

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, Staff and Community Members,

The end of school is coming fast, with the last day for students on June 22, 2015. It's an exam day for BHS and a full day for students K-8. By contract, teachers will be back on June 23 for half a day.

The Town Council is closing in on a bottom line for the 2016 budget. They will finalize it by May 28 and the school referendum will be held Tuesday, June 9. Please do not forget to vote.

If you have not heard, Brunswick Junior High School Principal Walter Wallace was named Maine Principal of the Year. He was honored by the Maine Principals Association on April 30 and will travel to Washington D.C. this fall with honorees from all 50 states. Congratulations Walter!

The new teacher/principal evaluation document will be ready for its pilot trial the next school year. This has been a four-year project which has changed direction several times due to state changes in requirements.

Region 10 Technical Director Barry Lohnes is retiring in June. The Region 10 Board will hire an interim administrator and advertise for the position next fall. I wish Barry a happy and healthy retirement and thank him for his service.

The Brunswick Central Office will undergo major changes as well. Assistant Superintendent Greg Bartlett will be retiring this year after over 20 years of service. A search committee has conducted interviews and passed a finalist on to me. The Board interviewed the candidate on May 18.

Also, Director of Student Services Paul Austin is the finalist for the position of Superintendent in RSU 3. That process will conclude early next month.

Our facilities repair project will regain momentum this week as we will meet with PDT to review their findings on the plan to repair Coffin and Brunswick Junior High Schools. Also part of the discussion will be whether to add any portables to Coffin Elementary School. A meeting at Town Hall is planned for 6:00 p.m. on May 20, 2015.

There are two important graduations coming up in the next few weeks. Merrymeeting Adult Education graduation is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2015, at Mt. Ararat High School. Brunswick High School's graduation will be held at 7:00 p.m. on June 12, 2015, at Bowdoin's Watson Arena. Please join us if you can.

The first year of the Smarter Balanced Assessment requested by the state will conclude this month. We have heard that this will be the first and last year of this assessment. In the months ahead we must carefully monitor the work of the state as they grapple with what will come next. Such is the life of public education in the 21st century. My advocacy continues to be a moratorium on all state mandates for at least two years and the development of a legislative/DOE committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the mandates currently in practice.

Thank you for your support of the Brunswick School Department. Please have a safe, happy, healthy and productive summer.

Sincerely,

Paul K. Perzanoski
Superintendent