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August 18, 2023

Dear Milton Public Schools Staff,

It is with great excitement that I write this note to all of you as we begin to prepare for the academic year 2023-2024 and I begin my tenure as your superintendent! I hope that everyone had the opportunity over the summer to spend quality time with family and friends, and to catch up on the many activities that don't fit within the school year. Whether you traveled to Maine, Marrakesh, or Milton, I hope you return renewed and ready for the work ahead.

In addition, I hope you had the opportunity to reflect on your work, on the meaning and significance of it in the lives of the students we serve. It takes great energy to be an educator. Teaching and supporting students is the noblest profession, in every job in our organization, and one that requires whole-hearted effort. Thank you for the work you do throughout the year to give our students the opportunities to excel in their lives.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank all of you for such an incredibly welcoming entry to MPS. I feel so fortunate to work with such a committed and dedicated group of educators, and I write that with very real and palpable experience. Over the last 6 months, as I've made the transition here, I have been increasingly moved by what I witness in every interaction I've had with staff, students, parents, and community. You all are here and present for students, and it shows in so many wonderful ways.

This year's Opening Day events on Monday, August 28th are designed to ground us all in a vision of what's ahead this year and to provide time for us to build community and celebrate the start of the year. All staff will arrive at Milton High School's Charles Winchester Auditorium at 8:00. Coffee and pastries will be served in the lobby so you have time to catch up with your colleagues. At 8:30 we will meet in the auditorium, where I will share some remarks, and you will hear from MEA President Brendan Bonn, Milton School Committee Chair Dr. Elizabeth Carroll and be introduced to new staff members by Dr. Garth McKinney and MPS principals.

Following our time in the auditorium, Milton High School's Marching Band will lead us to the back field by the Copeland Field House where some special events have been planned for you to kick off the new year. Since we will be having activities and outside visitors, it is strongly suggested that you meet at your individual school and carpool with friends to Milton High School. We have to give up several parking spaces in the back parking area, so parking will be limited.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

The Milton Public School system does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, gender identity, transgender status, gender transitioning, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, pregnancy/parenting status, marital status, sexual orientation, homelessness, or military status, in any of its programs, activities or operations. These include, but are not limited to, admissions, equal access to programs and activities, hiring and firing of staff, provision of and access to programs and services, as well as selection of volunteers, vendors and employers recruiting at the Milton Public Schools. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, students, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Garth McKinney, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Human, 617-696-4812

Our outside activities will end at noon, and you will have time to grab lunch before heading to your individual school where your principal and/or supervisor will have professional development opportunities ready for you. Some food will also be available outside of Copeland Field House.

Welcome back, and have a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Peter Burrows, D.Ed. Superintendent of Schools

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