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May 27, 2020

As we come to the end of May I wanted to thank you all once again for all that you continue to do for the students and families of Brockton. The stories I hear on a daily basis are absolutely wonderful as to the support you are providing during this time.

At this time I want to provide you with some updates and reminders that you should be aware of.

Early Retirement Incentive

Last night during the Finance subcommittee meeting an “Early Retirement Incentive” was approved. The district has not offered such an incentive since 2017. The district will send out the details of the incentive and how to apply for it so be on the lookout if this is something you would like to consider.

North Middle School

A motion was made at the Finance subcommittee meeting to keep North Middle School open for the 2020-2021 school year. The plan discussed was to phase North back in over the next three years starting with grade 6 next year. Given the current situation with COVID-19 it makes sense to keep it open and not add additional students to the other Middle Schools. There was also a discussion about work being done to the current classrooms that are in use over the summer break. The final vote for this to happen will take place on Tuesday, June 2nd during the School Committee meeting. Once this is confirmed Kathy Moran and I will discuss the staffing of North Middle School. It goes without saying that as long as the proper certification is held the current North Middle School teachers would remain in place and not be involuntarily transferred. School Committee meetings are now live streamed and I do suggest that you watch them for firsthand information. The link is found on the home page of the BPS website the evening of the meetings. The meeting schedule can also be found on the BPS website.

Remote Learning Surveys

The district has sent out a link to the survey from Youth Truth to all BPS staff. I am encouraging you all to take the survey because it will be used to determine what worked well, what needs to be improved upon and what you need to be successful in remote teaching. The beginning stages of the planning process for reopening in September have started and your input is greatly needed. The survey is anonymous and handled through Youth Truth.

The MTA has also sent out a state-wide survey for feedback on remote learning so please complete that one as well.

State Budget

You all should have received an email from MTA President, Merrie Najimy this afternoon. In the email is a link for you to send a message to your U.S. Senators urging them to support and improve on the *HEROES Act.* It is important that every BEA Member take this action because our state needs revenues. We need to be part of the action to get much needed revenues from the federal level to the state level.

“Low Sick Leave Utilization Stipend” and “Personal Leave Day Utilization Incentive”

This is a reminder that for this year Members will need to submit the completed “Low Sick Leave Utilization Stipend” form and the “Personal Leave Day Utilization Incentive” form via email. Each form should be mailed to the following email BEABUYBACK@bpsma.org. The deadline is June 1, 2020.

2020-2021 BEA Building Reps

Attached to this memo is a listing of your 2020-2021 BEA Building Reps. Their first meeting will be June 1st via Zoom. The 2019-2020 Rep Council will vote on the proposed 2020-2021 BEA budget. Once that has happened the 2020-2021 Rep Council takes over the role.

BEA Officer Election

I want to thank Matt McGee and Jaclyn Miller for overseeing the BEA officer elections. Thank you also to all candidates that submitted their names for an officer position. It is great to see that others are willing to work on the behalf of the BEA Membership. Congratulations to those that were elected to serve as your BEA officers for the 2020-2022 term.

Care Packages

Through the generous donations of 13 BEA Members we were able to raise $525 towards the purchase of supplies for our care packages. The BEA Executive Board voted to expend $2000 and I have applied for the MTA Mass Child grant for an additional $2600. The supplies we are purchasing are notebooks, pencils and crayons. A number of families have reported that their students do not have those basic supplies. The original plan was to have a care package delivered with basic school supplies to each home of Brockton students. No matter when we get the supplies into their hands, we know they are needed for now or the next school year.

The $5125 will not allow us to provide supplies to our 10,000+ families but the materials we do have will be distributed. We will be working on a plan to get the supplies to those in need.

If you would still like to donate you may send your donations through Venmo @Kimberly – Gibson – 52 or PayPal at bassoci327@aol.com. If you use PayPal choose the one associated with my name, Kim Gibson. You can also mail a check to my home at 7 Acorn Circle, Bridgewater 02324. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at bassoci327@aol.com.

Be well,

Kim