

Charting the Course: Navigating Challenges, Celebrating Successes

As we welcome the new calendar year and conclude the month of January, I wanted to share with you some updates and information, as well as some of the challenges and opportunities that the new year brings.

In recent months, we've been diligently working on various aspects of our operations, particularly engaging in crucial budget discussions. While we are certainly focused on making well-informed decisions that will positively impact our district, these discussions include addressing the unavoidable reality of necessary reductions. While not an easy task, we are committed to navigating these challenges transparently and fairly, considering the potential implications on our staff, students, and programs.



Our timeline for the upcoming months involves laying the groundwork for thoughtful decision-making in the pre-planning stages. Within the next few weeks, we will start to communicate more detailed information on our budget situation for the 24-25 school year. This includes school visits to share budget-related information with staff and to communicate necessary actions related to budget planning. I want to acknowledge the resilience and dedication demonstrated by our staff during the challenging times we faced last year. This year, we anticipate even greater challenges, but I have full confidence in our collective ability to navigate through them.



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In lighter news, this month, I had the pleasure of spending a morning in our preschool, reflecting on the power of play as a learning tool. It made me consider ways to retain this excitement around learning and discovery as our students get older. We all spent our early formative years engaging in various forms of play that led to learning in all sorts of skill areas - language, critical thinking, problem-solving, how to work with others. In the preschool class, we see all of these skills being developed each and every day.



I also had the opportunity to attend a Unified Tiger basketball game. The power of inclusion is on full display at both our Unified athletics program and through our Head Start partnership in the preschool.

I would like to send a special thank you this month to our amazing transportation department, bus drivers, and maintenance department. In a month filled with inclement weather, including ice and snow, these dedicated staff members and drivers were up early in the cold and the dark making sure that our kids got to school safely. We are very grateful for the commitment and care that they show our students each day.

The Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee met again this month. These meetings are wonderful opportunities to connect with our key stakeholders and get feedback on important aspects of our school district. I really value their perspectives and insights. B-EHS also held another Financial Aid Information Night for seniors. This is the time of year when our seniors are actively seeking scholarships and other financial resources to help them realize their postsecondary goals. For more information on these resources, visit <https://sites.google.com/be.wednet.edu/b-ehsscholarship/>.

This month is School Board Appreciation Month. We are grateful for our board members' dedication and service to our District.

Please stay safe and warm!

Best regards,

Chris Pearson
Dr. Chris Pearson, Superintendent

