



## *SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE for AUGUST 2017*

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! We have been very busy over the summer preparing schools, completing maintenance projects and hiring staff. There is much more to share with you about our district and this is the first of several “Superintendent Updates” that I will be sending out periodically to keep you informed about Fairfield Public Schools (FPS). After my official start date last December, I have enjoyed being part of our school community and am looking forward to meeting more families as the year progresses.

### **Budget Update**

The state budget has been a top news item lately and Connecticut school funding remains uncertain. FPS has reacted to this uncertainty by freezing \$2.1 million. These funds will be held in reserve until we know more about the impact of the state budget. As additional preparation for the unexpected, FPS has:

- Frozen a Central Office position.
- Restructured the Central Office team.
- Postponed several summer maintenance projects.
- Reduced summer curriculum work by not completing summer curriculum work in Music, Secondary Math and English Language Learner.
- Worked with a transportation consultant to generate savings.

### **Bus Schedules and Walking Zones**

Please note that FPS is doing everything possible to keep our dollars focused on the classroom and school transport is essential to that end. A transportation consultant is working with us to solve bus capacity issues and identify efficiencies in the current route structure. This process is ongoing and will take 12-24 months to refine.

In the meantime, students in the ‘walk zone’ should expect to walk this year or make carpool arrangements with a friend. Space-available ridership for walkers will not be considered until the first week of October. This will allow time for the careful review and adjustment of bus routes. Parents

may request space-available ridership by emailing student name and address information to [BusService@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:BusService@fairfieldschools.org). The Transportation Department will make every effort to be as accommodating as possible and will respond directly to parents. Bus assignments for riders will be available through Infinite Campus on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Solar at Fairfield Ludlowe and Fairfield Warde High Schools**

Solar carport installation is well underway at both high schools. Both projects are expected to be completed on time for the first day of school. The Fairfield community should be proud of the commitment to green energy and thoughtful long-term cost savings. FPS expects to save approximately \$2 million in electricity costs over the next 20 years because of these two solar projects.

### **Turf Field at Fairfield Warde High School**

The turf field replacement project scheduled at Fairfield Warde High School (FWHS) has been delayed and will begin next summer. The bids were on target financially, but none of the contractors could meet the tight timeline to complete the project before the start of the FWHS fall athletic season. With Tomlinson's field currently undergoing replacement, FWHS does not have an alternate location to practice or compete. The delay is disappointing news, but we have worked with a turf contractor to make some minor repairs to FWHS turf seams, allowing the field to be used safely.

### **New Staff**

FPS has welcomed several new people to our team and some of our current staff members have moved into new key roles. Please check our website at <http://fairfieldschools.org/district-information/directory/> for updated contact information. The Central Office Team was reconfigured when the Executive Director position was frozen. The Curriculum Leaders have moved into more expansive roles as Directors, who will lead on specific programming such as ELL, Gifted, and STEAM.

A special thanks to those who served on the hiring committees this past summer to find a new Holland Hill Principal, Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services, Executive Director of Innovation, and Executive Director of Personnel and Legal Services. We are excited to be working together and are looking forward to serving our Fairfield school community.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer vacation!



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