



Dr. Robert Kobylski, Superintendent
7300 N. Lombardy Road
Milwaukee, WI 53217
Phone: 414-247-4164
Fax: 414-351-7164
rkobylski@foxbay.org

September 7, 2017

Dear Parents,

Please allow me to welcome all of you to what will undoubtedly be a great school year. My optimism stems from my experiences over the last year as your new superintendent. It was gratifying to witness, on a daily basis, students who were willing and eager to learn, parents as supportive and unwavering partners, and staff members committed to excellence in all aspects of our operations. The Fox Point – Bayside School District is truly a gem that has become the destination school district in the state.

As we begin a new school year together, allow me to reiterate our commitment to provide you with timely and accurate information. The district's leadership team dedicated considerable time this past summer in an effort to enhance our ongoing dialog with you. You will notice these enhancements in many forms and in many contexts. For example, we will soon roll out our new website that has been designed with form and function in mind. We have also turned to teachers and staff to more fully develop our newsletter and social media communication efforts. At the end of the day, our aim is to stay appropriately connected and to provide the customer service our parents and community members have come to expect from a high quality school system.

With my comments above in mind, I wish to provide you with an update on two high profile topics. First, the district's sale of the Dunwood School property is entering into the final phases, such that we anticipate the transfer of the property by the end of the 2017 calendar year. Again, the Board of Education's expressed intent is to utilize the proceeds of the sale to augment the financing of facility needs at the two remaining school properties. Temporary repairs to parking lots, sidewalks and roofing were effectuated this past summer. Our plan is to engage long-term buildings and grounds repairs and upgrades next summer.

Second, as a follow-up to Principal Hackl's notice to Bayside Middle School families on the removal of the school's playground equipment, please be aware that the playground equipment did not pass inspection by a certified playground inspector. This is the first certified inspection on file with the district. With the safety of our students being our primary concern, severe time constraints left us with few options heading into the school year. The BMS equipment had deteriorated to the point where repairs were not viable. Moving the Dunwood playground equipment to Bayside Middle School was also not an option, as the rules require that replacement equipment must meet current ADA standards—which the Dunwood equipment does not.

As a result, additional short-term recess opportunities were put into place such as; two Funnel Ball games, marking lines for 4-Square, kickball, Tether Ball, and new playground balls available to every grade level. Keep in mind our district had the foresight to adhere to a robust physical education curriculum that is being delivered by extraordinary P.E. teachers. In addition, the P.E. curriculum benefits from fully developed and funded activity choices to include a rarely seen middle school rock climbing wall.

Never the less, the district will review our capital project budget while working in close contact with any and all potential benefactors who may wish to accelerate the build-out of contemporary, age-appropriate, and ADA compliant playground equipment options. To begin the process, we will solicit input from parents and students on specific preferences regarding the need for and/or wishes regarding potential new playground equipment at BMS. We will also rely on current adolescent research to guide our decisions.

I hope you accept this letter as tangible evidence of our commitment to further develop our communication protocols. I invite you to contact me directly with questions or concerns addressed in this letter, or on any matter. Again, I look forward to our interaction as we begin the new school year!

Yours in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Robert Kobylski', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Robert Kobylski
Superintendent of Schools