

Notes from Superintendent Holcomb & the School Committee
1.20.26 Parent Newsletter



Yellow

As a show of support, solidarity, and remembrance of second grade student Mason Stringer, countless students and staff across the district wore the color yellow, Mason's favorite color. Classrooms, hallways, and school offices were filled with yellow as our school community came together in a powerful visual reminder that Mason will always be a part of us.

This simple yet meaningful gesture reflected the love, care, and compassion that define our district. In honoring Mason, we also lifted one another up, showing his family and friends that they are not alone during this difficult time. The outpouring of support is a testament to the strength of our community and the kindness that lives within our schools.

Pictured above are many members of our central administrative team.

Obituary -

As many of you are aware, Swansea Public Schools recently experienced the heartbreaking loss of Mason Stringer, a second-grade student at Gardner Elementary School. Mason's obituary is available here for those who wish to learn more or share their condolences.

Mason will forever remain in our hearts, along with his family and all those affected by this profound loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all during this difficult time.

Child Care -

The Stoico/FIRSTFED YMCA will be offering free child care for Swansea families attending services for Mason Stringer on February 7th. Child care for school age children (ages 5-12) will be available from 1:30-5:30p. Please fill out the form by clicking here.

School Committee Meeting

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, at 6:00 PM in the School Committee Conference Room located in the Central Administration Building. The meeting will also be broadcast live on the Swansea Community Network Channel via their Facebook page.

School Building Committee Update

The School Committee is working to ensure that the Town of Swansea has a clear, well-informed plan for the future use of the current Joseph Case Junior High School building should voters approve the construction of a new Joseph Case Junior High School.

At this time, the School Department is reviewing several potential options for the building, including leasing the facility, returning it to the Town, or potentially consolidating elementary school programs within the building following any necessary upgrades. These options are being evaluated with careful consideration of educational impact, cost, long-term sustainability, and the needs of students and the broader community.

No decisions have been made at this stage. Any proposed use of the building would be presented publicly and would require a formal vote of the School Committee. The district remains committed to transparency and community engagement as this process moves forward, and additional information will be shared as options are further developed.

Solar Power

The School Department is exploring opportunities to utilize solar power as a way to offset a portion of the costs associated with operating the district. Several options are currently under review, including leasing roof space to a solar provider to create a sustainable revenue stream, securing a loan to install solar panels that could reduce electrical costs at the high school by approximately half (with savings calculated after the loan payment), and entering into a Performance Contract that allows energy savings to be applied directly toward the cost of the improvements that generate those savings.

This information was presented at the January 5, 2026 School Committee meeting and is available on the district's website for those interested in learning more.