

School Board Newsletter June 3, 2016

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By Wendy
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June 8,
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common sense **DISTRICT**

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School Board News
June 3, 2016

What's on the agenda?

Our June 14 business meeting will feature a celebration of retiring staff. This is a special time to honor the impact and legacy of our retirees. Another highlight will be legislative

sentiments for students, which are given in recognition of various student achievements, sponsored and presented by Senator Rebecca Millett and Representative Kim Monaghan-Derrig.

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Policy Update

This week we've heard a lot from our community about policy KCE (Receiving Education Foundation Funds), so we'd like take this opportunity to give you a little history and clear up some misinformation.

- Policy KCE is not new—it was passed by the board ten years ago.
 - Five years ago, the School Board began a complete policy manual audit to carefully review each policy, sometimes with legal counsel, in order to determine the policy's current relevance to our district—some policies were left as is, some were amended to meet new requirements, and some were deleted altogether. The committee is just now nearing the end of the manual where policy KCE resides.
 - No changes to KCE have been approved. For a policy (or a policy change) to go into effect, it must be read by the board at a business meeting -- twice -- then approved by vote. While there was a "first reading" at the May School Board meeting, no final vote on policy KCE has been taken, nor is it yet scheduled to be taken. We recognize significant work remains to be done to reflect concerns from both the district and the granting organizations.
 - Based on advice of legal counsel, we learned our policy regarding school board receipt of gifts is currently out of compliance with state law. It has been determined, therefore, that **the policy committee meeting scheduled for Monday June 6 at 7:30am will be postponed until a date to be announced in July.** At that time our Interim Superintendent, Howard Colter, will join the conversation.
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From the Finance Chair

The FY 2017 School Budget was built with thoughtful planning for both the immediate and long-term needs of our schools and in support of the district's vision, mission, and values for education. Presented with a roughly \$800,00.00 reduction in state funding, reductions and tough decisions had to be made. This is essentially a maintenance budget that seeks to provide students with access to high quality programs, maintain high-caliber staff, and thus preserve the district's reputation for excellence.

The School Budget referendum is on **June 14th**. Absentee voting is available now, and will continue **through June 9** at Town Hall, 320 Ocean House Road, during business hours Mondays 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

On Tuesday June 14, polls will be open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. at the Cape Elizabeth High School gym.

Voters will be asked to validate the \$24.3 million school budget approved by the Town Council for 2016-17.

Details about the adopted school budget are available on the [school department website](#)

..... Superintendent
Update

Please welcome Howard Colter as our Interim Superintendent for the 2016-2017 school year. The School Board officially appointed Mr. Colter at a May 31 special business meeting. After that meeting he had the chance to get to know some of our administrators and our education association president. Howard will officially start work in here on July 1, but will be in the district a few days during June to start the transition. He brings with him a wealth of experience and broad perspective. Howard is also an avid outdoorsman, so Cape Elizabeth, town and schools, is a perfect fit for him. He would like parents and staff to know that he is eager to meet with individuals and small groups right off the bat. He wants to know what people are thinking and hoping for this coming school year. Howard will be posting dates and times that he is available for people to drop in, but also welcomes people scheduling meetings with him through school department office.