

2017-2018 Opening of School Updates

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, information technology, and transportation.

Plant and Facilities Services

The summer months were 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

- Gym floor refinished
- New transformer and electrical service installed

Braeburn Elementary School

- Flooring replacement and painting of 9 classrooms and administrative areas
- Relocated and improved kindergarten playground

Bugbee Elementary School

- Front entry stairs repaired

Conard High School

- Repairs made to metal exterior siding and painted
- Main gym floor refinished
- Stadium turf replaced
- Pavement repairs made to bus entry driveway

Duffy Elementary School

- South parking lot, bus loop and adjacent sidewalks reconstructed

Hall High School

- Walking path from athletic field to neighborhood elevated and paved
- Running track resurfaced and restriped

King Philip Middle School

- 7/8th grade gym refinished
- Flooring replacement in Guidance offices
- Painting of lower level hallways

**Agenda Item:
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Morley Elementary School

- Roof replacement over Library/Media Center and main building

Sedgwick Middle School

- Main office relocation to lower level and security improvements (completion scheduled for October)
- Painted cafeteria and added sound attenuation system
- Repaired parking lot curbing repairs and parking lot

Wolcott Elementary School

- Repairs made to building electrical service

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

- Painted parking lots and playgrounds, throughout the school district
- All buildings received a thorough cleaning of all spaces and inspection and repair of life safety and emergency systems.

Information Technology 2017

- Replaced the district's wireless (Wi-Fi) system with over 900 new access points and controllers. This new system will be more reliable, will support the latest wireless protocols for faster speeds, and support more concurrent device connections.
- Deployed over **1,757** new devices as part of the ongoing strategic technology refresh program. This includes **431** new iPads, **1,087** new Chromebooks, and **239** Windows devices for teaching and learning.
- Successfully upgraded the Human Resources Information System (HRIS) to maintain compatibility with current versions of Microsoft Office.
- Consolidated Firewall interfaces and policy based roles to reduce network latency and improve the end-user experience.
- Connected the Cogswell building to our district network via a point-to-point secure connection.
- Went live with the Town's new financial management software, Microsoft Dynamics AX, for core financials.
- Assisted Plant Services and the Security Office with the implementation of the district's new IP camera system.
- Upgraded PowerSchool to latest release.

- Began phase III construction of the town-owned fiber network to each school. Last year we brought all 16 public schools onto the Town's fiber-optic network, saving the Board **\$200,000** a year in fiber lease payments that are no longer needed. Phase III will bring redundant fiber to each school using disparate paths so that a school may remain online even if one fiber path is damaged.
- Maintained **99.99%** uptime availability of the entire communications infrastructure for the past 12-month period.
- Closed over **11,843** Helpdesk tickets in the 2016-17 SY, an increase of **18.43%** over last year, with an average completion time of **5** days.

Transportation

During the 2017-2018 school year, we expect to transport approximately 5,357 students on 93 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.

The 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 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. This practice run is scheduled to familiarize new kindergarten students with the feel of riding a school bus for the first time. 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 meetings on August 8th and 9th at their yard. Drivers practiced their routes for the start-up of school the week of August 21, 2017 and ran a full regular scheduled run on Monday, August 28 to ensure the runs were set for the first school day, Wednesday, August 30.

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