

# District

*Champions for Children*



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

## ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS

### Arts:

- 6 middle school choir students will be auditioning for the western regional music festival on Saturday, December 1.
- The department hosted a successful calendar recognition ceremony celebrating students whose artwork and poetry was featured in the 18/19 district handbook.
- 6 BPS ensembles were selected to move onto the next round in the News 12 Holiday contest. There are a total of 12 ensembles in this round and BPS represents 50% of them! Voting begins Monday, December 3!

### Math

- The Mathematics Department provided two half day workshops on December 5. Over 100 teachers are expected to attend from grades k-4. Topics for the workshop were selected from the current curriculum units.

### ELA

- **Early Childhood**  
The BPS Early Childhood is proud to report that we have been working to make the mission of quality instruction and efficient systems and structures a reality through the use of NAEYC accreditation standards as a benchmark for quality and the use of ongoing communication across stakeholders to leverage the resource partnership with parents to support quality programming.
- **Literacy**  
Lexia has been deployed this year to students in grades K-2 or grades 1-3. With a greater focus on the use of Lexia in the primary grades, usage levels have increased significantly across the majority of schools.

### i3/SECEP:

- HCC Freshman Seminar dual-enrollment course will be offered in the Spring semester

### ESL Department

- We will have two ESL teachers certified in Project BE GLAD model by December 6<sup>th</sup> as well as K-8 ESL teacher trained to then provide PD to Bilingual and General Educators. We will have a cadre of 7 Project BE GLAD trainer of trainers. This is a program that was field-tested in California by US Department of Education and proven to accelerate English Language proficiency for English Learners. We are the first State on the East Coast to have Trainer of Trainers.
- Interpretation and Translation training is taking place on a monthly basis. This training is offered to all staff who interpret and/or translate for our limited English proficient parents to meet compliance with Federal guidelines. The training focuses on ethical, confidential and competency skills when interpreting and/or translating for parents. The training is provided by Shorelines Interpretation, LLC and Ana

	<p>Sousa-Martins.</p> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students in grades 3-8 have completed Math Standards Mastery and students in grade 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 &amp; 11 completed Science NGSS Interim Assessment. We had 95% participation. Administrators will be receiving individual data to share with teachers and students.</li> </ul>
<p><b>FACILITIES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning districtwide loose leaf pickup</li> <li>Skane: PPT window opened per principal request</li> <li>Bryant: replaced outdated fire alarm</li> </ul>
<p><b>FISCAL FOUNDATION</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fiscal Forecast 12-31-18:</b> The second formal fiscal forecast of the fiscal year is underway and will be completed as of 12-31-18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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 and facilities expenses (overtime, acting pay) in excess of projections in the FY19 budget gap plan. In the event the date of transition for the remaining non-certified unions extends beyond 2-1-2019, the amount of the projected shortfall will increase.</li> <li>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).</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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> </ul> </li> <li><b>2019-20 Budget Request</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The initial budget request will be presented to the BOE Finance Committee on December 12th.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Low Performing Bond Grants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On December 5th, we will conduct 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 will be required to apply for funding for critical facilities and/or technology projects, based on the determinations of the Facilities/Technology Departments. Applications will be due to the Grants Office by January 9th.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>State TEAM Grant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In FY19, while the state will restore the TEAM grant, the state will not reimburse districts fully for the cost of implementing TEAM mandates. A</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

preliminary analysis shows that the district will need to **absorb at least \$40,000 in unfunded expenses. We will plan to defray this expense with funds in the Title IIA grant.**

**5. Aquaculture**

- For 2018-19, Aquaculture received an increase in the annual ASTE allocation, \$379,331 [to \$1,619,235], which reverses three (3) years of declining resources:

Year	AQUA Budget History
<b>FY18</b>	(\$36,166)
<b>FY17</b>	(\$237,596)
<b>FY16</b>	(\$100,828)

- The funds may not be used to supplant local funding for educational purposes. Our plan includes leveraging of the resources (approximately \$63,000) to support the AQUA infrastructure (human and physical) by distributing funds to defray the escalated cost of AQUA personnel, building/school operations (boat fuel, utilities etc.) and facilities improvements/upgrades.
- Beyond these items, AQUA has received immediate restoration of \$100,828 in OTPS removed in 2015-16 in response to the budget reduction; and restoration of \$82,000 in part-time personnel services (ECE/enrichment, hatchery maintenance) funded during the last 3 years with AQUA grants, now almost depleted.
- Funds have been set aside (approximately \$133,000) to account of any major/minor services that may arise in any area of AQUA operations, including facilities.
- Looking ahead to 2019-20, on the assumption of stability in the AQUA budget, it can be projected that approximately \$100-\$130,000 of the FY19 increase will be embedded in the AQUA operating budget, as funding the escalated cost of AQUA personnel and services [FY19 and FY20 combined].

