

## Superintendent's Report for the Winhall School Board

**Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 5:00 P.M.**

Note: I am expected at the Jamaica Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M. Please adjust your agenda to permit me to be there. Thanks.

### Student/Staff Learning

1. For the time being, I directed all principals to welcome any students to our schools regardless of residency. Some families are likely to be displaced and we want all children to attend the nearest school without question. For any L&G students who are absent due to Irene, every effort will be made to send assignments home. Students will be able to make up for any lost instruction on an individual student basis. Parents and students are encourage to contact L&G to find out what works best for their family.
2. The boards and all school employees made the transition to Google Apps for email communications, calendaring, and collaboration sharing documents, effective September 6<sup>th</sup>. We will use your previous email addresses in addition to your Gmail account for another month, but do switch over for any board business. Board members attending the WCSU Retreat Meeting received the necessary details. Let Samantha know if you have not received your password and log in information. I am sending this report to both accounts, so you should receive it twice.
3. Friday, Sept. 9, I greeted the students and staff in their classrooms in Marlboro, NewBrook, Jamaica, and L&G. On the following Monday, I visited Dover, Wardsboro, and Townshend. Everyone seems relieved and quite happy to be in school. Attendance is remarkably good considering the circumstances of many families. A Hurricane Irene Relief Fund is receiving donations at L&G to provide a free hot breakfast for all students.

### Policy/Regulation

1. As I informed you earlier by email, the DOE's Hearing Officer found in favor of the appellant, Ward Kane. The Board's determination was overturned and by this decision Mr. Kane and his family are residents of Winhall. Now the school district must pay the tuition for the Kane children's education. Your next decision in this matter is to determine which school should receive payment, MSW or Monteverdi Friends School.
2. Stratton will not be supporting pre-k students financially this year. Having eliminated Stratton from consideration, I am working on the contract with MSW to provide 10 hr/week for up to five Winhall pre-k students at \$1800 a piece.
3. Due to Irene's devastation, none of the WCSU's schools were able to open as scheduled. Fortunately no school was damaged, but a number of families lost their homes. Wardsboro and Jamaica were the hardest hit, with Wardsboro opening just last week. Many schools will be adjusting their calendars to make up school days for instruction to meet the state minimum of 175 days. June should be interesting!
4. The Voluntary Regional Educational District Study Committee met on Sept. 7. I can brief you on the progress of this study, or you may read the draft minutes on line.

## **Finance/Accounting/Operations**

1. Four audits began this week including Newfane, L&G, Winhall, and the WCSU. All bills and payrolls should be on time despite the weather and its consequences for our staff.
2. As reduced by the previously announced \$8,000, the DOE approved our WCSU Consolidated Federal Grant proposal for FY12. Contracts can now be offered for CFG funded and 21 Century Grant after-school services.

## **Enrollment/Staffing**

1. On August 14, Jennifer Connor began her work as the WCSU 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program Director to oversee the after-school program at seven schools this fall. Mrs. Connor will share an office at the WCSU.
2. Last week, the personnel office (Kathy Velsor) moved downstairs at the WCSU. Our clientele should find this location much more convenient. The EEE Program (Claire Nelson) has relocated to Townshend Elementary School to better serve young children in a school setting.
3. Jenn Chapin has resigned to take her “dream job” in Houston. Abby Dillon and I are working to fill her Administrative Assistant position as soon as possible.

## **Informational Items**

1. The Voluntary RED Study Committee Meeting will be Oct. 5, 7 P.M. at L&G Library. Nov. 2 is their meeting set for November.
2. The WCSU Board Executive Committee will meet at 6:30 P.M. on October 26 at Jamaica Village School. The Full WCSU Board Meeting will follow at 7:00 P.M.

sbj – 9/16/11