

## Superintendent’s Report for May 2013

### Enjoy May’s flowers.

#### Student/Staff Learning

1. Our federal grant funds support technology integration to improve teaching and learning. Digital Wish is providing technical training and model instruction at NewBrook, Jamaica, Townshend, Wardsboro, and Windham. For this four-week initiative the Digital Wish Trainer, Eric, spends one day/week in each school working with students (grades 4-6) and staff. Note: Dover was the first to benefit from Digital Wish and a separate grant that provided laptops for all upper elementary students last year.
2. As you know Pre-K is now available to all residents in the WCSU. The public school programs are “free” for students in Dover, Jamaica, Townshend, Wardsboro, and Windham.

| School    | Class config.    | Ages | Hours                     | Days/wk | Transportation provided? | Students | Notes                                   |
|-----------|------------------|------|---------------------------|---------|--------------------------|----------|---|
| Dover     | Separate Classes | 3&4  | 8:00-11:20                | 5 and 3 | No, but daycare does     | 14       | 4 year olds m-f, 3 yr olds t,w,th       |
| Jamaica   | mixed with K     | 4    | 8:30-12:00                | 5       | No                       | 4        | Can come at 8 am for breakfast          |
| Townshend | mixed with K     | 4    | 8:00-11:30                | 5       | Yes, bus is available    | 10       |   |
| Wardsboro | mixed with K     | 4    | 8:15-11:15                | 5       | No                       | 4        |   |
| Windham   | mixed with K     | 4    | 8:30-12:30 or 1:00 t,w,th | 3       | No                       | 5        | Some students stay until 1:00 for lunch |

3. Townshend will have a full day PreK program starting this fall. Brookline, Newfane, Marlboro, Stratton, and Winhall provide PreK instruction by contracting with private providers.
4. The WCSU Board’s Annual Meeting will have a new format this year. The Principals and I are planning a more public event with presentations and activities that engage all participants in learning together. The program for this evening is more of an interactive education fair than a meeting. “Celebrating the Whole Child from PreK to 12: Learn What’s Up in the WCSU!” is the theme of the WCSU Board’s Annual Meeting on Monday, May 20 from 7 -9 P.M. in the Dutton Gym at L&G. Come to learn how the increasing collaboration among the WCSU schools achieve excellence in teaching and learning. Prior to this meeting, I will email the customary reports and information regarding progress in reaching the goals of the *WCSU Strategic Plan*.

#### Policy/Regulation

1. Parents are able to request that a school board pay for up to 10hrs/wk for a child attending a licensed and approved private or public PreK provider in or out of the school district. The Jamaica Board respectfully declined such a request from three parents at their last meeting. The PreK bill H270 currently being debated by the legislature may oblige significant changes in how school districts and the state provide for PreK education.

**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 Executive Committee met on April 24 to complete the Superintendent's annual evaluation. They also voted to accept Windham Southwest SU's invitation to study supervisory union realignment with the stipulation that neighboring SU's Windham Southeast and Southwest Vermont (Bennington) be invited as well. This study is separate and in addition to our present Joint SU Study regarding education services and operations.
3. The Executive Committee also answered the RED Study Committee's question about how best to adjust the voting representation on the WCSU Board in the future if a RED were formed. Option D was their recommendation to the Committee. This recommendation retains the present balance of voting power among the school districts and includes a plan for Windham being in or out of the RED depending on the decision of the voters.
4. The RED Study Committee Meeting scheduled for May 1 was postponed because we could not confirm a quorum. The RED Committee will meet Wed., June 5 at 7 P.M. at L&G to consider revised Articles of Agreement. For more details see the RED Committee page on our WCSU website.

## Finance/Accounting/Operations

1. FY14 Contracts for teachers are to be returned by May 15. I anticipate very few changes in staffing at our schools. Retaining quality leadership and staff is a goal of the Strategic Plan because it best ensures the achievement of our students.
2. The latest advice regarding the federal "sequestration" includes cuts ranging from a low of 4% to somewhere between 5 – 10% depending on the federal program. We will certainly have to reduce our Title I investments for FY14 and we will know more on May 20<sup>th</sup> when we receive our Consolidated Federal Programs (CFP Grant) allocation.
3. A sequestration cut of 4% in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant for Fy14 (\$17,838) is definite. As required by the AOE, a representative 21C Team will be consulting with Jennifer Connor to determine what cuts will be made.

## Enrollment/Staffing

1. Kathy Velsor will be retiring in June. Kathy's sunny personality and personal connection and care with all employees will be missed. Prior to coming to the WCSU Office, Kathy served the school community of Jamaica as administrative assistant to the principal. A reception is being planned for June 7 to honor her many years of service. We all want to wish her the best in retirement, so save the date.
2. We will soon be hiring another Speech Language Pathologist to meet our students' needs for this fall.

## Calendar Dates

1. WCSU Board Meeting will be Mon., May 20, at 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. in the Dutton Gym at L&G.
2. The Voluntary RED Study Committee will meet Wed., June 5, at 7:00 P.M. in the L&G Library.

5/3/13 - sbj