*Budget Notes.....*

**1. CT Partnership Plan**

- Non-certified unions have transitioned or are expected to transition to the CT Partnership as follows:
  - 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: pending arbitration
  - Nurses: arbitration - scheduled 1-11-2019

*Continuing.....*

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 the Superintendent is attempting to work with the City Attorney's office, as the position is that the City should be financially responsible for the monetary compensation determined to be due.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

- Filled Social Studies vacancy at Thomas Hooker
- Math Teacher has been identified for Fairchild Wheeler
- Vacancy for a science teacher at Cesar Batalla, with candidates being interviewed for the position. Vacancy for a Special Education Teacher at John Winthrop.

<p><b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information Technology Services (ITS) addressing the state mandated SBAC/NGSS testing accommodations. User Services (ITS-US) in concert with Data Center Operations (ITS-DCO) has been creating new-to-the-building student lab and testing facilities to provide areas to take these important assessments. This includes the creation of a <i>new-to-the-space</i> renovated and deployed lab at Read School in the library area, complemented by a <i>new-to-the-space</i> SmartBoard for use in instruction. In addition, ITS-US deployed a <i>new-to-the-space</i> student lab facility in the library at Blackrock School to be used for testing and general academic computing. ITS-US is continuing to refurbish District laptops and ChromeBooks and provide them back to the schools to augment the technology already in place as much as possible within our existing assets. Addressing upgrade issues and device enrollment matters as part of the Apple iPad IOS v11/v12 deployment currently underway at Winthrop, Park City Magnet, Johnson, Beardsley and Roosevelt Schools. Our ITS-DCO division has been in the process of performing several mission critical infrastructure updates to the District main data center located at Sheridan/BLC, as well as the Nutrition Center and soon the Facilities/Building Operations location at 1085 Connecticut Ave. which provide mission critical services to the entire District. We continue to deploy new and enhanced technologies to Harding High School using its new data center to assist and augment academic instruction such as Adobe Creative Cloud and printing/graphics services to the building and new print center. Finally, Barnum and Marin Schools have completed receiving their new 3D Dremel printers to enhance instruction for STEAM efforts in the elementary buildings which the students are very excited about. Barnum School has now received an entire refresh of its aged SmartBoard/Projector devices and is now using state-of-the-art multi-touch displays to enhance instruction to the student and promote interactivity. ITS is currently recommending that all schools replace their projector-based technology with this new multi-touch standard in lieu of the past projection standard. It is recommended that the Board of Education look to plan funding, wherever possible, to address the continuing concern of projector/SmartBoard failures for schools across the District.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NUTRITION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bridgeport Food &amp; Nutrition Center, with the assistance of the Department of Information Technology, successfully completed a much-needed upgrade to the twelve-year-old previous equipment. The enhancements include network switches and cabling. These improvements will add to the stability and efficiency of Child Nutrition Program data management and state reporting. Thank you, BOE IT!</li> </ul>
<p><b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BLC is fortunate to have students from SHU come on a weekly basis to volunteer in our primary classes. Our students enjoy being read to and one to one assistance with classwork. We look forward to their visits each week!!</li> <li>The Speech Language Hearing Department has placed a central focus on providing professional development to avoid the pitfalls of presumptions as it relates to the roles and responsibilities of school-based speech language pathologists in the IEP/PPT process.</li> <li>From November 15-17 2018, twenty SLPs personally invested in attending the 2018 ASHA (American Speech Hearing Association) Conference in Boston Mass. They were among 18,126 Certified Speech Language Pathologist and Audiologist who actively engaged in <b>“Revolutionary Learning for Evolutionary Practice</b>. As a result of their attendance at the ASHA Conference, they will “turnkey” the learning process at the next school improvement session. During this session, they discuss best practices, specifically as it relates to the variations in state, and local interpretation of federal education law.</li> <li>It is the intent of the SLH Department that all SLPs are proficient in their knowledge and understanding of IDEA requirements regarding speech language eligibility and dismissal. It is the expectation of the SLH department that this knowledge will be translated to their ability to justify assessment decisions and intervention recommendations using research evidence when in attendance at IEP/PPT meetings.</li> <li>Thus far for the Fall semester for 2018-19 school year, The SLH department is providing two school internships for potential SLP graduates attending Southern Connecticut State University and Sacred Heart University.</li> </ul>

SVA	
SUPERINTENDENT'S SUMMARY	<p data-bbox="941 210 1104 241"><a href="http://www.febps.org">www.febps.org</a></p> <ul data-bbox="568 241 1526 527" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="568 241 1526 304">• The 2019 Teacher of the Year Ceremony was held in Hartford at which time Sheena Graham was honored.</li><li data-bbox="568 304 1526 430">• The Fairchild Wheeler community conversations consisted of three parent meetings (11/27, 11/29, and 12/4), student classroom visits (12/4) and staff meeting (12/5), the overwhelming consensus was to remain as three separate campuses, as such, the operational plan will be updated in the Spring.</li><li data-bbox="568 430 1526 527">• Thus far three community conversations have been held thus far Bassick 11/7, Hooker School 11/28, and Johnson School 12/05....the next forum is scheduled at Black Rock School on 01/16 @ 5:30 p.m.</li></ul>

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