

To: Watertown School Committee
From: John R. Brackett, Interim Superintendent
Date: June 5, 2017

RE: Report on the Extended Day Program.

When I began as interim superintendent in November 2016, one of the first matters on my plate was a concern by a number of parents about the Extended Day Program (EDP) at the Lowell school. The Lowell EDP had experienced a loss of a popular and much-loved site coordinator, subsequent transitions in the site coordinator position, and some changes to the program that may not have been well communicated. In January, I met with parents at Lowell to better understand their concerns.

It became clear to me that 1) we needed to resolve the site coordinator position and employ someone who would bring stability and creativity to the position, and 2) we needed to have a 3rd party review of the EDP at all three sites. I believed this review and report would provide insight into our program and a foundation for continual improvement. In the RFP, I asked reviewers to examine the philosophy of the program, and operational issues such as staffing, safety, standards, professional development, programming and consistency.

We interviewed three parties about conducting such a review and determined that NESDEC had the experience, understanding of EDP programs, and their reviewers possessed the qualifications to conduct such a study.

Their report is attached and I recommend that it be accepted by the Committee. Further, because the report offers several findings in the sections "For Consideration" and "Conclusion" that require a closer review by the administration and school committee, I recommend that the report be sent to the Curriculum Subcommittee for further discussion and next steps.

Subsequent to the commission of this study, the EDP/Community Education Program has been restructured within the district to be part of the Teaching and Learning Department (rather than Wellness and Extended Programs) with the oversight of Dr. McGuinness starting in July.

Finally, while the report contains a lot of rich information about the EDP at each of the schools, it is silent, by design, on personnel assessment. That is the sole responsibility of the district leadership.