

Superintendent's Message: By Yaw Obeng - BSD

In the coming weeks, City Council will weigh in on the future of the District's flagship educational site. We need your help asking City Council to allow BSD to place a bond on the November ballot to support the Burlington High School ReEnvisioning Committee's proposed plan of a partial demolition, renovation, and expansion of Burlington High School.

Education has changed in the last 60 years; our building has not. In addition to significant accessibility and maintenance upgrades, our students need contemporary and engaging modular spaces, classrooms with up-to-date STEM standards, makerspaces, and high-quality literature centers which will better engage and serve them on their educational journey.

But don't just take my word for it. Instead, I invite you to please join us on a tour of BHS on any one of the following dates:

Wednesday, August 8, 6 PM

Saturday, August 18, 9 AM

These tours are a chance for you to get a closer look at these issues, learn more about the plan, and gain insight that can be used to provide feedback to school board commissioners and city councilors. In addition to taking a tour, please consider reaching out to your school board and City Council representatives and ask them to support this plan.

You can find contact information for your representatives, as well as the full proposal, associated costs, rationale, history, and the link to sign up for tours on our BHS Renovations web page: <http://www.bsdrv.org/district/budget/bhs-renovations/>

And because I know this is the "Back to School" issue, I hope you will join me in welcoming our two newest administrators to the Burlington School District. We are pleased to announce Lauren



McBride will join us at BHS as our new Interim-Assistant Principal, and Donald Van Nostrand will join the team as Interim Principal at J.J. Flynn Elementary.

McBride most recently held the position of Director of Literacy and Humanities at the Center for Instructional Support for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. McBride started her career in 2008 as a teacher and she's taught math, science, and special education. Her vast experiences in District and School Improvement will support BHS plans for "Closing the Achievement Gap and Raising the Bar," and preparing our students for college and careers.

After spending the past four years as a superintendent, Von Nostrand is eager to return to the role of Principal supporting students directly. His service in Vermont education also includes serving eight years as Principal of a PK-8 Elementary School and two years as Assistant Principal at a Junior-Senior High School. He began his education career as a high school mathematics teacher.

As you run into McBride and Von Nostrand over the next few weeks, please say hello and help them get acclimated to the Queen City.

Thank you for your support, and please visit our website to stay up to date as we begin the new school year.

Superintendent Obeng