000. The CT Dept of Labor will recognize Bassick High School on November 16<sup>th</sup> as the second school in the state to allow students enrolled in trade courses to apply those credits towards their apprenticeship program.</li> <li>• Bassick High School's Construction informational session is scheduled for Thursday, October 18th at which time the architects will provide an updated overview of preliminary plans for the school.</li> <li>• The CSDE has implemented a new on-line platform for all school construction grants, projects, and payments which will require direct management from each school superintendent. Several training sessions were identified for the month of October, I attended the training session on Wednesday, October 17th in Hartford. Monthly meetings will be scheduled between myself and the school construction office to update the system (CTCore) with BPS school construction documents on a monthly basis.</li> <li>• Career Resources was successfully in their application for the Foster Grandpal</li> </ul>

program and BPS is excited to continue this work in collaboration with Career Resources. Principals have until Friday, October 19th to determine if they will begin accepting Foster Grandpals in October or January, thereby, allowing each school community an opportunity to reintroduce the program at a time schedule must conducive to the needs of the school. We will begin phase one with select schools and phase two will begin in January with the remainder of interested schools.

- The Bigelows provided fiscal support of our summer music program, the summer girls coding program, and currently fund our Coding program at Clayton which takes place during the school day. Their generosity will also support an after school coding program at Claytor beginning in November. Due to the success of each music and coding program, the Bigelows have expressed interest in continuing this work during the summer of 2019 and the 2019-2020 school year...BPS thanks the Bigelows for the unwavering support of our students in their academic and social emotional well-being.
- BPS is in full swing of our Bullying Prevention efforts, the committee has been formed and convened twice, as well, they have also presented before the City Council Education Committee to share the work currently underway. Daily social media updates are generated from the Superintendent's office and schools have shared the work of their students/staff. Schools have been informed of a \$500 internal application opportunity which they may submit to support their Bullying Prevention programs in their schools, each application is due on October 30th. October is Bullying Prevention month, and on October 24th we plan to have the color orange vibrantly displayed as our day of unity as we coalesce our efforts to take a stand against bullying in our schools and community.
- 'Conversations with City Council' meetings are being planned and are scheduled to be initiated in November, all dates will be forthcoming. A template letter and sample program has been created and shared with each building principal in an effort to assist with the Conversations with City Council.

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

Columbus	
Cross	
Curiale	
Discovery	9/27
Dunbar	
Edison	
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	

Johnson	10/11
Madison	10/12
Marin	10/15
MCM	10/16
PCM	
Read	10/19
Roosevelt	10/18
*Skane	
Tisdale	
Waltersville	
Winthrop	
*Detention Center	
*University School	
Adult Education	