



## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### PROJECT SUMMARY

REPORT DATE	PROJECT NAME	PREPARED BY
June 8, 2018	Monthly Summary to School Committee of Key Actions Performed	Jordana Harper, Superintendent

#### Media Coverage:

- *Children to Release Trout Into Green River, June 4*
- *Cosmic Kids Yoga Star Surprises Local Students, June 7*
- *Go Green Wave, for one last time, then Goodbye, June 1*

#### Additional Attachments:

- *Photographs from Superintendent's social media regarding recent events*
- *Parent Power Hour flyer (School Committee Goals for Parent Engagement)*

**GHS Graduation** - This year we began a new tradition of the elementary- and middle-school students celebrating the graduating seniors at each school, "clapping them out" and sending them on their way (see photos). Greenfield High School had a beautiful graduation ceremony on Friday, June 1. Chair Nunez presented diplomas, the Mayor attended, Member Ward celebrated the graduation of his daughter, and several other school committee members showed support to the graduating class. The class Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Class President, and other students spoke, and the Superintendent delivered remarks to the full-house in the GHS Auditorium. The Superintendents' remarks are posted online at [gpsk12.org](http://gpsk12.org). *(See attached media coverage)*

**Superintendents' Goals / Parent Power Hour** - On June 6, the Superintendent's office launched another evening in the parent education series "Parent Power Hour," aligned to School Committee goals for expanding parent engagement. This latest installment was focused on extending summer literacy and included guests from our school libraries at the elementary, middle, and high school library, as well as Greenfield Public Library's Kay Lyons and GCC with information about community resources to engage students over the summer. Pizza, childcare, and transportation were provided paid for by our Title I grant. I'd like to extend special thanks to Kia Burton-King, Chris Nosel, our presenters Jess Pollock, Tomi Eve, and our community partners for making this event a success. Feedback was extremely positive and there is already talk about making this an annual event. Flyers, Connect-Ed Calls, Social Media, Web, Radio, and Newspaper promotions were all used *(See attached Flyer)*

**Greenfield Middle School Principal Transition** - Long-time Greenfield educator & administrator Gary Tashjian has announced his retirement after 30 years' of service to the Greenfield Public Schools. This letter was sent to School Committee prior to being sent to the parents of Greenfield Middle School and Math & Science Academy. The position has been posted and interviews are scheduled for next week. The interview committee consists of parent, teacher,

community / school council and administrative representatives. Member Ward has volunteered to sit in on interviews as well as both a GMS Parent and School Committee member. As Mr. Tashjian has informed us of medical issues that prevent him from returning to GMS before the end of the school year, Principal Goodwin has been temporarily reassigned to GMS as interim principal to provide stability and safety in the school until the new principal is selected. Ms. Goodwin brings a wealth of experience with the middle school level, having previously worked as an administrator at GMS and as a middle school principal in other districts. Ms. Katie Irrizary, Newton School Social Worker, will be providing day to day support at Newton while Ms. Goodwin takes on this additional temporary assignment. *(See letter sent to School Committee and Survey posted to gpsk12.org)*

**Department of Children & Families Costs to Schools**– On June 8, following a vote of the School Committee to do so, Superintendent and Director Ellis met with Mr. Tafoya from the State Auditor’s Division of Unfunded Mandates to provide information relative to the costs related to DCF-involved students, which in GPS was approximately \$800,000 in 2017-2018 school year alone. The audit examines the costs associated with DCF-involved families in numerous districts across the Commonwealth.

**School Safety/ Public Announcement Systems** – We have been working closely with the City on procurement of PA systems to meet the safety needs in our schools. Walkthroughs and review of the scope of work has been conducted at all 5 buildings that require upgrades. Updated PA systems have now been scheduled for installation.

