



Shrewsbury Public Schools

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Community Partnerships & Well-Being

“The progress of the world will call for the best that all of us have to give.”
– Mary McLeod Bethune

June 8, 2020

Dear Members of the Shrewsbury School Committee,

The following update contains information related to work accomplished since July 1, 2019, in my role as Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships and Well-Being. I am grateful to the numerous people in our school and local communities for their support and involvement, as it relates to serving our students, staff, and families.

Background:

As you know, this new position was created “to build and sustain partnerships between the school district and families, businesses, non-profits, higher education organizations, and alumni in order to enhance opportunities for student learning experiences.” Additionally, responsibilities include obtaining partner, volunteer, and financial support to advance the district’s mission and goals, while providing opportunities to enhance the social, emotional, and physical well-being of students and staff.

I look forward to sharing highlights of the past several months at your upcoming meeting on Wednesday, June 10th. I am grateful to Mr. Kevin Mizikar, Town Manager, and Ms. Mary Simone, General Manager of AC Hotels by Marriott, members of the *Colonial Connections Advisory Board*, for joining me for the initial portion of the presentation. For your reference, I have included a record of the monetary and in-kind donations of goods and services that have been obtained since transitioning to the role on July 1, 2019.

Action Steps Completed:

Colonial Connections: Real-World Learning Beyond the Classroom

- Colonial Connections Advisory Board
 - Partnering with municipal and local government
 - Internship programming
 - Mentoring
 - Exploring early college programming and careers following high school

Sharing Life Stories and Empowering Learners

- [Our Students, Our Legacy](#) program at the start of the school year
- [SHS Alumni and Student Mentoring Program](#)
- Supporting the work of educators
 - Securing resources and donations to strengthen student and staff experiences
 - Connecting educators to community members and organizations

Colonial Fund

- [Establishing an SPS Alumni Network](#) through [outreach](#)
- Donations: In-kind and Monetary (see separate document)

Enhanced Well-Being of All

- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in the Shrewsbury Public Schools
 - Co-facilitated district-wide SEL work
- Shrewsbury Wellness Advisory Committee (SWAC)
 - Collaborated with Noelle Freeman, Director of School Nursing, and committee members on important initiatives including the creation of a [Well-being Guide](#) consisting of web pages that contain resources for students regarding suicide prevention, stress and anxiety, marijuana awareness, and vaping awareness.
- Engaged the [Mindfulness Director Initiative \(MDI\)](#) to provide mindfulness programming and book study groups including Mindfulness and Racial Justice to students, staff, and parents.
- Partnered with the 15-40 Connection and the Michael Bodge Tribute Fund to provide life-saving training to all SHS students
- Created *For Staff, By Staff* wellness offerings (eight separate offerings)
- Procured (with the help of SMS staff) free memberships and after school offerings for Sherwood Middle School students
 - CrossFit
 - Get in Shape for Women

Community Outreach

- Participation in English Learner Parent Advisory Committee (ELPAC), under the direction of Kathy Lange-Madden
- District representative to Shrewsbury Public Library's Community Reading Project – *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande
 - Senior vs. Senior Trivia Competition
 - *Young at Heart* Music Celebration
 - Students Served Lunch at the Residence at Orchard Grove
- First Ever District-Wide School Supply Swap
- Parker Road Preschool Toy Swap at the India Society of Worcester
- Shrewsbury Senior Center – service opportunities
- Experiential learning opportunities for colleges and universities – SHS Ropes Challenge Course

Communication

- 1:1 and small group meetings with educators, community members, and business organizations
- Regular updates to the community through newsletters and Twitter
- SPS Annual Report – a collaborative effort (to be published soon)

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to share this important work with you and the Shrewsbury community at your upcoming meeting.

Respectfully,

Jane O. Lizotte