

## **News from the Newton Schools Foundation**

### **NSF Welcomes New Executive Director**

The Newton Schools Foundation is pleased to welcome Rick Iacobucci as its new executive director. Mr. Iacobucci has a wealth of fundraising experience for non-profit organizations and educational institutions. He comes to NSF from Mini Fenway Park, Inc., where he successfully led the capital campaign to build a kid-sized Fenway Park for Boston area youth. Prior to that he served as director of major gifts for UMass Boston's College of Nursing, creating the college's first development office and directing its fundraising activities. He was also director of college advancement at Framingham State University where he launched the school's planned giving program, and director of development for Cerebral Palsy of Massachusetts. Mr. Iacobucci graduated from Boston College and received his masters degree from Lesley University with a concentration in fundraising management. He can be reached at [rick\\_iacobucci@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:rick_iacobucci@newton.k12.ma.us).

"I am honored to have been selected by the present leadership of the Newton Schools Foundation as its next executive director," said Iacobucci, "and I look forward to building upon a 25-year track record that has made the Newton Schools Foundations one of the most successful public school Foundations in America."

"Rick's extensive experience with major fundraising campaigns will help ensure the success of our first major fundraising campaign," said Newton Schools Foundation Co-chair Liz Richardson. The NSF's major campaign, set to launch early next year, will provide skills, technology and tools for 21st century teaching and learning in the Newton Public Schools.

"The Newton Schools Foundation provides critical funds to support our teachers and students at a time when there is increasing excitement about integrating technology into all aspects of learning," said Newton Schools Superintendent David Fleishman. "I look forward to working with Rick and the NSF Board as we strive to prepare our children for an ever-changing world."

### **Campaign Update: Supporting NPS Goals**

Since the summer, Newton Schools Foundation board members have been working closely with new NPS administrators to coordinate our fundraising and support the NPS goal ensuring up-to-date teaching and learning environments in all of our schools. The NSF initiated this effort two years ago by installing smart boards and accessory equipment in all 5th grade classrooms.

A 21st century classroom is one that allows teachers and students to have the technology to interact with the world, to promote collaboration and allow teachers to receive immediate feedback on student understanding of concepts. Successful 21st century classrooms also depend on excellent teachers, effective professional development and updated curriculum.

New Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Ann Koufman-Frederick and

Director of Information Technology Leo Brehm have been evaluating the technology in Newton's schools and aligning the NPS technology plan with the Newton Vision 2020 strategic plan.

“We want to give our students access to learning anytime, anywhere and technology is a key component,” said Koufman-Frederick. “Our goal is to create a learning environment that produces students who are academically proficient, effective communicators and collaborators; globally aware, independent, responsible learners and citizens; and critical and creative thinkers.”

The School Committee will review the updated Vision 2020 strategic plan this month.

Said NSF Co-President Liz Richardson, “The money we raise will support the goals and mission of the Newton Public Schools. Their goals drive our efforts.”

### **Whole Foods Day Brings in More Than \$10,000 for NSF**

On October 4, [Whole Foods Markets](#) in Newton held a 5 Percent Day for the NSF, donating 5 percent of the day's net sales to the organization. The event brought in more than \$10,300 for the organization. The Board wishes to thank Whole Foods for their generous donation, as well as all the shoppers whose purchases contributed.

### **Save the Date: October 27 *Newton Inspires***

Mark your calendars and reserve a spot now for **Newton Inspires: An Evening of Ideas and Community**. Join prominent Newtonians as they discuss their passions, share their insights and inspire us with their stories. More than two-dozen speakers will address a host of topics—from education, business, government and economics to sports, arts, entertainment and life.

Participants choose three 20-minute sessions to attend. Coffee and dessert wrap up the evening with participants and speakers gathering to debrief and reconnect. This free event will be held at Newton North High School on Thursday October 27 at 7 p.m.

For more details and to reserve a spot, visit the [NSF web site](#).

### **Alumni Networks Will Help Support 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classrooms**

This summer, when school was the farthest things from most students' minds, Newton South sophomore Astha Agarwal was doing schoolwork. As an intern for the Newton Schools Foundation, the nonprofit organization that raises funds to support the Newton Public Schools, Agarwal, along with Newton North senior Jeff Weinfeld and Newton South alumnus Greg Barrett, was developing a network of Newton Public School alumni to support Newton schools.

At a time when public resources are diminishing, schools nationwide must increasingly rely on private funds to meet classroom needs. In Newton, the demand for has long since outpaced the NPS technology budget, and schools have come to rely on PTOs, grants and other private funding sources to keep pace.

When the NPS strategic plan called for students to acquire 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, NPS administrators approached the Newton Schools Foundation two years ago for assistance in funding the technology needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom. In response, the Schools Foundation, with the help of the PTOs, raised funds for and outfitted all fifth grade classrooms with interactive whiteboards.

“Technology is a critical component of education in the digital age,” says Newton Schools Superintendent David Fleishman. “We’ve committed to putting interactive whiteboard suites in instructional spaces throughout the district because they’ve proven to help facilitate teaching, learning and communicating in innovative ways that will prepare students for our increasingly complex world.”

This winter, the Newton Schools Foundation will launch a major fundraising campaign to support the Newton Public Schools goal of developing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills among all Newton Public School students. That’s where the alumni network will play a critical role.

“This large-scale fundraising effort will require broad community support,” said NSF Executive Director Rick Iacobucci. “Alumni of the Newton Public Schools are key stakeholders in the community. Because they benefited from a Newton Public Schools, they know firsthand the value of a strong Newton education and grew up in Newton and many share an affinity for their schools long beyond graduation. Their support will be crucial in our effort to reach our goal.”

“The project turned out to be much bigger than originally expected,” said Amy McMahon, consultant to NSF who oversaw the project. “The interns did all the work unpaid. They were invaluable to us.”

According to the McMahon, new interns will continue working on the project during the school year to expand the alumni network.

### **Please Give to End-of-Year Campaign**

The End-Of-Year Annual Campaign takes place this fall from October 1 to December 31. Our goal is to raise \$125,000-\$175,000 to help support the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom. Watch your mail for our campaign material and please give as much as you can.