

GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Superintendent's Corner

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By multiple measures, the Gateway Regional School District completed a very successful school year. In June, we were pleased to share with the School Committee our successes in meeting numerous goals and objectives outlined in the district's strategic/improvement plan. This plan was new last year, was designed to be easier for our constituents to follow, included objective measures for judging progress, and will be the basis for moving forward over the next several years. In addition, this document also provided a means to measure school committee progress in multiple areas and provided a direct connection between the work of staff and school committee in supporting the district's vision ("The Gateway Regional School District will provide an exemplary education that challenges all students in an instructional setting appropriate to their needs").

The school committee reviewed the progress made on reaching their goals, the goals outlined in our strategic improvement plan, and even went as far as to have the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) administer a self-assessment with the committee. Progress on these items may be viewed on the district's website under school committee presentations. Also available on that page is an update on the middle/high school's progress on meeting our goal of educating the whole child, one of the district's ongoing goals. We will share the results of the MASC assessment results on the website when we receive a final copy but I can share that the MASC representatives who presented the overview to the committee indicated that they should consider presenting at the annual MASC conference on how to work together as a committee, set (and meet) challenging goals, and work collaboratively with town officials. Given their overall success in meeting both their own goals and supporting the work of school staff to meet the district's goals, the committee should be very pleased with their joint work for the students and communities of the Gateway District.

This year's successes are not the end, however, as the process to develop new goals and objectives for the coming year is already underway. The committee has reviewed draft goals for themselves for this school year and should be voting on those very soon. Additionally the leadership team is developing revised goals and objectives for the next school year that include some new goals, some revised objectives, and some updates to our longer term goals.

As part of this process of continual review and improvement we'll be looking at continuing the collaborative work with town officials on developing the FY 2020 budget, working with the MARS group to facilitate discussion around updating the regional agreement, updating capital and technology plans, investigating potential shared positions, and looking at future needs in terms of staffing, program enhancement, meeting student needs and how to improve our ability to prepare students for their futures.

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