



## Superintendent McIntosh to Retire at End of School Year

Superintendent Lou McIntosh has announced he will retire at the end of the 2012-13 school year after five years with the school district.

"If I wasn't retiring, I'd probably stay here another 10 years," said Mr. McIntosh. "I want to sincerely thank everyone who has made my stay here so gratifying. Brittonkill truly is a special place, both as a school district and a community."

Mr. McIntosh informed the Board of Education about his intent to retire earlier this year to give the district plenty of time to hire a new superintendent. A new superintendent is expected to be in place by July 1, 2013.

"On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to thank Lou for the leadership and sense of stability he has brought to our school district," said BOE President Matt Wade. "Lou has worked well with his team and the Board to find practical options in these trying times of state aid cuts. The Board wishes him the very best in his retirement."

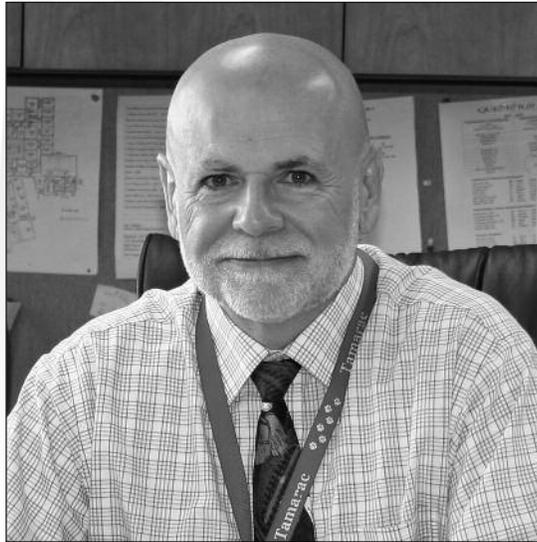
The Board will follow a similar hiring process as the one used five years ago to hire Mr. McIntosh. The district will

form a stakeholders group to involve community members, parents, students, staff and others. Details about the stakeholder group, and how the public can get involved, will be announced once the process is finalized.

The Board has approved Questar III BOCES to help guide the district through the superintendent search. Questar III works with many of its component school districts to find superintendents. There is no fee for the service, except for the cost of printed materials such as a search brochure.

Mr. McIntosh stressed how much he has enjoyed working with such outstanding faculty and staff who are so dedicated to the community's children. But he explained that he felt it was time to retire so he can spend more time with his growing family.

"Over the past few years, my children have had six granddaughters who are the light of my life. My wife, Kathy, and I are looking forward to spending even more time with them," said Mr. McIntosh. "But we will certainly miss Brittonkill. I couldn't have picked a better place to finish my career."



## District to Share Services with Neighboring Districts

The district's Buildings and Grounds and Food Services departments will work with neighboring school districts this year as part of shared service agreements that will bring in additional revenue.

The agreements with the Wynantskill and Hoosic Valley school districts are the result of discussions between school district administrators working together to find areas they can reduce costs.

"Given the financial challenges we face, we thought this was an excellent way to help our neighboring school districts and bring some additional

revenue in," said Lyn Derway, Assistant Superintendent for Business. "These agreements won't bring in a lot of money but every little bit helps."

The district's Buildings and Grounds Department will help Wynantskill Union Free School District with specific work such as heating, ventilation and air conditioning, electrical, and wiring. Wynantskill previously used private vendors for such work which was more expensive.

Food Services Director Joy Wright will mentor colleagues in the Wynantskill and Hoosic Valley school districts as they start new food services programs. Both districts had private

companies run their food services programs in the past but both companies decided to leave at the end of last year.

"We'll get some extra revenue and they'll get services at a lower cost while tapping into the expertise and knowledge of our employees," said Ms. Derway. "This is a pilot program for one year but the maintenance work could end up being a long-term agreement."

Ms. Derway praised both departments for agreeing to take on the additional work as well as their commitment to ensure the additional duties do not impact the level of service to Brunswick (Brittonkill) CSD.

