

Superintendent’s Report for the Winhall School Board

Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 5:00 P.M.

Note: I must leave you to meet with the Jamaica Board at 7:00.

Student/Staff Learning

1. The Journey East student group returned home to L&G and performed their “road show” on Saturday, May 5. The spontaneity and creativity of our students were highlighted in this remarkable performance. Tom Connor shared the observations of many Chinese teachers who could not believe how students could be so multi-talented at dance, voice, acting, mime, and musical instruments. The extent of creative collaboration and original ideas evidenced by this Journey East show are attributes to which China aspires.
2. Last Thursday, grade 5/6 teachers met to continue their yearlong initiative to establish Common Core standards for mathematics teaching and learning throughout the WCSU.
3. All principals are working with Matt Martyn to develop school reports that briefly summarize student performance and growth over the last three years. These reports will be shared and combined for SU-wide grade level summaries at the WCSU Board Annual Meeting on May 23. Laura has shared the JVS Report data at your last board meeting.
4. I’m pleased to report that the Stratton School Board has received a VCPC grant to support making Pre-K education available for all Stratton residents. What is more significant is that for the first time residents of all ten WCSU towns will enjoy opportunities for learning at the Pre-K level starting this fall.
5. L&G will host two short summer “camps” for Chinese students to improve their English and experience American culture. Families interested in hosting a Chinese student for one or two weeks this summer should contact Tom Connor (w-365-7355).

Policy/Regulation

1. I am attending the State Board of Education Meeting in Bennington on Tuesday, May 5. I will personally support your board’s request to move to Bennington Rutland South Supervisory Union.
2. I recommend that you review your policies that were adopted more than five years ago. These include:

E09	HIV AIDS	5/18/00	mandatory
F02	Bus Discipline	8/17/99	recommended
F05	Student Records	8/24/95	NA ?
F21	Firearms & Weapons	5/18/00	mandatory

3. Let me know how you want to proceed with this policy review. Once completed you should be in good shape until you transfer to the BRSSU in FY14.
4. The WCSU Board Executive Committee met to review the Superintendent’s Evaluation without the benefit of a quorum. Please plan to attend the next

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.

WCSU Board Meeting on May 23.

5. The legislature adjourned on May 5. I will email a summary of laws related to education from the VSA/VSBA. The good news is that H.753 as intended to improve Act 153 was passed without the amendment that would require non-members to pay a union agency fee.
6. I can share highlights of the May 2nd RED Committee Meeting. The Committee will consider a second draft of the articles of agreement on June 6. The Committee wonders how (or if) they should simultaneously pursue the question of constructing a new elementary school to serve the towns of Jamaica, Townshend, and Windham.

Finance/Accounting/Operations

1. I will request an executive session for “personnel” to consider your employee contracts for FY13.
2. The Annual Auditor’s Report for WCSU will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting on May 23 in Dover. Frank provided copies at a previous meeting. Please call if you need one.
3. Contracts for the WCSU administrative office staff will be offered on or before May 15.
4. On May 23, the WCSU will consider my recommendations for contracts for the professionally licensed members of my administrative team (Frank, Abby, Matt, and our school psychologist, Tom Daughton).

Enrollment/Staffing

1. John Doty will retire (again) effective June 30, 2012 as Windham’s Principal. We are seeking a replacement for this position (10 hours per week).
2. John Doty’s retirement also means that he will no longer consult as the WCSU Professional Development Coordinator. I am considering restructuring my administrative team to coordinate the planning and implementation of professional development throughout the WCSU.
3. Mr. Marting “Marty” Testo has been hired as L&G’s Athletic and Student Activities Director beginning July 1. Marty has prior teaching, coaching, and A.D. experience at Hinsdale HS and Keene State College. He intends to continue his work as an assistant coach for the KSC Baseball Team.

Informational Items

1. The Voluntary RED Study Committee will meet Wed., June 6, at 7:00 P.M. in L&G’s Library. The proposed RED Articles of Agreement will be reviewed and revised.
2. The WCSU Board Annual Meeting will be Wed., May 23, 7:00 P.M. at Dover.
3. The WCSU Board Summer Retreat will be Wed., August 22 at 5:00 P.M. Location TBA.

5/13/12 -sbj