

2014-2015 Opening of School Update

Assistant Superintendent for Administration: Andrew Morrow

The summer months were busy across the school system. The following summary reflects activities in the areas of buildings and grounds, summer school, information technology, transportation, and student enrollment.

Plant and Facilities Services

The summer months were extremely active with a number of capital improvement projects, smaller improvement projects, and routine maintenance and cleaning.

Capital and smaller improvement projects undertaken this summer included:

Aiken Elementary School

- Replaced hot water heater
- Improved storage areas for custodian and PTO
- Upgraded air conditioning systems for Pre-K rooms

Braeburn Elementary School

- Replaced kindergarten playground equipment
- Classroom improvements to accommodate pre-K program

Bugbee Elementary School

- Conversion of former locker room space into classroom, including 52 lockers
- Painted 10 classrooms
- Repaired masonry exterior and interior stairs
- Repaired sidewalk and entrance driveway
- Replaced parking and traffic signs to improve student drop off and pick-up
- Conversion of storage space into 2 new offices

Conard High School

- Building wide accessibility improvements for classrooms, restrooms and exterior parking and interior/exterior walkways

Duffy Elementary School

- Painted lobby and 9 classrooms
- Repaired modular classroom exterior

Hall High School

- Renovated 6 restrooms
- Painted 6 classrooms
- Relocated graphics computer lab
- Repaired modular classroom exterior

**Agenda Item:
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King Philip Middle School

- Reconstructed north parking lot and with improved accessible parking and building access
- Repaired modular classroom exterior and interior
- Replaced hot water heater

Morley Elementary School

- Replaced flooring and painted main office
- Replaced kindergarten playground in cooperative project with Morley PTO

Norfeldt Elementary School

- Replaced flooring in 13 classrooms and adjacent hallway areas
- Repaired modular classroom exterior

Smith STEM School

- Replaced carpet with hard surfaced flooring in 7 classrooms and adjacent hallways

Webster Hill Elementary School

- Replaced carpet with hard surfaced flooring in 9 classrooms and adjacent hallways

Whiting Lane Elementary School

- Replaced carpet with hard surfaced flooring in 11 classrooms and adjacent hallways
- Replaced parking and traffic signs to improve student drop off and pick-up

In addition to the projects listed, additional routine maintenance and cleaning work was completed including:

- Painted parking lots, playgrounds, classrooms, hallways, etc. throughout the school district
- Refinished 9 wood gym floors
- All buildings received a thorough cleaning of all spaces and inspection of life safety and emergency systems.
- Implemented the new card access system at all of our school buildings.

Continuing Education Summer Programs Report 2014

Summer High School

The program was held at Sedgwick Middle School and enrolled 713 students this summer. The total number of course enrollments for both semesters was 1046. Students from 28 area towns enrolled in 36 different courses taught by a certified faculty of 59 teachers, 50% of whom are from the West Hartford schools. Seventy-one percent of the students took courses to “get ahead” in their scheduled program, while 18% took courses to remediate low or failing grades. Eleven percent enrolled in non-credit courses such as Study Skills, Intensive Reading, Introduction to Algebra, SAT Prep and ESOL classes. Enrollment continues to decline in remedial English classes, while classes in social studies, health and physical education remain strong. New classes in Anatomy & Physiology Animation/Game Design and Photography/Graphics were added this year to provide students with

Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities. These courses were opened to middle school students in an effort to provide them with early college and career pathways and exploratory opportunities.

Summer Pre-Grade One Program

Programs were available for children ages 3 to 6 in school readiness classes held at Aiken School and 90 students took advantage of these offerings, 74 of whom were students with special education needs.

Continuing Education – Adult Enrichment

In the Life Learn enrichment program, 73 courses and 39 bus trips were offered. Over 500 registrants took advantage of the courses housed at Sedgwick Middle School in the evenings and of the trips to areas and events of interest.

Adult Education – High School Diploma Program

While there are no classes held in the mandated adult education program during the summer, the advisors in the National External Diploma Program (NEDP) continued to meet with about 21 students seeking to complete that course of study over the summer. The graduation ceremony for students finishing the NEDP during the past year will be held on Wednesday, November 12, in the Town Hall Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

Information Technology – Summer 2014 Projects

- Deployed 1,456 new devices. This includes 310 new iPads, 511 new Chromebooks and 635 new traditional computers for instruction.
- Established a pilot program at both high school libraries to help address the digital divide; students will be able to sign out a laptop with integrated 4G data service for take home purposes.
- Launched a new website for all schools with additional functionality that will enable parents to subscribe to news feeds, calendar events and more; the new site uses responsive design, making it mobile device friendly.
- Successfully deployed 1,522 new VoIP phones to all 16 schools; the school district now uses the Town's existing VoIP infrastructure.
- Deployed approximately 75 new copiers throughout the school district.
- Relocated the school district's internet service from Town Hall to the West Hartford Data Center which will further increase our network reliability by taking advantage of real time generator power.
- Implemented "Helpdesk Direct", a new method for staff to submit tickets to Helpdesk online.
- Changed antivirus vendors from Kaspersky to Microsoft Endpoint in order to leverage an existing contract which will save the district \$15,000 annually.
- Assisted Plant Services with the launch of a new card access system for all schools.
- Upgraded and relocated PowerSchool to the West Hartford Data Center using all new servers.

- Continued the implementation of Performance PLUS, a new assessment and curriculum management system that will enable teachers to progress monitor formative, interim and summative assessments.
- Utilized extra help from summer interns from the high school, an extension of the IT work study program we implemented last school year.

Transportation

During the 2014-2015 school year, we expect to transport approximately 5,500 students on 94 buses with 228 runs.

- First Student is located at 7A Andover Drive West Hartford and their telephone number is 860-953-2030. Contract Manager is Anthony Pacheco who is new this school year.
- Fleet has the following equipment:
 - Digital video/audio monitoring system
 - Child Check system - each bus is equipped so that the driver must walk to the back of the bus and engage a switch indicating they have walked to the rear of the bus, while checking for students. If a driver gets off the bus without activating the switch, an alarm will sound.
 - Global Positioning System
 - Each minibus has 6 positions each of permanently installed 5-point integrated car seats.

Buses were available at all of our elementary schools for the “kindergarten practice run” which took place on Monday, August 11, 2014 at 9:00. The program is voluntary and the new kindergarten student attends with a parent or other adult with them. The purpose of the program is to allow a kindergarten student the experience of boarding a bus, the seating situation, the feel of the ride as well as the noises created by the bus.

First Student held their fall orientation and start up meeting on August 12th at Duffy School. Drivers practiced their routes for the start up of school the week of August 18, 2014 and ran a regular schedule to ensure the runs were set for the first school day, Wednesday, August 27.

We continue to work with all interested parties to do whatever we can to maintain the timeliness of the buses with all local construction.

Residency

As of August 27, 2014, the Residency Office has enrolled over 1,083 new students since the start of 2014. Included in this number are 444 new kindergarten students who will be entering the West Hartford Public Schools this year. The office has also completed fingerprinting and background checks of all new hires. We continue to work diligently to verify addresses of all students attending the West Hartford Public Schools.

