

Superintendent's Report for the Winhall School Board

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 5:00 P.M.

Note: I am expected at the Jamaica Board Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Student/Staff Learning

1. You should have received my notes from the VSBA/VSA fall conference, October 20-21. I welcome your questions and discussion of any issues from this conference. The conference's closing session was a mock Town Meeting debating articles re: a policy opinion poll. You may find it provocative.
2. We have two regional meetings in November that explain the latest developments and status of the transition to the national Common Core Standards to be fully implemented in 2014. The first meeting on Nov. 9 focused on language arts, while the second on Nov. 21 will address mathematics. I am participating as well as my principals and key teachers.
3. Governor Shumlin honored Tong Chen, as Vermont's 2012 Teacher of the Year, at L&G's all school assembly last Thursday. Following his remarks, Peter opened up the meeting to questions from students. Their questions ranged from, "What's your favorite color?" and "Did you always want to be Governor?" to "What happening with healthcare?" and "What's your opinion of nuclear energy (not specifically Entergy)?" After school, the Governor met with the faculty for a spontaneous question and answer session.
4. Congratulations to the NewBrook Spelling Bee Team! These 5th and 6th graders won the Regional Competition and now move on to compete for the Vermont State Championship. I commend the Mountain School at Winhall for participating in the WCSU competition earlier this fall.

Policy/Regulation

1. Consider adopting policies E11: Banking and Investment and E12: Fraud Prevention.
2. The minutes of the five town Voluntary Regional Education District (RED) Study Committee meetings are on line. At their October meeting, the committee agreed conceptually to an article of agreement requiring the vote of the town to approve closing any school.
3. Winhall was not represented at the WCSU Board Meeting on October 26. Although seven district boards were represented, the full WCSU Board could take no action being one voting member short of a quorum – 14 present, 15 required. The proposed WCSU Superintendent will be voted on at the Dec. 7th WCSU Board Meeting.

Finance/Accounting/Operations

1. The WCSU Board gave Frank and me some general ideas about the conceptual direction of the WCSU Superintendent and Agency Fund Budgets for FY13. I will bring copies of the proposed WCSU Budget for FY13 for your review and discussion.
2. At L&G on Friday, Nov. 4, the NewBrook Principal, Chris Pratt taught the first (and we intend annual) WCSU bus drivers training for behavior management and student conduct. Your bus drivers attended this training session. I hosted this training to lend

administrative support.

3. We have improved the lighting in WCSU offices upstairs and also the building's security with motion detectors for outside lighting.

Enrollment/Staffing

1. We project an increase to 19 EEE students for FY13 compared to 10 served this year.
2. To date, we have been unable to locate a suitable candidate to fill the position of WCSU Administrative Assistant for Student Support Services, i.e., Abby Dillon's assistant.
3. As we pursue additional leads, I have taken the following measures: 1) contracted for a specific task to meet a Special Education reporting deadline; 2) directed Samantha to assist with Sp. Ed. responsibilities; 3) temporarily hired Alison Hescocock (L&G '05) as our front desk receptionist in the office. Alison will be answering our phones from 8:00 – 3:30 Monday through Friday.
4. For the first time since NCLB was enacted, the WCSU has achieved 100% compliance with the requirement that all classes covered by the Act be taught by "highly qualified teachers" (HQT). This fact may not directly benefit our students, but it is a credit to the professional status of our teachers in the WCSU.

Informational Items

1. The Voluntary RED Study Committee Meeting will meet Dec. 14, 7 P.M. at L&G Library. This includes the towns of Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane, and Townshend.
2. The WCSU Negotiating Team's next meeting - TBA.
3. On October 26, the WCSU Board Executive Committee (quorum) met at 6:30 P.M. prior to the full board meeting (no quorum) at 7:00 P.M. at Jamaica Village School. The next WCSU Board Meeting will be Wed., Dec. 7, 7:00 P.M. at Leland and Gray to consider and formally vote on the proposed WCSU Superintendent's and Agency Fund Budgets for FY13.

sbj – 11/10/11