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SUPERINTENDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE – 6-March-2015

- Monday, March 2, was a very exciting day for the Hadley School Community. Governor Baker was a big part of their Read Across America Day and helped celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. He read Green Eggs and Ham to all 297 students and faculty. A huge "thank you" goes out to the Hadley PTO for the refreshments for the reception that followed. Thank you to the Police and Fire Depts for their participation, as well. I, myself, had a great time reading Oh, the Places You'll Go to Mrs. Farley's first grade!
- We have been forced to move ALICE professional development for staff to the beginning of next year on August 31st. We originally proposed April 17th, the Friday before April vacation, however, we were reminded that we are sending several teachers to a Math Conference and April 17 is the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Conference. We have 40 students registered to attend and 10 of them are presenting to other schools. This will be the third year we are invited and I am not prepared to disregard the importance of this experience and event for students. The other date we proposed was Good Friday and although staff was supportive of this idea, there are too many staff whose families have plans that would hinder their ability to be in attendance at the training.
- Our Uno's fund raiser *Light Up Swampscott* for the new digital projector for the High School Auditorium is making progress. We have commitments from UNO's, Eastern Bank, Salem Five, and the Swampscott Education Foundation (SEF) has made the generous commitment to donate up to \$10,000 to help us meet our goal. More information will be coming in the next week in the form of a press release and flyers.
- STEM Family Night is next Thursday, March 12th from 5:00-7:00pm at Swampscott High School. The SHS cafeteria will be open for business with a variety of food for purchase.
- I have sent out an announcement soliciting volunteers for a Task Force to explore the next steps for a new elementary school. To more clearly define the goals of this Task Force, I sent the following press release to the *Swampscott Reporter* today:

After the failed school vote at the Special Town Meeting last October, and several conversations with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), it was clear to me that the District needed to step back, reflect, and regroup before submitting another Statement of Interest (SOI). The need to replace Hadley has not changed. The building continues to age and the educational spaces within the structure are not meeting the needs of our students. To prepare the District to submit another SOI to the state, and prior to forming a new MSBA Building Committee, I have decided to form an internal Task Force to complete some very specific tasks. For

example, as a District we need to revisit the Master Plan Study for the Swampscott Public Schools, dated September 2002, and revise and update as necessary. In addition, I'd like this Task Force to develop a survey to distribute to the Community regarding the failed vote. Finally, the Committee can begin the process of outreach with the Swampscott Community which includes Town Boards, Committees & Commissions, Departments, and Senior Citizens. Whatever happens with regard to this project it is not just about the school department, it is about the Community and the need to hear their voices.

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