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Superintendent of Schools

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

5/27/16

- At the 2016 Law and Education Day, I was fortunate enough to be introduced to Robert Trestan, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League. Last week I received an invitation from him to join the North Shore Advisory Committee of the Anti-Defamation League. I will be attending the next meeting on June 16th.
- Monday evening Frank, Bob, and I attended the METCO PCO Meeting in Roxbury. We do have a plan for working more collaboratively moving forward. They have been invited to attend the Monthly PTA/F/O meetings moving forward.
- Tuesday evening I attended the Parent Forum here at the middle school regarding the Youth Risk Behavior Survey we are administering in to our 6th - 11th graders on June 13 and 14th. There was minimal parent attendance and my Mental Health Task Force members were there to lead the presentation and answer questions. There is an "opt out" opportunity for those families who would like to opt out. We are giving this survey as a district to analyze trends and patterns in our youth behaviors and help determine next steps in Mental Health programming.
- I have been asked to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Northshore Education Consortium of which we are members. I currently attend Board meetings once a month but in case you have questions, see website as a reminder: <https://www.nsedu.org/>
- Last night, I was scheduled to be in 6 places in a period of two hours. I chose to attend Mona Blumstein's retirement party and honor her for her many, many, years of service to the Swampscott Public Schools. In addition, I attended the National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony, which was such a nice celebration of our students.
- Finally, the following announcement was made to the HS Faculty today, regarding our new transition programs for next year:

We are pleased to announce the opening of Swampscott High School's new transition program, SWIFT (Swampscott Integrated For Transition). Students will be provided assistance with re-entry and reintegration into school following an extended absence (5 or more consecutive days) due to medical or emotional challenges. SWIFT is a general education support that offers students a small, comfortable environment in which they can access individualized academic and emotional supports. SWIFT is intended to be a short-term program (8-12 weeks). Intensive communication with parents, general educators, and outside clinicians will be a vital component of this program. Referrals for SWIFT may also come from the Student Support Team and will be accepted on a case by case basis. Priority will be given to students exiting from a hospital program.

The program will be staffed by Andrea Jordan, Stephen Walsh, and Craig Harris. We are really excited about this program and will be sharing more details as we have them. Please

bear with us as this continues to be a work in progress. We will be reaching out in the last few weeks of school to get as much input from staff as we can, before spending the summer solidifying all the aspects of the program.

We are also excited to announce that we will be creating the Harbor program, which is a special education program for students with emotional disabilities. **Although SWIFT and Harbor will be in the same location, they are not identical or interchangeable.** The main differences will be in the length of time students remain in the program, as well as the depth of supports such as groups and counseling.

The Harbor Program provides a supportive learning community with direct case management to facilitate student progress. Students will work with staff to develop emotional regulation skills as well as managing academic expectations and pressures. Counseling and regular emotional supports are integral parts of the program, along with close home-school communication. Harbor will also serve as a home base for students throughout the school day should they need assistance outside of their scheduled academic block. Staff will be monitoring progress of students to proactively manage obstacles before they turn into crises. Students in the program must be on an Individualized Education Plan, specifically with an identified Emotional Disability.

We are looking forward to working with you all on this in the next year.

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