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Superintendent Professional Growth Updates

1 message

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To: "@SCHOOL-COMMITTEE" <school-committee@framingham.k12.ma.us>

Cc: Joanna Hastry <jhastry@framingham.k12.ma.us>, Inna London <ilonon@framingham.k12.ma.us>, Amy Bright <abright@framingham.k12.ma.us>, Tiffany Lillie <tlillie@framingham.k12.ma.us>, Amy Kane <akane@framingham.k12.ma.us>, Lincoln Lynch <llynch@framingham.k12.ma.us>, Rochelle Santos <rsantos@framingham.k12.ma.us>

Dear Committee Members:

I am pleased to announce the following updates which I hope you will agree reflect positively on the Framingham Public Schools:

Leading Now*Atlanta, GA - January 2023*

I'm honored to have been selected to participate in the national Leading Now spring 2023 Learning Cohort. "Leading Now is committed to helping superintendents navigate politically-charged environments and stay the course on their commitment to all students. This was a competitive application process [with 15-20 superintendents selected to participate]. Leading Now carefully considered cohort composition across many dimensions to maximize your learning experience and ensure every cohort member could attend the kickoff. You have been placed in Cohort 8. Your cohort kickoff will be in-person on January 25-26 in Atlanta. Learning Cohorts are the signature experience of Leading Now, an initiative to help superintendents navigate politically-charged environments and stay the course on their commitment to all students. Over the course of fifteen weeks, superintendents and system leaders will get to know one another, build trust, and engage deeply on relevant and pressing public engagement topics. Following the cohort series, participants will have full access to Leading Now's virtual hub featuring editable resources, a library of webinars, and coaching sessions with a vetted stable of strategic advisors."

RTM Business Group Spring Northeast Innovation Forum*Boston, MA - March 2023*

I have been invited to speak and engage a panel of school superintendents from across the country at the RTM Business Group Spring Northeast Innovation Forum. I had spoken at this event in Texas last year on the topic of Family & Community Engagement Strategies and have been invited this year to the conference in Boston to speak with superintendent colleagues from across the country about the Superintendent Residency model that I developed. I am excited to share the value of this effort with my colleagues on a more grand scale knowing the benefits that come with the work and the direct, positive impacts that the residency model has in building relationships with students, staff, families, and the greater school community.

Superintendent Professional Practice Goal: Portuguese Language & Brazilian Cultural Studies - Next Phase*Minas Gerais, Brazil - July 2023*

In addition to the application of my Portuguese language acquisition skills to better connect with students and families as one aspect of my Professional Practice Goal, I have detailed below proposed next steps aimed at the development of a partnership between the Framingham Public Schools and Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais.

In my role as Superintendent of the Framingham Public Schools, I work with every department within our complex public school system to serve nearly 10,000 students and their families and more than 2,000 staff members. The demographics of our community continue to shift and, more than ever, our students and families are coming from the State of Minas Gerais in Brazil. In order to better understand Brazilian culture and to seize opportunities for authentic engagement with the language, I have been working with Dr. Everton Vargas da Costa, to organize professional development for me as it relates to this Professional Practice Goal.

As I reported to the School Committee during my Mid-Year Goals Report presentation, I began formalized Portuguese language studies with Viviane Faria in September 2022. I am working with Dr. Vargas da Costa and Rotary International

to secure a short-term homestay opportunity in the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil, and continuing Portuguese language and cultural studies during the Summer of 2023 (July 5, 2023 - August 5, 2023).

In addition to the benefits that will come with language and cultural proficiency as the leader of a large public educational system striving to better connect with the students and families, this effort will mark the beginning of a more formalized relationship between the Framingham Public Schools and the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais. It is expected that a long-term formalized relationship will be developed during my residency in Brazil that creates pathways for professional staff development, cultural competence for educators and leaders who are working with students and families from Brazil, and possible teacher exchange opportunities in the years ahead. This would be Framingham's first formal, reciprocal professional affiliation in Brazil.

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Given that one of these professional opportunities is out-of-state travel and another is out-of-country travel, both of which require logistics planning, I will be asking for your vote at the January 4, 2023 School Committee meeting to support my engagement in these professional opportunities which will directly benefit the Framingham Public Schools community and me in my role as Superintendent of Schools.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and consideration of this request. I would be happy, of course, to answer any specific questions that any members may have.

Very truly yours,

Bob Tremblay

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Dr. Robert A. Tremblay

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