

# District

*Champions for Children*



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

## ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS

- In keeping with the vision of our superintendent, Dr. Johnson, and the expressed mission to align our practice to the vision, we are rolling out Cultural Competence training for administrators. Dr. Tamika LaSalle, Assistant Professor with UCONN Neag School of Education, is our presenter. These workshops began on Wednesday, February 28, 2018. Our administrators have requested the shared activities to roll out to their teachers with the desired results of positively impacting our student's achievement through building relationships.
- Planning is underway for the 46th Annual Parent Convention on May 30th, 2018. This year's conference will be held at Housatonic Community College's Beacon Hall. More information will be forthcoming.
- Dr. Johnson and the assistant superintendents travelled to Hartford to address the mid-year Alliance Tracker. Comparative data showed a decrease in chronic absenteeism, progress in our focus on literacy and strategies to continue to improve math achievement.
- The local Girls Inc. will sponsor a free summer camp for middle school girls. This program will be held at John Winthrop School. Girls, Inc. is a nonprofit organization providing services to girls ages 6-18 at more than 1,400 sites in 400 cities across the United States and Canada. Their research-based programming is delivered by trained professionals who focus on the development of the whole girl. Girls will learn to value their whole selves, discover and develop their inherent strengths they face.

### **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT:**

- There are currently 16 finalists from Bridgeport at the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair. Winners will be announced on March 17th.
- Ten schools will participate in the NOAA-funded Sound Resilience program in Bridgeport Harbor. Students will learn about the impact of coastal threats and climate change on their own community
- The Mathematics Department is finalizing round 2 of Targeted PD. So far, the response from teachers to this type of small and focused PD has been greatly received. More than 400 teachers (including bilingual and special education teachers) have participated in this PD.
- Numeracy Coaches were also to meet with principals directly to discuss the contents of this in order to plan for future professional development sessions and support.

### **PHYSICAL ED/HEALTH DEPARTMENT:**

- The Bassick Boys basketball team made it to the state semi-final and should finish the final poll ranked #4 in the state.
- Harding and Central Boys basketball both qualified for states and made it to the second round of the tournament.
- The Bassick Girls team won their first state playoff game in 34 years.
- Middle School Basketball Playoffs are set to begin tomorrow, with the Championships on 3/24.
- Spring sports open up on Monday at all three high schools.
- A partnership with Wakeman Boys and Girls Club and Bridgeport Field of Dreams Foundation will sustain our middle school flag football league.
- Park City Magnet was awarded a three-year grant through the Connecticut Association of Schools and Special Olympics to start a Unified Sports Program.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Winthrop School was awarded a grant through Good Sports and the New York Rangers which provided the school with floor hockey and fitness equipment.</li> <li>• Jonathan Gomes (Central Soccer) and Daniel Daley (Harding Football) were awarded full athletic scholarships to play at Fairfield University and Bryant College respectively.</li> <li>• Qualon Wilkes and Kevin Crawford (Bassick Basketball) both scored their 1,000th career points this past season.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Turnaround Arts:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ 15 students from our 5 Turnaround Arts schools performed at the 2018 Turnaround Arts Talent Show at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$10,000 was raised by donations from individual contributors, foundations, arts organizations, and an architecture firm</li> <li>○ Students received a standing ovation for their performance of “We Can, If We Believe” an original song composed by Sheena Graham</li> </ul> </li> <li>✚ Hall School will be featured on Google’s blog about the work students are doing as part of the Thom Mayne Young Architects</li> </ul> <p><b><u>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winners of the 2018 Fairfield University Poetry for Peace Contest Winners represented approximately 65 winners from the surrounding towns. Bridgeport Public Schools students represents approximately 35 of the winning poetry entries.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>PRESCHOOL:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several schools are full with a waiting list for next year. They include: Johnson, Park City Magnet and Winthrop Schools. Registration is ongoing. There are still openings at the following locations: Barnum, Batalla, Beardsley, Black Rock, Blackham, Bryant, Claytor, Classical Studies Magnet Academy, Columbus, Cross, Dunbar, Hallen, Marin, Read, Roosevelt, Tisdale, and Waltersville</li> </ul>
<p><b>FACILITIES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marin: Replaced 3 sets of double fire doors. Removed old carpet, replaced with VCT tile in social service office</li> <li>• Blackham: Replacing heat control valves for each classroom</li> <li>• JFK: VAV (variable air volume) controls have all been replaced as part of the ongoing HVAC upgrades here. These units will provide the ability for better air control for heating and cooling.</li> <li>• Playgrounds: Preparing to work on HHM, MCM, and looking at Park City Magnet. Getting quotes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>FINANCE</b></p>	<p><b>Continuing...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In regard to the state magnet grant, the state has announced that the worst case scenario is a 7.5% reduction. The final reduction, to be announced by April 2018, while likely to be lower, will nonetheless have a negative impact on the district’s overall fiscal capacity. A 4% reduction would be equivalent to approximately - <b>\$400,000.</b></li> <li>• Based on the initial announcement in late January, the state cap on out of district reimbursements has risen from 24.61% in FY17 to 25.48% in FY18, which means that the district incurs a higher percentage of the remaining cost after payment of 4.5 times NCEP for each placement. In March, the state will announce the final FY18 cap, which we hope will remain stable but could potentially rise.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

