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meeting, which occurred at the same time as the North Brookfield School Committee's meeting, its members voted against approval of the draft, which would prevent the agreement from reaching any town meeting votes and progressing toward Quaboag becoming a three-town regional school district.

Recognition

Superintendent Timothy McCormick recognized senior Anthony Polanco for his achievements as a student and role model.

McCormick said he recognizes one student from the senior class each year who has exemplified academic excellent but also leadership in the school community. The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents honors such students across central Massachusetts at a luncheon held at Holy Cross.

"This year we have a senior who... has gone above and beyond what we expect of any senior to do both in terms of the classroom but also in respects to leadership," he said. "We always want to instill in our students, especially our outgoing seniors, to leave the school better than the way you found it. I think this student really exemplifies that."

McCormick said Polanco is president of the National Honor Society, class president, treasurer of the Student Council and part of the Boston Celtics' Playbook Initiative as a student leader.

Polanco was also part of the Mass IDEAS (Initiatives for Developing Equity & Achievement for Students) training, working with students and being a student leader.

He is a member of the varsity basketball team, team manager of the softball team and a Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association ambassador.

"He did all that and he's also the top five in his class academically," McCormick said.

McCormick also recognized the North Brookfield Elementary School PTO, Jess Wisniewski and the Student Council for organizing a pancake breakfast for veterans to recognize

Veterans Day.

"We had over 35 veterans this year who were in attendance," he said.

The names and branches of the veterans were read, and students performed songs and gave them cards. McCormick said this has been a well-loved event for the both school and community.

Superintendent's report

McCormick said the school district's Handle with Care initiative should be in place by next month. This initiative is in partnership with the North Brookfield Police Department to notify the school of a student that may need additional support due to an incident at home.

"The police officer who is on scene will send a message with the student's name and just a simple text message of 'handle with care.' They do not get into confidential information, they don't share details. It's just to alert the school that we have a student or students that may be arriving the next day who may need extra attention or care," he said.

McCormick said the Handle with Care initiative has been adopted by 40 different states and is currently implemented at the Quabbin Regional School District and Gardner Public Schools as well as others.

McCormick said the new swings have been installed at the elementary school's playground thanks to a donation from Jamie Gilman.

He said the school district's new instructional coach, Dr. Emily O'Rourke has "hit the ground running" and has been meeting with staff.

MCAS results

McCormick shared Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System testing results from last spring. He said all students took the Next Gen version of the test, which he said has more rigorous and challenging questions than the earlier generation of the test.

"Test scores have gone down...it's a different kind of test than it was 10 years ago," he said.

Overall, the school district did not require assistance or intervention due to its MCAS scores, he said.

McCormick said English Language

Arts scores did not meet the target across the school district, which looked at results from grades three through eight and high school.

Math scores exceeded the target score for the lower grade levels, but lost points at the high school level. For math, the grade four scores actually exceeded the state average.

"This is quite an accomplishment," he said.

Low growth was reported for both math and ELA, but McCormick said the school district reduced the dropout rate and improved chronic absenteeism.

"There's some things that obviously we're going to talk about that we need to continue to address and work on, but there's some things that we made some progress with that we should be proud of, the work that we're doing in each building," he said.

McCormick highlighted some of the "glows" the school district achieved with its MCAS scores, including math showing improvement over the last four years, grade four growth and achievement in math, as well as grade six growth and achievement in ELA. He said when compared to other comparable school districts, North Brookfield's math scores fall into the middle.

Areas where improvement is needed include grade eight students for both math and ELA, as these students did not earn a meeting or exceeding expectations ratings. McCormick said they will target these areas through math interventions, implementing district-wide research based writing methods and strategies, evaluating the science curriculum, and more.

"District wide, very few students scored an 'exceeding expectations' rating," he said.

McCormick said they will continue to support teachers for long term success as well as build up students' reading stamina.

Administrators' reports

High School Principal John Diorio said a group of students participated in the Mass Makers STEM Conference with STEM teacher John McNeil, where they made an emergency shelter bed using cardboard and tape.

"I'm proud to say that North Brookfield High School, Mr. McNeil's team, won the competition," he said.

The Worcester County District Attorney's Office met with middle school students about bullying and cyber safety. The DA's office will continue the talk with high school students in January, and address healthy dating relationships as well.

Students in science teacher Karlee Kemp's forensics class and ELA teacher Heather Macpherson's true crime class will take a field trip to Lizzie Borden's house in Fall River.

McNeil is spearheading a toy drive called Operation Holiday Cheer, which first started in Sturbridge four years ago. The toy drive will be held on the same day as the Christmas in North Brookfield event and will feature a ruck from the high school to the police station, where the toys will be distributed from.

He said the main mission of Operation Holiday Cheer is to "raise awareness and spread some holiday cheer."

Elementary School Principal Arthur Murphy said the school just concluded its fall food drive to fill its food pantry for the holiday season.

Murphy said staff continue to focus on behavior expectations and there has been a decrease in behavior over last year's numbers. He said they continue to celebrate student success with items in the school store, including experiences such as "principal for a day," police cruiser rides to school and more.

"It's been a huge hit with families and with the students," he said.

Student Council update

Student Council Representative Dante Giangrande said the Student Council helped out at the family conference night.

"Our goal for this night was to make it a community event where parents and families can come to meet teachers and see fun things we offer," he said.

Giangrande said the annual Giving Turkey will be held throughout November and the annual Giving Tree will be held in December. The Christmas in North Brookfield event will feature games, raffles and concessions and more and continues to be the Student Council's most popular event.

- legal notices -

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to locate poles, wires, cables, and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys, and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures, brought before it by National Grid

Monday, December 30, 2024 at 6:15 PM at the Police Department, 55 School Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

The pole location that will be considered is as follows:

Smith Hanson Road—National Grid to install 4 JO poles on Smith Hanson Road beginning at a point approximately 550 feet Northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Collins Road. Extend

pole line for new residential home.

Said hearing will begin at 6:15 PM and continue until completion, and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 166.

Jason M Petraitis, Chairman
E. Brooke Canada
Vaughn Schlegel

12/13, 12/20/2024

Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 19 at Noon for Publication Dec. 23-27

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 27 at Noon for Publication Dec. 30-Jan. 3

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