

Brunswick School Department

Paul K. Perzanoski Superintendent of Schools

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BARBARA J. GUNN
Director of Student Services

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

This week we have returned to school for the 2015-2016 year. Please be careful riding your bikes or walking to school because when public schools are in session traffic significantly increases.

After four years and copious meetings the School Board's Facilities Master Plan has come to a standstill, On August 3 we presented a plan to the Town Council to repair BJHS and Coffin Elementary School which included the replacement of the old portables at Coffin with a twelve classroom unit. This would allow us to consider moving the second grade from HBS to Coffin to alleviate crowding and would have brought both buildings up to code. It also would have given us at least ten years to apply for the next round of state construction money for at least one of the schools.

The Town Council voted 8-1 to not send the plan to a public hearing so that the community could give us feedback on the option. The Town Council wants us to build a new school and fix the remaining school which could bring the overall price of construction to at least double the \$12.5 million we were seeking to repair the buildings.

In the meantime students and staff are conducting business in the same environment as four years ago when we agreed that the life of the buildings had gone past the expiration date. As a precaution the administration has crafted a plan to conduct double sessions at two schools should the aging infrastructure fail. This does not mean in any way that the schools are not safe, it is just a way for us to be prepared while all of this gets sorted out.

We have a Superintendent's Advisory Committee that met all last year to discuss innovative programming and future opportunities for students and families. Last June we launched a survey that is on the website to gather data about the community's knowledge of what we currently have and their ideas on what we could develop. Members of the committee will be out at school and community events this month to ask you to complete the survey. Would you be so kind to take a few moments and help us out by completing a survey?

The School Board has developed a plan to work with a consultant and the community to gather data and complete a long range plan. This Strategic Planning project will help us facilitate the direction and content of our work over the next decade. If you would like to participate please check in with Assistant Superintendent Pender Makin on timelines and meeting schedules.

This year at Region Ten Technical High School the Cooperative Board and the staff will be participating in the possible development of a full day comprehensive program or collaboration in the Mt. Ararat Building project. Research is currently being completed on the legalities and framework for possible changes.

Every new year gives all of us the opportunity to start with a clean slate. It is my hope that the new school year fills our open slate with creative and positive additions to the School Department. It is my privilege to welcome you and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Paul K. Perzanoski

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Superintendent