

The Mission of the Brookfield Public Schools

To inspire, challenge and prepare all students to live
meaningful and productive lives.

Every student is empowered to become a critical thinker, problem-solver, effective communicator, global citizen, and life-long learner through rigorous, relevant and comprehensive educational experiences, expansive student opportunities, and active community involvement.

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Anthony J. Bivona, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: November 6, 2013

RE: Priority Areas of Focus 2014-2015 Operating Budget

As we begin the development of the 2014-2015 Brookfield Public Schools Operating Budget, we must remain focused on our students' needs to ensure that essential resources are acquired to improve upon their achievement. Additionally, we must ensure that all students receive and meet the National Common Core State Standards adopted by the Connecticut State Department of Education. Moreover, it is critical that our students attain the 21st Century skills necessary to prepare them for a highly competitive post secondary world of higher education and employment.

In an effort to continue academic excellence in the Brookfield Public Schools, the following areas of focus were articulated by the Board of Education during their October 16, 2013, meeting: continue World Language program into Huckleberry Hill Elementary School; establish a Whisconier Middle School Language Lab; establish a third World Language course at Brookfield High School and Whisconier Middle School; hire K-12 World Language Curriculum Specialist; adhere to class size guidelines; hire Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator; fund counselor visits to institutions outside New England; support professional development initiatives; continue tablet initiative with incoming freshmen classes and technology in earlier grades; hire Maintenance Mechanic; complete prioritized capital/maintenance projects; and re-allocate funds when warranted to address changing student needs.

To this end, the following commitments are recommended by the Board of Education and the administration as priority areas for the 2014-2015 operating budget for the Brookfield Public Schools:

1. Further develop World Language program at Huckleberry and implement third World Language at both Whisconier and BHS.

- a) Establish a Whisconier Middle School Language Lab
- b) Hire a K-12 World Language Curriculum Specialist

2. Adhere to class size guidelines to ensure that individual student needs are met.

3. Hire Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator.

- a) Explore funding for baseline impact testing for athlete concussions
- b) Replace uniforms

4. Fund high school counselor visits to institutions outside New England.

5. Implement professional development activities to support changes in the curriculum based on the Common Core State Standards and new Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plan. Continue to provide support for data teams to analyze student data and base instructional decisions on such data, and enhance the work of our professional learning communities.

6. Support the district's Technology Plan and tablet initiative to improve instructional practices and to enhance organizational and operational efficiencies.

7. Complete capital budget projects as determined by the Business and Facilities Sub-Committee necessary to ensure that our buildings are efficiently maintained to provide students, staff, and community with safe and optimal learning environments. Specifically determine Brookfield High School auditorium upgrades, refinish high school gymnasium flooring, and determine removal schedule for portable classrooms at Whisconier Middle and Huckleberry Hill Elementary Schools. Continue the implementation of the district's security plan to ensure a safe and secure environment for students and staff.

- a) Hire Maintenance Mechanic

In closing, we have dedicated group of faculty, staff, and administrators, as well as a Board of Education and parents who are committed to increasing student achievement. Let us continue to work together with the Brookfield community to meet our pledge to our students through providing a budget that provides the resources necessary to fulfill our mission "To inspire, challenge and prepare all students to live meaningful and productive lives". Our students deserve this commitment.