**Superintendent’s Roundtable** – Superintendent Harper has been voted as the president-elect of the Ct. Valley Superintendent’s Roundtable for the 2018-2019 school year. The Superintendent has been a member of the Ct. Valley Superintendent’s roundtable for the past four (4) years. She has previously held positions as Franklin County Representative, Vice-President, and Secretary. Meetings are held once per month, represent a minimal time commitment outside of the district, and include important and timely information such as presentations from the DESE Commissioner of Education, Mass. Taxpayer’s Association, opportunities to collaborate with neighboring districts, and opportunities to draw attention to pressing educational matters with our Legislators. This will also provide an opportunity for the President’s district to showcase their musical program in the annual holiday meeting, held in December, at which GPS’ musical director has been asked to coordinate a musical performance. It is a delight to represent Greenfield Public Schools in the community and amongst our legislative representatives, and to use new information to benefit the district.

**Expanded Learning Time** – As part of its three-year grant cycle, the district underwent a full site visit on June 7 & 8, 2018. Site teams engage in a thorough & rigorous visit that includes interviews of teachers, parents, building principals, and central office administrators. The site visit team reviews data including student attendance and performance. The site teams learned of the new Community Service Learning initiative at GMS and numerous initiatives at Newton including Playworks, Lexia, Fast Math, Sign Language, Drums Alive, and much more. The new application for the 2018-2019 school year is in progress and has not been submitted to the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

**Coordinated Program Review** - As the Committee is aware, the district underwent a Coordinated Program Review (CPR) in the areas of Special Education, English Language Learners, and Civil

Rights. The District received positive comments in many areas over all, and some areas in which further work was required. Each district has a one (1) year period within which to address any areas noted, and all corrective action must be fully implemented by that time. The district recently submitted Action Plan progress reports to provide updates on the many areas in which the district has already resolved areas noted in the Coordinated Program Review. On May 30, the District was informed that DESE had reviewed these most recent progress reports. 8/12 areas (75%) have already been corrected, and 4 are in progress. Our next series of Progress Reports is due to the Department on June 29, 2018.

**School Choice** – The Greenfield Public Schools follows Mass General Laws Chapter 76 Section 12B in regards to the acceptance and admission of School Choice. School Choice seats are only made available when there are remaining seats in an existing class, and the school choice tuition dollars are provided to the district from the sending district. When the number of School Choice applicants who wish to enroll in Greenfield Public Schools exceeds the number of available School Choice Seats, a lottery is held to determine that applicants are accepted without regard for race, gender, or other protected class. Lottery dates are held in July and again in the fall, as required by law. To the greatest extent possible, our projections account for anticipated enrollment of GPS students, to ensure there is adequate space for Greenfield residents first and foremost. Current projections of seats that will be available are provided to the Committee. Some changes may occur as summer enrollments take place.

**Newsletter** – A sampling of parent newsletters from our schools are included with your packets.

### **Recent & Upcoming Events**

#### ***Sample of Recent Events:***

June 1 – Class of 2018 Graduation at Greenfield High School  
June 6 – Parent Power Hour, “Summer Reading: Extending Literacy Beyond the Classroom”  
June 7 – GMS / MSA (Rain Date) Trout Release at Green River Swimming Area  
June 7 – Guest Visitor from England teaches at Newton with Donors Chose funding  
June 7 – GHS Science Symposium  
June 7 – GMS Community Service Learning Showcase & Band Presentation  
June 7 – Super Hero Day at AEL & Father’s Tea  
June 7 & 8 – ELT Site Visit at Newton & Greenfield Middle School  
June 8 – Federal Street & Four Corners Field Day

#### ***Sample of Upcoming Events:***

June 14 – Federal Street Arts & Music Showcase 6 pm  
June 18 – Central Office end of year cookout, GMS  
June 14 – SEPAC Meeting (Last of the Year) at YMCA, 6:15 pm  
June 19 – Academy of Early Learning Last Day of School  
June 21 – Federal Street All-School Walk to Garden Theatre for end-of-year showing, Incredibles 2  
June 20 – Newton’s Field Day  
June 22 – Last Day of School, Half Day!

**Have a Wonderful Summer!**