# New Concussion Rules Increase Student Safety

## **“WHEN IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT.”**

That phrase will be a common one for coaches this year as the district focuses more attention on concussions in an effort to keep student athletes safe.

Athletic Director Donna VanZandt explained that New York State mandated new rules on concussions starting with the 2012-13 school year.

All coaches, for example, are now required every two years to participate in training so they can better recognize the symptoms of concussions. Parents of student athletes also must be provided information about concussions.

Any student athlete who is believed to have sustained a concussion must be immediately removed from all athletic

activities. They cannot participate in athletic activity until they have been symptom free for 24 hours and have been evaluated by a licensed physician.

“We’ve always been cautious about this but there has been a renewed focus given all the recent medical information about concussions,” said Mrs. VanZandt. “Just jarring the head can cause a concussion so we need to be extremely careful in protecting our students.”

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 2.6 million people under age 19 sustain a head injury every year.

Visit [www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us](http://www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us) for a fact sheet about concussions and other parent information.

## School Lunches are Healthier this Year



This school year, school lunches at Tamarac schools offer a larger variety of vegetables, less sodium and no trans fats as part of new school meal requirements set by the USDA.

Cafeteria Supervisor Joy Wright noted the schools’ lunches have previously offered whole grains but that the new changes will make lunches even healthier.

“We’re offering more vegetables and we have to balance the menus for each age group,” explained Ms. Wright. “There’s also a big focus on reducing the amount of sodium in meals.”

Some of the specific requirements include more dark green, orange and legume vegetables and less starch vegetables. Flavored milk like chocolate or strawberry has to contain non-fat milk. At least half of the grains offered have to be whole grain (after two years, all grains will have to be whole grain). There are also limits on calories and the amount of meat in meals.

In response to the new requirements and rising food prices, school lunches increased by 10 cents this year to \$2.30 for all students. Breakfast remains at \$1. The price increase for lunches helps ensure the food services budget remains self-sustaining without support from the general budget.

If parents have questions, they can contact Ms. Wright at 279-4600 ext. 2208.

## Follow Brittonkill CSD on Facebook

Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District’s Facebook page recently topped 300 followers as more and more community members use the social networking site to follow what is going on in their schools.



The district launched the site last March as part of the district’s continued efforts to communicate with our community. Followers of the Facebook page receive updates about school closings, budget news, student success stories and more. Community members can also ask questions through the site.

To follow the district on Facebook, visit [www.facebook.com/Brittonkill](http://www.facebook.com/Brittonkill) and “like” the page. There are also links to the Facebook page on the district website.

Please note, the Facebook page is at no cost to the district.

## Sign Up for Brittonkill eNews

**Would you like to receive news about upcoming events at Tamarac schools in your e-mail inbox?**

Sign up for Brittonkill eNews by visiting the district’s website, [www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us](http://www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us). The district offers eNews for the Elementary, Middle School, High School and District news.

More than 500 parents have already signed up for Brittonkill eNews, receiving updates about upcoming parent nights, student activities, budget news and more.

Please note, all e-mail addresses are kept completely confidential. Subscribers can also unsubscribe at any time. This service is at no cost to the district.

# Common Core Learning Standards Guide Instruction

This school year, parents will hear a lot about Common Core Learning Standards.

The standards are part of a national effort to provide a clearer understanding of what students are expected to learn so that teachers and parents can better prepare them for college or the workforce.

Common Core Learning Standards were an initiative led by the National Governors Association for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. The standards have been adopted by most states across the country, including New York.

As a result, public school districts are changing what they teach and how they teach to align curriculum with the Common Core Learning Standards.

In New York State, the standards apply to English Language Arts and Mathematics for pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The standards also will be the basis of the state assessments beginning with the new school year.



For more information about Common Core Learning Standards, visit [www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us](http://www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us), for a parent brochure that explains the specific content changes and provides guidance on how to help students become more proficient in English Language Arts and Math.

