

## **Superintendent's Report for the Winhall School Board**

**Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 5:00 P.M.**

Note: I must leave you to meet with the L&G Board at 7:00.

### **Student/Staff Learning**

1. On April 11 all principals, Frank, Abby, Matt will attend a second information/Q&A presentation on the Common Core Standards at the NewBank Center in Chester. The SE VT Superintendents Association sponsors this conference to enable all administrators in our region to collaborate on the implementation of the Common Core and SBAC (replacing NECAP).
2. The eighteen Journey East students at L&G left for China two weeks ago. Dr. Dorfman returned from her educational/diplomatic mission with memos of understanding (MOUs) establishing sister school relationships for L&G with three schools in Zhejiang Province – Yunhe H.S., Yuhang H.S., and the Jinhua (Performing) Art School.
3. A German student attending L&G interviewed me by phone for over an hour. She was researching the U.S. internment of Americans of Japanese decent during WWII.
4. Stephanie Nyzio brought items from the recent art show to the WCSU Office late Friday. This collection will replace the student artwork we have displayed for the past year. My staff appreciates this generous loan. These works are a constant reminder of who we are really working for — our students.
5. I've just received word from the DOE that Ms. Tong Chen will be receiving a cash prize in recognition of her being Vermont's Teacher of the Year. A local presentation ceremony is being planned.
6. Amanda Dixon, Hannah Labarre, Johanna Liskowsky-Doak, Ted Redfield, and Joe Towle attended workshops at the New England League of Middle Schools Annual Conference in Providence, RI April 1-3. I had the pleasure of joining them and was impressed with their professional commitment to middle level students. I shared my notes with all WCSU staff and board members via email last week. Your comments and questions are solicited.
7. Kris Jerz, Sue Newman, and Mickey Parker-Jennings met on Friday continuing their collaboration to clarify mathematics standards (Common Core), specifically in algebra for students in grades 5-6. I consulted with them for a short time.

### **Policy/Regulation**

1. Board Reps. from ten districts attended the WCSU Board Meeting on 3/28, with only Wardsboro not represented. Thank you Scott and Marty for representing Winhall at this meeting.
2. The WCSU Board approved (with one dissenting vote) a letter to Vermont Senators urging them to vote no on H.440, the bill empowering the Governor

to appoint a Secretary of Education.

3. The WCSU Board unanimously supported Winhall School Board's request to withdraw from the WCSU and join the Bennington Rutland South SU beginning with FY14.
4. I attended a VSA Meeting on pending legislation in Berlin last Thursday and will share my notes with you at your meeting.
5. On April 4 the R.E.D. Study Committee reviewed projected costs and savings that would result from constructing a new elementary school to serve the towns of Jamaica, Townshend, and Windham. I can report on this discussion and next steps for the R.E.D. study if time permits.
6. I recommend that you review your oldest policies from 1995, 1999, and 2000, a few at each meeting for possible revision.

## **Finance/Accounting/Operations**

1. On March 28, the WCSU Board unanimously approved both the Agency Fund and Grants Budgets for FY13.
2. The Board also voted 15 to 5 to continue to assess EEE expenses for FY14 by the same method as we have for FY13. The case manager and SLP services for EEE will continue to be shared by the school districts based on ADM % of all elementary students in WCSU. Additional costs for equipment and special services, e.g., 1:1 para, as stipulated in the student's IEP will continue to be billed directly to the school district.
3. Frank provided copies of the Annual Auditor's Report for consideration at the Annual Meeting on May 23.

## **Enrollment/Staffing**

1. The WCSU Board unanimously approved extending Mike McKinney's contract to provide instrumental music instruction for Windham School students this spring.
2. Five additional out of district students have requested to attend L&G as 9<sup>th</sup> graders this fall under provisions of VT's public high school choice law. I have contacted the superintendents involved to inform them we will accept these students and that no money follows these students as the law now stipulates. The legislature is considering a new school choice law for grades 7-12.

## **Informational Items**

1. WCSU Executive Committee will meet re: the Superintendent's Evaluation on Wed. April 18 at 7:00 P.M. in the Townshend Elementary School's Library.
2. Google Mail training for all board members will be offered Thurs., April 19. Led by Matt Martyn at NewBrook Elementary School, 7:00 P.M.
3. The Voluntary RED Study Committee will meet Wed., May 2, at 7:00 P.M. in L&G's Library.
4. The WCSU Board's Annual Meeting will be Wed., May 23, 7:00 P.M. at Dover. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

4/7/12 - sbj

- 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.