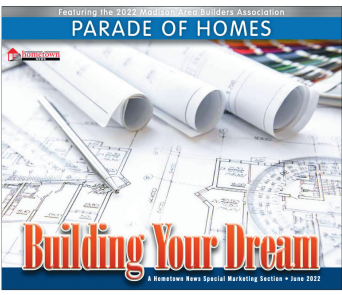


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CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

District closes in on finalizing plan

‘Plan on a Page’ leaves lengthy to-do list
By Lauren Henning
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After beginning the strategic planning process in February, the Cambridge School Board reviewed a draft of the district’s “Plan on a Page” during a June 13 meeting, that would prioritize supporting students academically and emotionally.

The emerging draft includes three core values: cultivating every learner academically, socially and emotionally; communicating clearly; and having dedicated staff. These values created the district’s focus areas of teaching and learning, family and community engagement, staff excellence, and operational effectiveness.

Cambridge Superintendent Marggie Banker, before presenting the draft to the board, said the plan is meant to guide future operations and build on steps already taken.

“Our purpose and the rationale for why we embarked on a strategic planning process is that we are looking to acknowledge, build on and to maintain that positive momentum that has already been ongoing for quite some time in Cambridge schools,” Marggie Banker said.

Each focus area includes a goal, with the most specific being the teaching and learning of Cambridge students. For Pre-K through eighth grade students, CSD aims to increase the number of students meeting or exceeding academic growth targets in reading and math by 2%. The goal for high school students has yet to be determined.

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CAMBRIDGE

Living in a war zone

A former Cambridge High School exchange student from Ukraine shares his experience with the ongoing war in Ukraine, fundraises with local support

By Madeline Westberg
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A former Cambridge High School exchange student from Ukraine has partnered with a fellow CHS alum to raise more than \$10,000 for medical supplies and ambulances in Ukraine during the ongoing Russian invasion.

Kyrylo Beskorovayny, “Ky,” was one of four exchange students to live in Cambridge in 2011 for a year-long residency, as part of the Future Leaders Exchange Program.

Now, Ky is living in a war zone, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022.

After the start of the invasion, Ky began fundraising for medical supplies to support his hometown of Chernihiv, in the northern part of Ukraine. In addition to working with a group of alumni from his exchange program who studied in the U.S., Ky teamed up with former CHS classmate Augie McGinnity-Wake of Cambridge.

The group has fundraised for two ambulances, night vision scopes and countless medical supplies, totaling more than \$10,000.

The former exchange student has shared memories of his time in Wisconsin, and his experience with the early days of the invasion, with the Cambridge News/Deerfield Independent.

For more information on Ky’s fundraising successes, see next week’s edition of the Cambridge News/Deerfield Independent.

A year in Cambridge During his year studying abroad in Cambridge, Ky joined the Cambridge High School choir, went to school events, made friends with other students and even gave a graduation speech that left audiences laughing for a full minute.

“I was 15 back then, and I’ve never been away from home for so long, and I met a lot of very cool people.”

“I grew very much during that year. (It) taught me responsibility and how to manage different situations, when you’re sad, when you’re happy, when you don’t have friends at first,” and living in a new country,” he continued.

He was the first exchange student to ever take part in the Cambridge High School musical. And he tried baseball for the first time, a sport he hadn’t played in Ukraine.

“I wasn’t good but it was a lot of fun,” Ky said.

“I couldn’t take ceramics in Ukraine for instance in a curriculum, but I could in the United States. I had my locker...I had a dog, which I also didn’t have before,” Ky said. “I have great memories about teachers” like Larry Wilson, Joy Burchard and others.

During his year in Cambridge, Ky grew close with CHS alum Augie McGinnity-Wake. The pair kept in touch after Ky moved back to Ukraine, visiting each other in Cambridge, Washington D.C. and Kyiv.

After leaving Cambridge, Ky founded a Ukrainian popular science media company, Kunsht, accessible at kunsht.com.ua/. It began as a print magazine and migrated online in 2019.

When Russian forces invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, Ky was living in Kyiv.

“We woke up on the 24th of February because we heard bombs,” Ky said. “We heard some news that the war might break, but we didn’t believe until the end that it (would). Just in case, we had our emergency backpacks ready.”

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Kyrylo Beskorovayny

Kyrylo Beskorovayny, a Ukrainian man who spent an exchange year in Cambridge, was the first exchange student to participate in a Cambridge High School musical. Pictured above are members of the cast of the 2010-11 CHS musical.

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Help wanted: District seeking more community input

By Lauren Henning
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After hiring consultants to help guide planning for a possible referendum, the Deerfield Community School District is looking to expand the community committee tasked with that planning.

The district recently hired Bray architectural firm for community outreach and Vogel Bros. Building Company for construction management services to work with the district’s Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) on planning for a possible renovation to one of the Deerfield schools, potentially funded through referendum.

Formed in 2020, the CAC is a group of community members, parents and staff exploring the district’s future financial and facility needs.

The district is looking for several community members to join this task force, Deerfield Superintendent Michelle Jensen said.

“We are continuing to seek residents without children in the district so that we can have their voice and feedback in our process,” Jensen said in an email.

“The goal for the initial CAC meetings is to gather feedback and ideas to build the community survey which will be sent to all district residents in the fall.”

The CAC will work with Bray to shape community surveys, which will be used to determine the community’s priorities for a possible referendum to update, or possibly completely reconstruct, the aging Deerfield Middle-High School.

See **INPUT**, Page A2

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