## New Teacher and Principal Evaluations this Year

Starting this school year, all teachers and principals will be evaluated annually as part of New York State's Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) requirements.

The statewide evaluation system, which requires reviews based in part on measures of student achievement, was phased in last year for classroom teachers of English Language Arts and Math for grades 4-8 as well as their principals. This year, it will expand to include all teachers and principals.

"Our administrators have trained extensively to become certified Lead Teacher Evaluators. Beginning this school year, they will be in classrooms observing teachers and students more than ever," said Superintendent Lou McIntosh. "That's good because that's where they should be. Parents also need to know that principals will not

be as available as they have been in the past given the time involved for all these evaluations."

Mr. McIntosh noted that classroom observations are not a new practice in Tamarac schools, as they historically have been a major component of the evaluation process for non-tenured teachers. New York State is now mandating many more observations and the use of rubrics outlining the specific criteria to be used.

The process requires administrators to first meet with each teacher to discuss the lesson for the class which will be observed. Next, the principal observes the teacher in the classroom, taking evidence-based notes to document teaching practice. A post-observation meeting is then required to discuss the observation. Principals will then have to file paperwork with the state for each teacher.

"The evaluations will be evidence-based," Mr. McIntosh said. "Instead of simply saying a teacher is doing a great job, they have to provide detail as to what the teacher did in the classroom."

Teachers will also be required to write Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), which will detail what they expect their students to learn by the end of the year. All SLOs will have a pre-test and a post-test. The assessment will determine if student growth was achieved for that specific course. The SLO's are also used as part of the APPR.

In the end, each teacher will receive a composite effectiveness score, out of a total of 100 possible points.

Principals will similarly be evaluated each year by the school superintendent. Principal performance will be connected to teacher and student performance.

CURRENT RESIDENT

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## Tax Levy Set for 2012-13

The Brunswick (Brittonkill) CSD Board of Education set the tax levy for the 2012-13 school year at its August 16 meeting at \$11,069,540, a 2.49% increase over the previous year.

However, due to growth in town tax bases and changes in equalization rates, changes in tax rates for all five towns in the district were lower than the 2.49% increase projected in May. Tax rates for Pittstown, Poestenkill and Schaghticoke actually decreased from the previous year.

The projected tax rates, per \$1,000 of assessed value, for each town are: Brunswick: \$68.406, Grafton: \$215.311, Pittstown: \$27.587, Poestenkill: \$69.510, and Schaghticoke: \$73.565.

Tax bills have already been mailed to all residents in the district. If you did not receive one, please contact your local tax collector. Tax records can also be viewed online at [www.infotaxonline.com](http://www.infotaxonline.com).

The district would also like to remind our community that the state cap on STAR savings for homeowners, which went into effect last year, is still in effect this year. A homeowner can receive no more than a 2% increase in STAR savings then they received the previous year.

## Drivers Asked Not to Park in Front of Buildings

For the safety of our students and school community, the district is asking all drivers to please observe "no parking" signs posted in the school parking lots on both light posts and pavement.

The curbsides in front of each school building are designated fire lanes and must be kept clear for emergency vehicles in the case of a fire or other emergency. Please do not park in these areas.

The school will be placing notices on any cars that violate these designated no parking areas. We thank you for your cooperation.



**BRITTONKILL**  
Brunswick Central School District  
[www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us](http://www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us)  
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**2012 - 2013**  
**District Calendar**  
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

## District Calendar Available Online

Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District's 2012-13 school calendar is now available on the school website, [www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us](http://www.brittonkill.k12.ny.us), in an easy to print format.

Please note, as part of efforts to cut costs, the district will not mail print calendars to district residents this year. We apologize for any inconvenience this may create; however the district believes this is a prudent cost-saving measure given the current cost of mailing and printing.

The district has a limited number of print calendars that were sent home with Elementary School students. Parents of Secondary School students and community members who would like a print calendar can pick one up at the front desk of the Secondary School.