



Waltham Public Schools Retirees' Corner Newsletter February 2020

Congratulations to Jane Gately, who retired in June 2019 as the Principal of MacArthur Elementary. She has been elected to a 4-year term on the Waltham School Committee. Jane follows in the footsteps of other Waltham School Department members who also serve*/served on the School Committee.

Lilian Shirley - who retired as a High School English teacher and Department Head

Henry O'Brien - who retired as Principal of South Junior

John Graceffa - who retired as Principal of Waltham High School

Stephen Rando - who retired as Principal of Bright School*

Sue McIvor - who retired as Principal of Stanley School*

Jerry Walker - who retired as History Teacher at Waltham High School*

The most important items for the School Committee to address this year will be planning for the construction of a new high school and the selection of a new superintendent.



In Loving Memory

On a sad note, over the past few months, we have lost more former friends and colleagues -

Donna Johnson

Catherine R. "Kay" Juliano

Deborah Monahan Kavey

Joseph Kiley

William Nolan

Agnes Lunderville

Plympton

Bright School

South

Northeast School

South

Director of Career and Technical Education

Principal of Waltham Vocational School

Food Services

Assistant Principal

Grade 1 teacher

Food Services

Kindergarten teacher

English teacher

Complete obituaries for all retirees who have passed since we began our outreach efforts are identified at retireescorner.org under Obituaries. We try to post obituaries once we receive notice.



Keeping Our Schools Safe

The following retirees are working a few hours a week as "greeters" at school entrances.

Neil Murphy

Bill Foley

Larry Issacson

Paul Fleming

Richard Yerardi



What's Up with Graduates of the Waltham Public Schools?

In a continuing attempt to keep colleagues apprised of the meaning of their life's work...

Norm MacDonald offers a reflection on **Edward Burke** (Fitzgerald, Central, WHS '82) who is making a difference in the world.

"While at Waltham High School, Ed was a class officer for three years and very involved in all aspects of class activities.

Ed graduated from Catholic University with a degree in Bio-Medical Engineering. He later received a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Northeastern University in Boston. He is currently working on the development of an artificial heart for those who need a transplant when a donor is not available. Talk about saving lives....!

Ed has been married for thirty years, is the father of two, and continues to live in Waltham. In my mind, Ed has accomplished what we envisioned for our former students.

(Ed is the also son of our own Pat Burke!)

Follow this link to an article printed in The Boston Globe in January on **Michael Wilder** (Banks, Central, WHS '93). We wish him continued success and continued good health. Mike is currently a Business Teacher at the high school.

A cancer survivor, Michael Wilder's passion has put Waltham on a firm foundation

by Nate Weitzer Globe Correspondent, January 13, 2020,

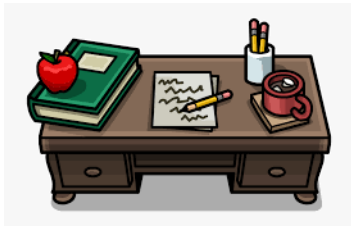
https://www.bostonglobe.com/sports/high-schools/2020/01/13/bhoopnotes/wE7w0BqCB7gDma7Fm13UIK/story.html?s_campaign=8315

Follow this link to an article printed in The Boston Globe in January on **Ivy Weeks** (WHS '11). We congratulate her on her passion and vision

Getting personal, former Waltham track star Ivy Watts talks mental health

by Scott Souza Globe Correspondent, January 16, 2020

www.bostonglobe.com/metro/globelocal/2020/01/16/getting-personal-former-waltham-track-star-ivy-watts-talks-mental-health/kCtCdDwVq7r1R1PS2Amz6L/story.html?s_campaign=8315



In a continuing attempt to keep special colleagues in our hearts and minds...

Ira Steinberg writes...

"My original mentor, **Richard (Dick) Collins**, became a treasured friend, an inspiration, and -in so many ways- a role model. He taught me to be patient, to be resilient, and to remember, at all

times, that students were human beings first and clients second. He introduced me to South Boston, to boilermakers, and to my wife (not necessarily in that order)

Several years ago, I found myself in conversation with a woman who revealed herself to be a Waltham High alum. I asked her who her teachers had been. She pondered my question for several moments and then replied, "I had Mr. Collins for English and a bunch of other people. What a symbolic answer and what a tribute to a memorable educator."

(Dick and Ira were graduates of Brandeis University.)



Superintendent Search

Interviews occurred in late January and early February. Selection should be in February or early March.

The Semi-Finalists

- Dr. Frank Hackett Superintendent of Braintree Public Schools
former Superintendent of Pembroke Public Schools
- Mr. Brad Morgan Superintendent of Schools for the
North Middlesex Regional School District in Pepperell
Former Principal of McDevitt Middle School
(withdrew from consideration in late January)
- Dr. Sergio Paez Director of Equity, Empowerment and Excellence
for English Learners in Central Falls, RI,
Former Superintendent of Holyoke Public Schools
- Dr. Brian Reagan Assistant Superintendent for Wilmington Public Schools
Former Principal of Hudson High School and
of Shrewsbury High School
Graduate of Waltham High Class of 1990



We would like you to mention these newsletters to your former colleagues whenever you connect. Ask if they received these. If not, might you share their email addresses so we can reach out to them too with all our news? Contact us at retireescorner@gmail.com

Are you aware of any former students who could be highlighted as you just read about Ed, Mike, and Ivy? Contact us at retireescorner@gmail.com.

