

July 1, 2021

Dear Members of the BCSD Community,

Friends and neighbors, greetings from school! First and foremost, we hope that this letter finds you and your family healthy, well, and emerging successfully from the events of the past 15 months.

I am writing with some updates on our year and with important information regarding the sale of the Brookside School. I am also writing to you today with gratitude at the conclusion of what could certainly be described as the most challenging and different year in our organization's history.

As was the case for everyone in every facet of our community, we worked hard to navigate the pandemic while maintaining a high level of service for children and the community. I am proud to say that our 89<sup>th</sup> graduating class crossed the stage last week having continued our tradition of excellence in achievement, both in the classroom and in their lives. Our students' success in terms of true numbers has never been better. **Our graduation rates for all students, significant participation in advanced coursework, and desired entries into college and work have reached unprecedented levels of success!**

In addition to the great work that is happening in school, we have reasons to be optimistic as state financial support for schools shows signs of gradual improvement. Recent community support of a significant capital project is being rewarded with the successful completion of work to revitalize many of our learning spaces and allow for the addition of full-day kindergarten this coming fall. We conclude this year in an excellent position as an organization, well prepared to reach ever higher on behalf of both you as a citizen and on behalf of the children of this community.

Thank you for your support throughout our years together in pushing for fairness in state aid for schools, in creating a more equitable and inclusive learning environment, and in searching for ways to continue innovating and advancing outcomes for all students. We are grateful for how the community of Brighton, with or without children in school, stands together in support of this important work and values a successful public school system.

As many of you may be aware, the District has been engaged in the process of selling the Brookside School. At today's Board of Education meeting, the Board approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Talmudic Institute of Upstate New York (TIUNY). The Board is empowered by law to sell a property when it has been determined to be a surplus property for the District and if the offer to purchase is at or above market value. Market value in this case was determined by an independent third-party appraiser. The value contemplates market conditions and what the appraiser determines it could be purchased for if marketed widely. The purchase price is above market value and we believe that the purchaser is an ideal partner in this transaction. The Board has a financial responsibility to consider opportunities like this on behalf of all taxpayers.

The land around the building will be used for school purposes, as it has always been intended, and the TIUNY does not anticipate that their use of the property will impact the way neighbors currently access the Brookside campus. In fact, they are very much looking forward to moving from their long-standing location on Park Avenue and warmly embracing their new opportunity to be neighbors in the Town of Brighton. To that end, they are in the midst of planning an "open house" picnic event to get to know their new neighbors and answer any questions the neighborhood may have. Details will soon be sent through the Evans Farm Neighborhood Association.

We wanted you to be abreast of this information and have an opportunity to ask us questions regarding the sale. Please consider checking our website for detailed information and a recording of a Zoom meeting held with residents to discuss the sale ([www.bcsd.org/brookside](http://www.bcsd.org/brookside)). Enclosed with this mailing is a fact sheet with more information as well.

The District is excited about the opportunities to use these funds for much needed capital improvements throughout the District. These funds will result in improvements being made without cost to District taxpayers. The Brookside building is also in need of significant costly repairs that would have to be made over time. Put simply, instead of being a significant cost to community members with minimal lease payments being made each year, a significant profit will be able to be put toward improvements throughout the District at no cost to the local taxpayer.

If you have additional questions or would like information not easily found by reviewing the resources included here or housed at [www.bcsd.org/brookside](http://www.bcsd.org/brookside), please feel free to send questions to [brooksidesale@bcsd.org](mailto:brooksidesale@bcsd.org) and we'll get back to you with more information as quickly as possible.

Best wishes to all of you. We hope that your summer is enjoyable and healthy as we all look forward to a bright future together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin C. McGowan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin C. McGowan, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools