

To: School Committee
From: Michael Sullivan, Superintendent
Date: August 7, 2016

Re: Report for School Committee meeting of August 9, 2016

1. My main focus last week was the administrative team's retreat of August 3-5. Our full team met for three highly productive days reviewing our work from last year and planning for the year ahead. Attached is the agenda outline we followed. We are looking forward to the year ahead!

2. One decision arrived at during the admin retreat was to "fine-tune" the district strategy for 2016-17. As you know, the strategic plan was intended to cover a three year period ending at the conclusion of the upcoming school year. The strategic plan is the district's and not the admin team's, so it is not our place to change it alone and we anticipate conducting a review and development of a new strategy for future years beginning in the months ahead. However, the admin team does feel that after two years of operating under the current strategy, the strategy needs some updating and new life breathed into it. Some initiatives have been successfully accomplished and some new work with a different focus has risen to the surface which we consider to be a high priority.

The draft strategy retains five major objectives, three of which retain the same focus; Readiness to Learn, Educator Learning, and Community Engagement. We decided to replace Critical Literacy and Performance-based Assessment with Elementary Literacy Skills and Higher Order Thinking. This simplifies the language and intent of this public document and reflects the progress made at the secondary level as we move from re-aligning curricula to focusing on the execution of higher order thinking tasks and assessments. The admin team members would welcome the opportunity to discuss this strategic plan draft with the school committee and work together on aligning the plan with any new goals and ideas of the committee.