



Together, we inspire
and challenge all
learners to realize their
unique potential and
become active
contributors to their
community

Office of the Superintendent
Kirk Downing, Superintendent
Laura Friend, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Superintendent's Report to the NRSD School Committee May 24, 2023

Announcements:

Next year we are making some adjustments at Florence Sawyer School in Bolton regarding programing and leadership. On April 7, 2023, Principal Bates sent the following message to the Florence Sawyer Community.

Dear Families,

I'm writing today with some exciting news about Florence Sawyer School and our approach to working with your children in the coming school year!

This summer, we will be moving our third and fourth-grade classes to the first floor of the Sawyer wing while moving our kindergarten and first-grade classes to the Emerson wing, joining our preschool program. Our youngest students will begin their experience in our school community at the Emerson wing for preschool through grade 1. Students entering grade 2 will transition to the Sawyer wing, where they will continue for the duration of their FSS career. I believe that this new configuration is in our students' best academic and social-emotional interests while preserving the PK-8 model that our community values. The Emerson early childhood wing of the Florence Sawyer School will be a nurturing, self-contained environment where our students can learn and grow together in their critically important first years of schooling.

As you may know, our Superintendent Kirk Downing and our Nashoba Regional School Committee have supported the inclusion of a dean of students position for our school and the other NRSD middle schools. The dean will play a proactive role in building relationships with students and staff, seeking ways to develop and sustain a climate of equity, inclusion, and mutual respect between and among the students and adults in the school.

Recognizing the criticality of this position, I have asked our Assistant Principal, Dr. Mark Levine, to take on this important work. Over the past four years, Dr. Levine has built strong relationships with students using an approach that is strengths-based and focused on individual growth-producing feedback. These existing relationships, along with Dr. Levine's commitment to developing and sustaining a positive school climate, make him ideally suited for this position.

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With Dr. Levine taking on the dean of students role, we have the ability to hire a new assistant principal. We will focus our search for an assistant principal with an extensive background and demonstrated success in early childhood education, development, and early literacy and numeracy.

As we work toward realizing our school goals and our role in achieving the NRSD strategic plan and "Competencies of a Nashoba Graduate," I believe that these moves will strengthen our work with all of our students, and our youngest learners, in particular.

I welcome the opportunity to hear from you and discuss these changes further if you have any questions.

Yours in partnership,

Joel Bates

Since that time, Assistant Principal, Kaitlyn Angulo, has accepted a position in another school system. With Mr. Levine moving into the role of Dean of Students at FSS, the school is currently searching for two assistant principals. One of the assistant principals will have an early childhood emphasis to serve the needs of our youngest students and the other assistant principal will have an intermediate and middle school focus. Together with Mr. Bates, and Mr. Levine will have an outstanding team to serve the students of Bolton.

Updates on Strategic Work

Topic: NRSD Front-Facing Curriculum Guides

Strategic Objective #2: Support and inspire all learners through improving and implementing clearly aligned and articulated curricula, equitable innovative instructional and assessment practices, and shared leadership
Strategic Initiative #1: Engage in an audit of district-wide curriculum and conduct a curriculum revision cycle

A component of our curriculum alignment and mapping efforts this year have included the development of front-facing curriculum guides. These curriculum guides provide a high level overview and framework of learning by content area and grade level. Curriculum guides serve as a complement to our district curriculum maps and include course descriptions, transfer goals, units, essential questions, and the intentional integration of learner competencies by discipline and grade/grade span. It is our hope that our families will find these front-facing curriculum guides helpful in understanding the scope of their child's learning within a given year.

NRSD Front-Facing Curriculum Guides were completed by our faculty in coordination with Teaching and Learning. In alignment with our district curriculum work this year, curriculum guides were completed for Grades 6-12 (core content areas); Grades K-12 (related arts); and Grades K-5 (math). Next year, curriculum guides will be developed for elementary core content areas as well as identified high school elective offerings. As we close out this school year, we will continue to revise and edit our curriculum guides so they are ready for final public viewing in the fall. The guides will be published on a front-facing page on our new district website before the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

[NRSD Front-Facing Curriculum Guides](#)

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