

## Superintendent's Report for December 2012

### Student/Staff Learning

1. Twenty-five grade 6-12 teachers have just completed the six-day graduate course with Dr. Sharma to improve our students' mathematical concepts and reasoning. It was inspiring to observe Dr. Sharma's demonstration classes with L&G students. Working with our math colleagues from Brattleboro UHS and Twin Valley HS gave greater perspective and importance to our study. K-2 teachers will begin a three-day course on Dec. 3 while grade 3-8 teachers will begin their work with Dr. Sharma on Dec. 4.
2. Funding by Title I will continue this professional development initiative to improve math instruction next year as we transition to the Common Core Standards (2015). The first step will be to appoint a WCSU-wide Mathematics Committee to coordinate our professional learning and evaluate the expected outcomes for our students. I am pleased that Chris Barton, a high school math teacher at L&G, and Laura Hazard, Jamaica Village School Principal, will co-chair this committee. Representatives from every school will serve on the WCSU Mathematics Committee and consult with Dr. Sharma. This committee's monthly meetings will begin in February.
3. At the WCSU Board Meeting on 11/27, Matt Martyn presented the Technology Vision for the WCSU. While his remarks gave some perspective to the FY14 budgets being considered by the operational school districts and as a supervisory union, the fiscal impact will be more noticeable in FY15 and the future. An effective technology infrastructure for the WCSU will require an operational plan sustained by 5% of all our annual budgets. For FY14 we are investing something closer to 3% SU-wide. Note that "technology infrastructure" includes the equipment, connections, maintenance, technical support, software, as well as professional and student learning. See the **WCSU Technology Services** document that follows below.
4. Vermont's students, parents, teachers, administrators, and school boards can take considerable pride in our state's graduation rate as recently reported by the US DOE.

#### **States Report New High School Graduation Rates Using More Accurate, Common Measure**

The U.S. Department of Education released data today (11/28/12) detailing state four-year high school graduation rates in 2010-11 – the first year for which all states used a common, rigorous measure. The varying methods formerly used by states to report graduation rates made comparisons between states unreliable, while the new, common metric can be used by states, districts and schools to promote greater accountability and to develop strategies that will reduce dropout rates and increase graduation rates in schools nationwide. \*Vermont's overall [SY2010-11 cohort graduation rate](#) ranks second (along with Wisconsin) in the nation (87%). View the full report at <http://1.usa.gov/UOCTEE>.

### Policy/Regulation

1. I will bring hardcopies of the DOE's model policy on bullying to every school board this month. Please consider warning it this month to consider adoption at your

**WCSU will** ...place students at the center of our decision-making.  
...build trust and respect by acting ethically, transparently, and with integrity.  
...operate as a community of learners, committed to developing the skills and capabilities of all.  
...collaborate, share and seek creative solutions.

- January board meetings.
2. The RED Study Committee met at L&G on Wed., November 28. The Committee directed all members to take the latest draft of the Articles of Agreement to their respective town school boards for a careful reading and consideration. This latest draft includes three Articles that address the concerns of smaller towns about the future of their schools. Pending approval of this draft or recommended revisions by the boards, the RED Study Committee will submit the Articles to the State Board of Education. The RED Committee will next meet on Wed., January 16.
  3. Emily Long, Rich Werner, and Ken McFadden will represent the WCSU Board and work with three representatives of the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union Board on a joint study committee. Their first meeting is scheduled for December 13 at Dover Elementary School. The VSBA will provide consulting services and advice to committee with funding provided by the VT DOE as provided by Acts 153 and 156.

## **Finance/Accounting/Operations**

1. The WCSU Board will meet this Wed., December 5 to consider the proposed Superintendent's Budget for FY14. Approval of this budget as reviewed by the Board at their Nov. 27 meeting will be the primary agenda item. The Board will also consider a proposal from Kim Friedman to schedule school district boards to meet in groups (perhaps two) at common locations. This would enable the WCSU Administration (Superintendent) to work with the boards more efficiently at a carousel meeting night. Multiple school boards in other supervisory unions have conducted their business effectively using this arrangement. (Note: This month there are seven board meetings scheduled next week followed by four the following week.)
2. Culminating two years of negotiations, Jamaica and the WCSU Boards have ratified and signed the teachers' contract tentative agreement. I will bring the agreement to Townshend, Wardsboro, L&G, and Brookline-Newfane for ratification when they meet this month. The WCEA membership has scheduled their ratification vote for Dec. 12.

