

## **BOE Town Spotlight May 2022**

### **At the April 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Meeting:**

Mrs. Dymond, Principal of Center Elementary School, presented this month's Student Spotlight, by showcasing the Digital Portfolios that students and staff are piloting at CES. The goal of the digital portfolios is to encourage students to be self-navigating learners by intentionally fostering curiosity and developing a growth mindset. Students must learn skills and strategies for goal-setting, action planning, accepting and incorporating feedback, understanding success criteria, identifying appropriate strategies, searching out and managing resources, and self-reflection. The digital portfolios give students an opportunity to show their progress in a different format and build self-efficacy, and also gives parents a chance to see progress throughout the year. CES teachers Heidi Natalino and Michelle Tuck are pioneering the use of digital portfolios by giving the students instruction, coaching and support to harness students' natural curiosity and content knowledge, and also by providing conditions for students to grow their self-efficacy through their confidence in their abilities. Many thanks to Technology Integration Coach, Jackie Whiting, who helped make the project manageable, accessible and sustainable at CES. To view Mrs. Dymond's presentation, click here: <https://youtu.be/tiAeyBIVC90?t=41>

Dr. Barile introduced Mrs. Amy DeNicola Hickman, the district's new Special Education Director, effective May 2. Mrs. DeNicola Hickman has a great deal of Pre-K through Grade 12 experience, having started her career as a Special Education teacher and most recently serving in Greenwich. We are excited to welcome Mrs. DeNicola-Hickman to Brookfield as she brings a depth and breadth of experience that we look forward to witnessing and supporting our students in the coming months and years. Mrs. DeNicola Hickman made brief comments and is looking forward to getting started in her new role. She will be sending a letter of introduction to families and staff prior to her start on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. To view Dr. Barile's and Mrs. DeNicola Hickman's remarks, click here: <https://youtu.be/tiAeyBIVC90?t=1127>

Mrs. Fernandes provided an update on the construction of Candlewood Lake Elementary School. As of this week, the concrete walls in the administrator's offices are built, and the walls in the Pre-K wing are up. The roof is in place on half of the building and the rest of the framing work is progressing as scheduled. The MBC will host a walk-through for the Administration and elected Boards on May 17th. To hear Mrs. Fernandes' update, click here: <https://youtu.be/tiAeyBIVC90?t=3758>