

Superintendent's Report for November

Student/Staff Learning

1. Later this month, Dr. Mahesh Sharma will meet with me along with other members of the ATM to plan for how best to support our teachers and students as we implement the Common Core Standards for mathematics. Dr. Sharma is contracted to provide training for all WCSU teachers in three groups: K-2, 3-5, and 6-12. This professional learning is funded by the Consolidation Federal Grants (CFG). The 6-12 section of this course includes math teachers from Brattleboro and Twin Valley.
2. Most of our schools now have teachers who are serving as literacy coaches. They met earlier this fall to begin training for their new role as mentors for their colleagues as we collaborate to improve reading and writing for all students K-12. As a key element of the WCSU's Balanced Literacy initiative, these coaches will help sustain and extend the gains our students have made in literacy. Our implementation of the Balanced Literacy plan provides a model for professional learning in mathematics. (See #1 above.)
3. The results of your students' performances on last spring's Science NECAP exams were shared with each school board respectively last month. Our students performed very well compared to the state average and what's more significant is the improvement for grades 4, 8, and 10 compared to 2010.

Policy/Regulation

1. Last month I emailed a copy of the DOE's model policy on bullying to every school board member. In addition to our continuing review of policies adopted 2007 or earlier, this policy should be adopted by January 1st.
2. The RED Study Committee will meet Wed., November 28. I encourage all board members from the five towns to attend and contribute to the consideration of next steps. I will share three proposed Articles of Agreement that are intended to address the concerns of smaller towns about the future of their schools.
3. The new Student Education Course Transcript (SECT) Surveys (census report of teachers and student minutes of instruction for all subjects in all VT public schools K-12) have been submitted to the DOE for each school. The Student Tuition Reports for each school district were submitted last week. The ADM reports for all operational school districts are due November 15 and are in process. Establishing and verifying residency for a small number of students takes considerable care, due process, and time.
4. Emily Long, Rich Werner, and Ken McFadden will represent the WCSU Board on a joint study committee with three representatives of the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union. A meeting schedule for this study committee has yet to be determined.

Finance/Accounting/Operations

1. Four audits were completed last month and we await the auditors' final reports (Winhall, L&G, Brookline-Newfane, and WCSU).

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.

2. The business office is now running payroll and accounts payable on the new APTA software system. Training continues as Frank's staff learns how to take best advantage of this new system's attributes.
3. Unfortunately, the WCSU Board Meeting on Oct. 24 did not have a quorum. Fortunately the WCSU Executive Committee did establish a quorum that night and gave Frank and me direction regarding the WCSU Budget for FY14. We intend to email a proposed budget to all board members on Nov. 14. This will give you time to review the proposal and prepare your questions for the next WCSU (full) Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 27 at L&G, 7:00 P.M. Final approval of the WCSU FY14 Budget is scheduled for a second WCSU Board Meeting on Wed., December 5.

Enrollment/Staffing

1. We welcome Randy Morton as our new Accountant. He and his family just moved from Florida to Grafton.
2. Carrie Dix will serve as the WCSU Pre-K Consultant to coordinate and advise all Pre-K services in our SU. She also teaches part-time at Dover for Pre-K 3-5 year olds.
3. Student enrollment and projections vary across the WCSU. Dover and Jamaica are up significantly, while Wardsboro and L&G have declined. Others are pretty stable.

Calendar Dates

1. The Voluntary RED Study Committee will meet Wed., November 28, at 7:00 P.M. in L&G's Library. The Committee welcomes your questions, comments and suggestions regarding their work.
2. WCSU (full) Board Meeting is Tuesday, November 27 at L&G, 7:00 P.M. to consider the Superintendent's proposed FY14 Budget.
3. Final approval of the WCSU FY14 Budget is scheduled for a second WCSU Board Meeting on Wed., December 5 at L&G, 7:00 P.M.

11/5/12 - sbj