



Office of the Superintendent

To: Newton School Committee
From: Anna Nolin, Superintendent
Re: Superintendent Update
Date: December 4, 2023

Academics

It's a busy time of year but also a time when we can see students making academic routines—a classroom community has been created, routines are firmly established, and we can see high-quality academic tasks, discussions and work on a regular basis across our schools.

I have been in many schools on my routine visits and it has been wonderful to walk and see the implementation of grade 1 and 2 EL Literacy curriculum in all schools. On November 30, I walked at Angier School with three school committee members, and they too observed these lessons. To ensure integrity of implementation across the school district, Assistant Superintendents Farag and McCall work with consultants, our principals and our teachers to conduct what are called “Integrity walkthroughs.” Recently, we completed integrity walks at Ward, Williams, Mason Rice and Memorial Spaulding. These walks will be ongoing. I participated in two classroom visits using the integrity walk guiding rubrics. I am pleased with the implementation and unity across the system that we are seeing in literacy practices and content coverage. It is also wonderful to see each teacher demonstrate their teaching expertise in their own ways and with their own personal style, tailored to the young learners in front of them.

Conferences and Sharing Progress for Family Partnerships

Of course, we love telling our families and caregivers about what is going on with their students, and we get a chance to do so now at middle school and high school parent conferences which are about to begin, and elementary conferences which are concluding.

Early Literacy Screening Results for Families and Caregivers

Further information on students’ academic progress has been added to the information we send home. Early literacy screening results (grades 1-3) went out to families recently. Parents must log into ASPEN and open the screening results in the same way that MCAS results are obtained. Instructions for doing this were included in an email to all families and will be repeated in an upcoming district newsletter.

Kindergarten screening notification letters will go out in January.

Athletics

Congratulations to our Championship Newton North Girls’ Volleyball Division 1 champions second year in a row, beating arch rivals Barnstable! See full details below.

(<https://www.bostonherald.com/2023/11/18/newton-north-outlasts-barnstable-to-win-the-div-1-state-volleyball-title/>)

Human Resources and Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion

The office of DEI and HR work together on our strategy to attract, retain and support our educators in a variety of ways. One way we do this is to meet the distinct needs of specific job roles and groups of our educators. It was our pleasure to support our Black male administrators in their attendance at the National Black Male Educators Conference recently. The group of administrators, pictured here, work at all levels and programs of leadership in our district. The conference allowed for collaborative time as Newton Black Male leadership but also to engage with other districts, states and innovative ideas that they can bring back to us and our system.



Professional Learning and Teaming

On Friday, December 1, 2023, several of us participated in the yearly METCO Directors' Conference. This is often the best conference I attend all year, and this session was no different! Newton is the largest METCO district in the state and our participation and advocacy shapes the program and its impact. In addition, we are able to coordinate and align thinking with the other METCO districts across the state. Want to learn more about our METCO program? We are having a community forum to showcase our program and students on December 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Newton South High School.

Technology/Facilities Upgrade

The Underwood School received a total upgrade on its outdated phone system and now has a modern one like the remainder of the system.