

Superintendent's Report for the Winhall School Board

Tuesday, February 15, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.

Student/Staff Learning

1. Fall's NECAPs results were released February 8. Math and writing continues to be a major concern statewide at the middle and high school levels. We share this concern and the WCSU Strategic Plan's action steps are being implemented and revised to improve math teaching and learning. Implementation of the Common Core standards will require significant professional development in mathematics K-12.
2. MAPs testing will soon be completed in the elementary schools and we look forward to reporting on our students learning since last fall.
3. The ATM is developing the format for a WCSU school report card that includes student performance outcomes, including NECAPs, MAPs, attendance and other indicators as directed by your board.
4. On January 17-18, Townshend hosted the Fountas and Pinnell professional development to improve student writing. As a key element of the WCSU's Balanced Literacy initiative, this concludes our four-day course for elementary school teachers this year. We hope to see some improvements in our students' reading and writing later this year. Sixth graders should be better prepared for their transitions the seventh grade.

Policy/Regulation

1. Consider adopting policy E11: Banking and Investment you warned on 10/18/11. F20: Harassment of Students was warned on 1/6/11, but I have no date of adoption. Otherwise your board has adopted all policies required by law.
2. Have you completed the Superintendent's Evaluation and given it to Emily Long, WCSU Board Chair?
3. All the WCSU school districts have warned or adopted proposed FY13 Budgets. Frank has compiled a series of tables comparing these proposals and their projected impacts on school tax rates. I'll bring copies FYI.
4. The Voluntary RED Committee met February 1. I will report on the latest developments that should be of interest to Winhall. The RED Study's minutes and resources (reports) are posted on the WCSU website.
5. The legislature bears watching as a number of significant education bills are being debated this session. I refer you to the VSBA Legislative Briefs (two in January) that were emailed to all school board members. I'll share the latest observations I've have from Carolyn Partridge, Richard Marek, and John Moran.

Finance/Accounting/Operations

1. All the WCSU school districts have warned or adopted proposed FY13 Budgets. Frank has compiled a series of tables comparing these proposals and their projected impacts on school tax rates. I'll bring copies FYI.
2. L&G's FY13 Budget was approved by 61% of the votes cast in the five member towns. The turnout (281) was better than last year, but slightly less than the usual 300+. Townshend was the only town with a majority voting no.

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.

3. On Saturday, the NewBrook School Budget was approved by unanimous vote. 28 attended this Annual Meeting for the Brookline-Newfane Joint Contract School.
4. Funding for the EEE Program in FY13 was approved as part of the Superintendent's Budget. On March 28, the WCSU Board intends to debate the method of allocating EEE expenses for FY14.

Enrollment/Staffing

1. See the RED Study Committee "Resources" on the WCSU website for student enrollment projections in the five LGUHS towns.
2. Winhall is the only town in the WCSU that continues to show significant increases in student population.

Informational Items

1. The Voluntary RED Study Committee will meet Wed., March 21, at 7:00 P.M. in L&G's Library.
2. The 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.

2/12/12 -sbj