

Superintendent's Report for the Winhall School Board

Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at 5:00 P.M.

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

Student/Staff Learning

1. Congratulations to the NewBrook Spelling Bee Team! These 5th and 6th graders are the Vermont State Champions for the second year in a row. Our team won the competition by spelling every bonus word correctly, scoring 142 points out of a possible 144. My compliments to Ms. VP on another fantastic year as NewBrook's spelling bee coach.
2. 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. At the grade 5-6 GLAM last Friday, I responded to questions about the transition to the Common Core Standards focusing on mathematics. These standards not only increase the expectation for higher levels of mathematical understanding at earlier grades, but also require teachers to expand their repertoire of instructional techniques.

Policy/Regulation

1. Consider adopting policy E11: Banking and Investment you warned on 10/18/11.
2. The WCSU Board adopted E11 on 12/7/11. Ten of eleven district boards were represented with 21 voting members present at that meeting – and impressive turnout. Thank you Scott and Marty for representing Winhall. The proposed WCSU Superintendent's Budget for FY13 was approved by unanimous vote. My administration appreciates the Board's direction and support.
3. With the exception of Dover, all elementary teachers will attend professional development at Townshend for January 17 and 18. The L&G Board approved my recommendation to change the semester break to make up for our late start this fall. L&G classes will be held January 17 and 18, but school will close for in-service on Monday, January 23.
4. On November 15th in Wilmington, Frank and I spoke at a statewide hearing for the Picus Education Funding Study re: Acts 60 and 68. John Doty and Emily Long also attended.
5. The VT Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) adopted new standards for administrators to parallel those adopted for teachers last June. These new standards are closely linked to the Common Core and are more student centered and outcomes based.

Finance/Accounting/Operations

1. The WCSU's Best Grant was approved for FY12 for nearly \$22k. Four of our schools including Jamiac benefit from this training and support for improving student discipline/behavior.
2. Funding for the EEE Program in FY13 was approved as part of the Superintendent's

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.

Budget. In March, the WCSU Board intends to debate the method of allocating EEE expenses for FY14.

Enrollment/Staffing

1. As we have been unable to fill the position of WCSU Administrative Assistant for Student Support Services, I have directed Samantha to assist Abby with Sp. Ed. responsibilities, and hired Alison Hescoock (L&G '05) as our front office receptionist. Alison will be answering our phones from 8:00 – 4:30 Monday through Friday.
2. A number of schools have added new students recently. This is a promising development across the WCSU, but L&G's enrollment is still projected to decline from 395 to 375 over the next three years. There is no reason to think Winhall's numbers will decline. On the contrary, they may continue to increase.

Informational Items

1. The Voluntary RED Study Committee Meeting scheduled for Dec. 14, was postponed due to scheduling conflicts. The next Committee meeting will be January 4 at 7:00 P.M. in L&G's Library. The question, "What are the possible increased opportunities for learning for our students?" will be discussed.
2. The next WCSU Board Meeting will be Wed., March 28, 7:00 P.M. at Townshend for their annual organizational meeting and election of officers. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

sbj – 12/20/11