



Pamela R. H. Angelakis, M.A., M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

11/23/15

- In an effort to continue to improve communication from the district I try to post a Superintendent's Update on the district website, weekly. I'm not sure how many of you have ever visited my page, so beginning with this week's edition I will also be sending it out to all of you via email. My intent is to keep you as informed as possible with the news of the district. Thank you, for all you do!
- Please help me welcome Mr. Tony Wyman to the Swampscott Public Schools. He will join us on November 30th in the position of Human Resources Coordinator. Tony comes to us with years of experience and a background in Human Resources Management. We are very excited to add him to our Team. Welcome, Mr. Wyman!
- On November 5th the School Committee approved the attached updated Chemical Health Policy. In addition, the attached letter signed jointly by both Chief Madigan and myself, will be going home with students along with the new Chemical Health Policy today, Monday, November 23, 2015.
- Last year, the school district received \$110,000 in capital funds to improve safety and security within our schools. To date we have purchased and implemented the Lobby Guard visitor systems at both the high school and middle school as well as the student and staff IDs. I am pleased that last week we signed a contract with Valley Communications to move forward with additional safety and security measures here at the middle school. Soon you will notice intercom systems installed to access Central Administration Offices and staff will be receiving swipe cards to access the middle school building. It is our hope that these changes will occur in the early part of the New Year.
- Last week the school department joined general government personnel in a 3-hour MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) training. From their website: *MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA's staff of professional planners, communications specialists and operations and support personnel is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - - individuals, families, non-profits and businesses - - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, ensuring effective response, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover.*
- Last week I also attended the first of several Salem State University School of Education Networking Receptions. Dean Joseph Cambone was there to speak about the growth and development of the School of Education. It was great to connect with fellow alumni and to

personally speak with the Dean. I look forward to future 1:1 meetings to strengthen our partnership between the district and the University.

- Our Mental Health Task Force is well underway. I would like to thank Mrs. Cathy Kalpin, Mrs. Sarah Kelley, and Mr. Craig Harris for volunteering as Tri-Chairs to lead this very important work.
- The District Crisis Management Team met last week to review updated Crisis Response and Medical Emergency Plans. This larger team's members include representatives from fire, police, and DPW. Thank you to Mr. Bob Murphy for Chairing this team.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving. My best for a happy, healthy holiday with family and friends.

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