Some of you attended the Waltham Public Schools. Was there a teacher that was particularly important in your life? Would you be willing to write a few words about that influence for a future newsletter?

Some of you might want to reflect on former colleagues, just like Ira did. Send us your memories to retireescorner@gmail.com.



The Annual City Health Fair and Open Enrollment will be held on Thursday, May 7 from 10-5 at the Government Center, which is located at 119 School Street.

Mark your calendars.

This is the one time each year when retirees may change their Health Insurance and meet with representatives from Blue Cross, Tufts, Harvard Health, Social Security, and Delta Dental, as well as City Retirement. You don't have to wait until then if you have any questions about coverage regarding the best plan if you should move out of state or if you wonder if specific medical conditions are covered under your current plan. Patty Keefe will be happy to help you. She can be contacted at (781) 314-3272.



The annual Waltham High School Retirement Party has been scheduled for June 4.

Mark your calendars.



The Waltham Historical Society will be showing an exhibit highlighting the history of education in Waltham soon. This exhibit is scheduled to be completed before the end of February and can be viewed at the former Bright School at 260 Grove Street by appointment or on Saturday mornings.

Kudos to Wayne McCarthy and Regina Pacitti who have worked to put this informative and interesting exhibit on display.

Contact the Society at 781-891-5815 or email

waltham.historical.society@gmail.com or at www.walthamhistoricalsociety.org



By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have received your MTRS tax reporting form. If not, contact MTRS at 617-679-6877



Windfall Elimination Provision

Information below from www.ream1951.org

This website will provide information on the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset and how each affects what you will collect from Social Security because of your MA public pension.

Two important bills filed on behalf of retired public employees HR235, calls for the complete repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and S484, which also calls for the complete repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision(WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Please call both your US Senators and your US Congressman to ask that he/she co-sponsor this legislation and support this unfair practice.

Information below from mtrs.state.ma.us/service/social-security/

The Windfall Elimination Provision can affect how Social Security calculates your retirement or disability benefit. If you work for an employer who does not withhold Social Security taxes from your salary, such as a government agency or an employer in another country, any retirement or disability pension you get from that work can reduce your Social Security benefits.

When your benefits may be affected

This provision can affect you when you earn a retirement or disability pension from an employer who didn't withhold Social Security taxes *and* you qualify for Social Security retirement or disability benefits from work in other jobs for which you did pay taxes.

The Windfall Elimination Provision can apply if:

- you reached 62 after 1985; or
- you became disabled after 1985; and
- you first became eligible for a monthly pension based on work where you did not pay Social Security taxes after 1985. This rule applies even if you are still working.

This provision also affects Social Security benefits for people who performed federal service under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) after 1956. Your Social Security benefit amounts won't be reduced if you only performed federal service under a system such as the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS). Social Security taxes are withheld for workers under FERS.

How it works

Social Security benefits are intended to replace only some of a worker's pre-retirement earnings.

Social Security bases your Social Security benefit on your average monthly earnings adjusted for average wage growth. Social Security separates your average earnings into three amounts and multiplies the amounts using three factors to compute your full Primary Insurance Amount (PIA). For example, for a worker who turns 62 in 2020, the first \$960 of average monthly earnings is multiplied by 90 percent; earnings between \$960 and \$5,785 are multiplied by 32 percent; and the balance by 15 percent. The sum of the three amounts equals the PIA, which is then decreased or increased depending on whether the worker starts benefits before or after full retirement age (FRA). This formula produces the monthly payment amount.

When Social Security applies this formula, the percentage of career average earnings paid to lower-paid workers is greater than higher-paid workers. For example, workers age 62 in 2020, with average earnings of \$3,000 per month could receive a benefit at FRA of \$1,516 (approximately 50 percent) of their pre-retirement earnings increased by applicable cost of living adjustments (COLAs). For a worker with average earnings of \$8,000 per month, the benefit starting at FRA could be \$2,740 (approximately 34 percent) plus COLAs. However, if either of these workers start benefits earlier than their FRA, the Social Security will reduce their monthly benefit.

Why Social Security uses a different formula

Before 1983, people whose primary job wasn't covered by Social Security had their Social Security benefits calculated as if they were long-term, low-wage workers. They had the advantage of receiving a Social Security benefit representing a higher percentage of their earnings, plus a pension from a job for which they didn't pay Social Security taxes. Congress passed the Windfall Elimination Provision to remove that advantage.

Under the provision, Social Security reduces the 90 percent factor in their formula and phases it in for workers who reached age 62 or became disabled between 1986 and 1989. For people who reach 62 or became disabled in 1990 or later, Social Security reduces the 90 percent factor to as little as 40 percent.



*Best wishes for good health and many wonderful adventures
until you hear from us again!*