

To: School Committee
From: Michael Sullivan, Superintendent of Schools
Date: July 24, 2016
Re: Report for School Committee meeting of July 26, 2016

1. Athletic Director, Adam Graves submitted a short report about the 2015-16 school year in terms of athletics which is attached.
2. Hiring for the fall has gone very well. We have been fortunate in having found many highly qualified educators with significant experience and distinguished records. Attached is a list of the new hires to date. We are still in the process of selecting a middle and high school assistant principal and a Sheffield Assistant Principal.
3. In addition to meeting with new hires I have spent time since our last meeting finishing administrator annual evaluations, working on plans for the admin team administrative retreat of August 3-5, updating the staff handbook, and getting caught up on other managerial and compliance tasks.
4. The main focus of the superintendents' summer conference two weeks ago was addressing student social and emotional learning needs. Based upon some the things I learned at the conference and some of my prior work in this area I have been working on two document that provides a general framework of what social and emotional learning entails. Attached is a draft template document and a draft set of terms/definitions that I will be revising in the next couple of weeks with input from colleagues and the admin team. If you would like to hear more about this or social and emotional learning in the days ahead I would be happy to find some appropriate resources for the committee.
5. At one of the sessions I attended on this topic a book was highly recommended entitled *Culturally Responsive Teaching and The Brain*. The administrative team will be reading and discussing this text at our administrative retreat next week. It provides an excellent analysis of how the goals of teaching all students in an engaging manner and helping them learn critical thinking skills can be addressed through methods that take into account students' cultural backgrounds and builds upon our increased understanding of neuroscience and its impact on learning in schools. That's a tall order but I think it will help us clarify and align some of our goals for the upcoming year.
6. A separate agenda item for this meeting is consideration of a committee resolution regarding limiting the growth of charter schools in the state. I asked area superintendents if their school committees had taken up this matter and heard back from 14 colleagues. Nine report that their committee's plan to take up this matter within the next month. Five reported that their committee's have passed the resolution and one reported that their committee will not be considering this matter. Attached is the resolution as passed in Andover.

