



**DEC VIRTUAL READ FILE**  
**September 11, 2025**

**DEVENS IN THE NEWS:**

**Letter sent to Republic Services: Operation and Outside Storage Non-Compliance Complaint – Resolution Letter:**



Operations and  
Outdoor Storage re:

**New Principal at Parker Charter School**  
**Lowell Sun September 3, 2025**

**Devens' Parker School welcomes new principal, former teacher**

**PUBLISHED: September 3, 2025 at 5:40 AM EDT**

**Sentinel & Enterprise**

**'I'm excited to be back!'**



Incoming Principal Rebecca “Bex” Wilusz stands outside the Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School, where she was a teacher 20 years ago. The 7-12th grade public charter school’s 400 students come from 40 Massachusetts towns. (Courtesy The Parker School) **DEVENS** — The Francis W. Parker Essential Charter School’s new principal, Rebecca “Bex” Wilusz, is no newcomer to the 400-student, 7-12-grade charter school, as a former Arts and Humanities teacher for grades 11 and 12, 20 years ago. And she returned at an auspicious time, leading the school as it marks its 30th anniversary this year.

Interviewed in her office recently, Wilusz seemed right at home and ready to roll, with the start of school just days away and within a new and improved administrative architecture that Development Director Katrina Tedstone called “a big reorganization” aimed at “more focused leadership.”

In short, it was time for change. “We evolve,” Tedstone said. “Students revise their work, so do we.”

The question now is where to go from here. “Are we the best little school for 400 students (the state-set cap under its charter) or a model for transformational education?” The hope, she said, is that Parker can be both. Wilusz cited an initiative called “Great Schools” that sheds light on this issue, raising questions like “What is normal?” and “How do we do competency-based learning” in a post-pandemic world of education in which almost everything changed? Her takeaway: The video player is currently playing an ad. “A school doesn’t have to be — or look like — one thing,” she said. As principal, Wilusz will play a key role as The Parker School continues to evolve.

A graduate of Amherst College, Wilusz holds a Masters Degree in Teaching from Brown University and a Principal’s Certification from Northeastern University’s Center for Collaborative Education in Boston, among other certifications. In addition, she’s currently a Ph.D. candidate at Lesley University, anticipating completion next spring. Over her nearly three-decade career in education, Wilusz has held teaching, coaching, administrative, leadership and executive-level positions, working in schools from Georgia to Maine. Change seems to be a common thread. As Executive Administrator for 5DP, a multi-district partnership, for example, Wilusz worked with public school districts across New England to help them re-structure educational models. Wilusz has also had experience working in non-traditional public school environments like Parker’s, including two charter schools in Cambridge.

As a Lecturer in Education for a teacher leadership program at Brandeis University, her topic focused in part on planning and teaching “leadership, authority and school change.”

As a consultant/coach for 5DP, the educational collaborative, Wilusz worked with public schools in Maine that were “exploring and implementing competency and literacy-based learning,” she said, adding that she also helped other public schools in the network set up new operating models. “I was part of a team that worked throughout New England.”

She explained that when a school district joins the partnership, “the team goes in” to establish a working group to consider what changes need to happen, and how to do it. In Melrose, for example, they hired a facilitator to help “transition to competency-based learning,” she said. The challenge then was how to make it work. Sometimes, it doesn’t.

Now, however, she’s joining a successful school with a proven track record. Established in 1995, The Parker School is part of the Coalition of Essential Schools, with more than 1,000 schools nationwide. Its namesake, Francis W. Parker, was a New England educator known as “the father of progressive education.”

“Parker is very different from other public schools,” Wilusz said, combining its own unique strengths with things the state can offer. “It’s a lot of pieces,” she said. But it’s not about starting from scratch. “Here, people come knowing what the model is...it’s a clear foundation,” she said.

“That’s what drew me back,” Wilusz said. “It’s exciting to see how Parker has changed.”

As for what kind of principal she’ll be, Wilusz favors an active role and an open door. While her main role is administrative, she will also be working with teachers and students.

“They’re part of everything, after all,” she said. “It’s a learning-focused, student-centric environment.”

In a sense, Wilusz has returned to her roots. She comes from Connecticut, has worked in New England for most of her career and sees her years at Parker, two decades ago, as formative.

