



MR. GILBERT'S PARENT UPDATE



Superintendent of Schools
Woodbridge School District

woodbridge.k12.ct.us

August 28, 2017

Dear Beecher Road School Families,

It is a pleasure to welcome *everyone* – students, families, faculty and staff – back to Beecher Road School as we begin the 2017-18 school year. We trust that you had a safe and fun-filled summer and that you are ready for new adventures in learning. Of course, many of our students never left for the summer. That's because BRS was the summer destination for so many of our students in a variety of programs including: *Summer Scholars, Special Education, Summer Enrichment, Extended Day and Recreation.*

In this Update, you will see some pictures from these highly successful summer programs, pictures and information on our new faculty members, and information about upcoming events. Finally, please acquaint yourself with the members of the Woodbridge Board of Education, whose pictures and bios can be found on the reverse side.

And I ask you to take special note (below) of our new Mission Statement (who we are now) and Vision Statement (where are we headed). These were carefully crafted by a committee of parents, BOE, faculty and staff this past spring. We also appreciate the many parents who provided input, suggestions and reflections on earlier drafts of these statements. Your feedback was very helpful.

These statements will guide our work as we move forward with our new 3-year Strategic Plan which includes initiatives in project based learning, school wide enrichment, professional learning communities, community/diversity and more.

On behalf of the entire Beecher Faculty and Staff - Have a GREAT school year!

Mission

Beecher Road School is a caring, creative community that models and inspires the joy of lifelong learning, embraces diversity, and celebrates the unique qualities of each person.

Vision

To provide a dynamic educational environment that challenges and empowers students to persevere as innovators and collaborators in preparation for their role as responsible global citizens.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- PTO Ice Cream Social - North Playground - Aug 30, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Open House Nights: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. - cafeteria
 - August 31 - PreK, K, 1 and 2
 - Sept 5 - Grades 3 and 4 and MAG
 - Sept 12 - Grades 5 and 6
- Board of Ed Meeting - Sept 18, 7 p.m.

Three New Teachers Join BRS Staff

Please help us welcome these teachers to the BRS team.

Meghan Saunders is our newest Special Education Resource teacher. She comes to us from Amistad Academy in New Haven.



Aimee Meacham, well known to the BRS community through PTO, and mother of two children at BRS, is now teaching third grade. Ms. Meacham previously taught in California and New York.



Jeanne Ciarleglio is a well-known BRS staff member. Formerly a teacher assistant in Ms. Chick's kindergarten class, Ms. Ciarleglio is now a Technology teacher.



Hundreds attend BRS Summer Enrichment Program

(SEP) includes dozens of interesting educational choices. This summer *For Birds* was one. Students made birdhouses to hang in the school's courtyard and also weeded and cleaned up the area. At left, a few of the students and teacher with their aviary dwellings. *Restaurant Week* is another very popular offering in SEP. All week young chefs learn about cooking techniques, using healthy local ingredients, and proper meal presentation that culminates in a luncheon attended by lucky VIP adults. Yum.



Restaurant Week's culminating meal about to be enjoyed by a few lucky BRS staff.



Get To Know Your Woodbridge Board of Education

Margaret Hamilton
Chair



Margaret Hamilton has served on the WBOE since 2010, is currently the Chair, and has held that position since 2011. Margaret has been an active member of the BRS community, as a member

of the BRS PTO from 2007 and served as PTO president from 2009 through 2012. Her daughter attended BRS from 2006 through 2013 and is now a junior at Amity High School. Margaret is a native of Wisconsin. She earned her BBA from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In addition to her responsibilities as Board of Education Chair, Margaret is ex-officio of all committees and actively serves on the Curriculum, Facilities, Finance and Policy committees.

Nancy Maasbach
Vice-Chair



Nancy Maasbach has been a Board member since 2016 and elected Vice Chair in 2017. She has called Woodbridge home since 1999. She is the President of the *Museum of Chinese in America*,

has over 12 years experience in non-profit management and policy work at the *Council on Foreign Relations* and the *Yale-China Association* and over 10 years in finance at *Goldman Sachs & Co.* and the *Center for Finance and Research Analysis*. She is a member of the *Council on Foreign Relations* and a board member of New Haven's *International Festival of Arts & Ideas*. Her MBA is from the Yale School of Management and her AB is in diplomacy and world affairs from Occidental College. Nancy chairs the Policy committee and serves on the Finance and Curriculum Committee.

Maegan Genovese
Secretary



Maegan has a child in the MAG program and one at WCSU. She earned a BA in Psychology from WCSU and an MS in Research, Statistics, and Measurement in the Behavioral

Sciences from SCSU. She has been a town resident since 2013 and is a professional data manager and analyst with over 13 years' experience in research initiatives covering child welfare, behavioral health, juvenile justice, health, social services and education. Maegan is employed at The *Consultation Center* at Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Division of Prevention & Community Research. She was elected Board Secretary July 2017.

Steven Fleischman, M.D.



In Woodbridge since 2004 with four children, three at Amity, one at BRS. Dr. Fleischman is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Albany Medical College and Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Fleischman

serves as President of the Board of Directors for *B'nai Jacob*, as well as the Board of Directors for the *Connecticut State Medical Society* and the *New Haven County Medical Association*. Is currently the Associate Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Yale New Haven Hospital. He has been a member of the WBOE since 2009, Vice-Chair until 2017, and Chair of the Finance Committee.

Garett Luciani



Garett is a lifelong 4th generation Woodbridge resident, elected to the Woodbridge Board of Education in 2015. He is a VP, Market Manager at *People's United Bank*, specializing in Financial Services. He also attended BRS and has one daughter that currently attends Beecher and one daughter that graduated from Beecher in 2016. Garett is a graduate of Amity Regional High School and Quinnipiac University. He is a member of the Finance Committee.

Emily Melnick



Ms. Melnick has been a member of the Woodbridge Board of Education since 2013 when she was appointed to fill a vacancy. She serves on the Policy Committee. Ms. Melnick is an Evaluation Consultant at The *Consultation Center* at Yale. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.

Lynn Piascyk



After retiring from BRS in 2013, Ms. Piascyk was elected to the WBOE in 2015, chairs the Curriculum Committee, serves on the Facilities Committee and is the BOE Liaison to the Safety and Security Committee. A town resident since 1964, she is a graduate of BRS and Amity High School. During her 36-year tenure as a Grade 1 teacher, she was the 1993 Woodbridge Teacher of the Year. Lynn holds a BS, MS, and Sixth Year Degree of Advanced Study as a Teacher Specialist. She is also a Justice of the Peace.

Paul Testa



Paul, a lifelong resident of Woodbridge, attended BRS and Amity and has two children at BRS. His BS, magna cum laude, is from Quinnipiac University and his JD, magna cum laude, is from Quinnipiac University School of Law. Paul is an Employment and Labor Law Associate at the law firm of *Little Mendelson, P.C.* in New Haven. Member of the Connecticut, Florida and Massachusetts bars, the U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut and U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the *Beth-Wood Baseball League* and has also served as a team manager for the past 5 years. Paul is a member of the Facilities Committee.

John Vultee



A resident since 2009, John currently has two children in BRS and is the owner of Stratford-based *Vultee Construction Corporation*, which was founded by his father in 1984. John earned a BS in Fisheries Science and Technology from URI. He was a former fisherman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and is currently a member of the *Housatonic Boat Club* as well as the *Off Soundings Club*. John is chair of the Facilities committee.