## **Enrollment/Staffing**

1. You will note that the WCSU Assessments for FY14 have increased considerably over the 1.8% increase for the proposed WCSU Superintendent's Budget. Your district's student enrollment and relative share of the overall declining enrollment for the WCSU are the primary drivers for any increases above 1.8%. Winhall's withdrawal to Bennington Rutland-South SU compounds this adverse affect. The enrollment numbers (ADM) are listed on pages 7-1 and 7-2 in the proposed WCSU Budget that Frank emailed to all board members last Tuesday, 11/27.
2. If you have any questions regarding the proposed FY14 budgets, please call your principal, Frank or Steven for clarification.

## **Calendar Dates**

1. Final approval of the WCSU FY14 Superintendent's Budget is scheduled for the WCSU Board Meeting on Wed., December 5 at L&G, 7:00 P.M.

2. The Voluntary RED Study Committee will meet Wed., January 16, at 7:00 P.M. in the L&G Library. The Committee welcomes your questions, comments and suggestions regarding their work.

11/30/12 - sbj

## WCSU Technology Services

updated 11/26/2012

In preparation for the impending directive from the Vermont Legislature, Windham Central will begin the process of centralizing technology services. The steady increase in demand for technology (hardware), professional learning, and support services has added considerable demand to our technology service program as it exists now. While we have been able to expand the program over the past few years to meet the increase in demand, we believe that centralizing services will allow for the delivery of a more efficient and consistent technology services model. Further, centralization will allow us to develop programs that focus on three specific technology service needs as articulated by the Windham Central Administrative Team and in accordance with the Supervisory Union Strategic plan as well as individual schools' Action and *School-Wide Plans*.

1. Student and teacher technological preparedness for the *Common Core State Standards* and computer based assessments.
2. Integration of the *National Education Technology Standards (NETS)* into our common practice, Kindergarten through 12th grade.
3. Broaden the use of *Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics* (known as STEAM) initiatives into our common practice.

Advantages to "centralizing" technology services for Windham Central Supervisory Union:

- provide a more cost effective service model by utilizing grant funding to advance new technology initiatives associated with *Common Core State Standards (CCSS)* transition, *Smarter Balanced (computer-based) Assessments (SBAC)*, thus reducing the impact on local school budgets
- take advantage of the diverse skill sets among our staff and deploy people to schools based on individual strengths and the changing demand for services at any particular site
- provide more consistent services allowing a smoother transition between primary and secondary schools
- offer our schools the opportunity to challenge students and teachers to keep our academic program on the forefront of 21st century learning

WCSU will ...place students at the center of our decision-making.  
...build trust and respect by acting ethically, transparently, and with integrity.  
...operate as a community of learners, committed to developing the skills and capabilities of all.  
...collaborate, share and seek creative solutions.

It is the goal of the Windham Central Supervisory Union Technology Services department to provide the following services to all schools using the standard hardware and software employed by the WCSU in accordance with the school Action Plan and with the Supervisory Union Strategic Plan. Schools having 0-50 students will be assessed a minimum of .1 FTE, schools having 51-100 students will be assessed a minimum of .2 FTE, schools having 101-125 will be assessed a minimum of .3 FTE, schools having 126-150 students will be assessed a minimum of .4 FTE Leland and Gray will be assessed a minimum of 2.0 FTE based on student population and the added support necessary to administer and maintain PowerSchool (historical grades, PowerTeacher grade book, report cards, schedules, etc.) Schools may request more than their respective FTE and the WCSU will employ and deploy services and available resources in the best interest of all schools involved.

Windham Central Technology Services will provide the following services for each school:

- Technology integration support for direct classroom instruction
- Staff support and professional learning in the areas of hardware and application proficiency and unit/lesson planning to integrate technology into the program
- Assistance with and professional learning related to school web site management
- Internet connection and network infrastructure management
- General technical support services for production hardware and software
- Classroom technology equipment support
- Assistance with inventory management
- Budget and long-term planning
- Procurement