BRUNSWICK SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, Staff and Community Members,

The month of March is known for its madness around college basketball but in public education it spells building next year's budget. Over the next six weeks we will be presenting information about revenue, salary, and changes in our health insurance rates. Salary and benefits make up 80% of any given school budget.

While many times the attention is on the numbers, the administrative team uses the budget process for program evaluation. We look at our data to discern how well current programs are working and whether there is any need for revision or change.

Brunswick High School completed a four-day visit from a New England Association of Schools and Colleges evaluation team last week. Based upon feedback from the committee's chairperson it was a positive experience. They will have a final report to us including recommendations and commendations by this October. The Brunswick High School staff was well prepared and we thank them for all of their hard work.

On the 24th of this month a three-person team from the State Department of Education will be meeting with us about our progress in developing policy and procedures on the proficiency diploma. Option 6 allows us until 2021 to work on and inform the community about changes to our current practice and the proficiency-based high school diploma. Information sessions will be held at the schools this spring with the dates announced in time for your participation.

The state testing window for the new state assessment starts this month. Please be on the look-out for a letter in the next week that will address the issues associated with this process. We will not start our assessments until after April vacation.

If you have not seen our survey on possible grade alignments it is on all of our websites. We are looking for feedback to help us in our discussion about facilities. If you have an opportunity, please fill one out as it's open to everyone.

I'm hopeful that most of the snow is behind us. We have one more snow day available should we get an unexpected spring storm. I do think that there will be plenty of sump pumps running as the temperatures warm up. Thank you for your patience through the weather woes, and thank you for your support of public schools.

Sincerely,
Paul K. Perzanoski
Superintendent