Harking back to her first student teaching job in Atlanta, Ga., where she taught high school English, Wilusz said that while moving from there to teaching at Parker was “quite a switch,” it was the right move. “It set a foundation for me,” she said.

“It’s hard, sometimes, to know what’s possible,” Wilusz said.

But, at Parker, the path is laid out, she said. With the school community involved every step of the way.

“We answer to our families,” she said.

Now, Wilusz looks forward to the year ahead.

## MIT fusion spinoff raises \$863 million in race to prove new technology works

[MIT startup Commonwealth Fusion Systems raises \\$863 million](#)

Boston Globe

August 28, 2025

### Community Update from Devens Connect Resident's Group:

#### Devens Connect Informational Update to Devens Residents - Joint from the Devens Committee & DJFC

- The "Mass Leads Act" (Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024) was signed into law and affected Devens in the following ways:
  - Effective 11/20/24 both the commercial and Housing caps were eliminated. The commercial cap has no impact since the MA DEP Environmental Permit controls development. However, the elimination of the housing cap allowed for development of several parcels that are already zoned for residential use.
- The legislation also required the formation of a Devens Housing Working Group (DWG) to determine a strategy and plan to provide for increased housing production within Devens in the Innovation & Technology Center Zoning Dist.
- Besides state agencies, the DWG group included representatives from the DEC, MassDev, the three towns, plus the Chair of the Devens Committee. Additionally, the local Senators and Representative also participated.
- Between the first DWG meeting on Jan 22, 2025, and the review and acceptance of the Final Report on May 14, 2025, the team convened three subgroups exploring: 1. Devens Fundamentals, 2. Community Considerations, and 3. Innovation in Development and Sustainable Housing. Through this entire process residents and others were able to provide input and had the ability to participate with the subgroups. Ultimately, the approved Final Report was submitted to the Legislature on May 20, 2025, with recommendations.
- During this process, the DJFC released \$300k in EOHLG grant funds to be utilized by the DWG for topics requiring further study.
- The DWG's recommendations included: 1. Regional School Needs Assessment, 2. Update building reuse assessments, 3. Traffic and parking study, including transit and Transportation Demand Management initiatives, and 4. Engage the Community, an initiative to be spearheaded by the DEC.

**DJFC Specific Update:** In early 2024 the DJFC tasked the 3 towns, Devens Residents, and the DEC to submit written recommendations covering 19 different jurisdiction topics, with one topic per month over 19 months. By year end 2025 all 19 topics will be complete. The Devens residents' task, for each of the 19 topics was: "If Devens were to become a town, how would the Town of Devens address/handle each of the topics". The topics are wide ranging; sample: Education, Public Works, Military Affairs, Utilities, Taxation etc.

The full study required regarding Devens Jurisdiction is to be started no later than July 1, 2030, and will be funded by Mass Development. There is little support for any acceleration of this timeline.

Devens Connect, in conjunction with the Devens Committee, will be scheduling an in-person Devens resident-only meeting in *the Fall* at which time select topics will be presented, with others to follow in subsequent meetings.

Stay tuned for additional details on the joint meeting!

John Katter  
DJFC Resident Representative

Laura Scott  
Devens Committee Chair

## Reduce and Redirect Waste Streams Opportunities for B2B and Community Collaboration

*Corporate sustainability leaders, facility managers and industry professionals are invited to attend the next meeting of the **Green Team Roundtable** networking forum hosted by the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center*



**Thursday, Sept 18, 8:00-9:30**  
**33 Andrews Parkway,**  
**Devens**

**RSVP Required: Dawn**  
**Babcock**

**Coffee, Pastry Available**

*Learn about waste reduction strategies and innovative steps organizations can take for more sustainable waste management*

### **Tour The Great Exchange**

- Preserves and repurposes resources
- Prevents valuable materials from going to landfill
- Over 600 types of materials benefit over 500 entities statewide





Congrats Jim Pinard!

SEPTEMBER 2025

# NashobaValley

COMM



Congratulations to the Pinard's Landscaping & Florist Team for taking home the 2025 Chamber Golf League Trophy! After an incredible 18 weeks of golf at Red Tail Golf Club, they came out on top of a great season filled with competition, camaraderie, and plenty of fun on the course. Interested in joining the fun next year? Reach out to us to learn more about how you can be part of the Chamber Golf League in 2026!

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