	<p>practices. The goal is to generate monetary savings to help prevent the occurrence of a deficit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In regard to the 2018-19 budget, there should be a continual focus on strategies to secure the resources to close the projected budget gap of \$13M.</li> </ul> <p>New...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The district has received \$1,193,516 in 2017-18 ESSA/School Improvement funds, targeted to turnaround and focus schools, which the Superintendent may distribute to schools selected in those categories, based on a specified rules. This round of funding represents year one of a three-year cycle for the selected schools, with year one ending 9/30/18, year two beginning 10/1/18 and year three beginning 10/1/19.</li> </ul>
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of our BPS recruiting strategy to broaden our base and sources for teachers, a visit was made to North Carolina A&amp;T, a diverse institution with an outstanding school of education. A meeting was held with the Dean, and a group meeting with a number of the education students.</li> <li>Relay Graduate School of Education, held its information session for interested Bridgeport employees, and we will continue to explore this alternative program for training prospective teachers.</li> </ul>
<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information Technology Services is continuing to prepare schools and District equipment for SBAC testing. Every available device that can be used for testing should be in the process of being tested by all schools in the District, which is being coordinated and supervised by the Assistant Superintendents. Read School has completed the planned deployment and engagement of its Windows 10S devices grant as part of being selected for the Microsoft DAP Wave One deployment. Microsoft is extending its engagement investment with the District and will be providing further funding for services to upgrade 1000 more devices within the District to Windows 10S. This will allow multiple schools to enhance their existing equipment including Waltersville, Barnum, Multicultural Magnet, High Horizons, Hall, Hallen, Dunbar, Fairchild-Wheeler, Curiale and potentially several other schools. ITS continues to work hard to meet the demand of the aging SmartBoard and projector deployment in the District and is doing everything in our power and current staffing levels to keep up with the demand and failure rate. We hope that the Board will consider options for funding the replacement for SmartBoards, Projectors and computing devices in the upcoming budget year due to the age and usage of our current fleet. ITS has completed its first wave of training for District administrators on the Office 365 platform and soon the second wave of training for faculty and students will begin.</li> </ul>
<b>NUTRITION</b>	
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skane School:  Skane staff gathered at the end of the school day on Wednesday, March 19, 2018 to participate in a memorial service for the Parkland students. All 65 staff members remained after school and participated from our teachers, support staff, paraprofessionals, cafeteria worker, security guard and custodian. We had pictures of all 17 victims, lit 17 candles, and some staff members read a short biography of each of the victims. Reading the biographies of the victims, triggered a wide variety of feelings and emotions for the staff but it was comforting to share this time together. We also signed and made a poster which is displayed in the school hallway.</li> </ul>
<b>SVA</b>	
<b>SUPERINTENDENT'S SUMMARY</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.febps.org">www.febps.org</a></p>

School	Date of Visit
Aquaculture	3/12/18
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	2/21/18

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

School	Quantity
Barnum	6
Bassick	3
Batalla	40
Central	9
Columbus	10
Harding	12
Marin	42
Roosevelt	5
Waltersville	3
As of 3/22/18	130