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wrvsu.org

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September, 2020
Sharon School Directors' Report

It was wonderful to have our faculty/staff return to our buildings on Thursday, August 27th. I am equally excited to have our students back in school on Tuesday, September 8th. There has been a tremendous amount of work completed since the end of May in order to ensure a safe and effective reopening of schools. I'm confident that we have the procedures, plans, and practices in place to do just that! I'm also pleased to report that the WRVSU board approved the following three newly revised WRVSU Strategic Plan/Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) Goals. Therefore, all administrators will be reporting out monthly on the progress and steps taken to address the following goals. In addition, Keenan will also be reporting out on social/emotional data from school year 19-20. This data will serve as a baseline as we move forward in ensuring that our comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is working to better support our students.

1) The WRVSU will form and sustain a comprehensive MTSS that:

- **Utilizes evidence based best practices in instruction**
- **Utilizes student data to ensure student growth**
- **Encourages a rigorous, innovative and relevant learning environment**
- **Encourages the integration of PLP and Flexible Pathways to best meet the needs of all students.**

I spent a majority of my time during my opening in-service address to provide a framework for better understanding the components and principles of a MTSS. It is clear that our buildings are all at different levels of understanding/execution, but that all of us are aligned in our belief that this system is critical in creating schools of excellence. I'm also pleased to report that Mary Ellen Simmons and Aimee Toth have been working together on ensuring that we have the data systems in place across the WRVSU to assist our teams with making the best informed decisions for both classroom instruction (universal), and targeted/intensive interventions.

Don McMahn and I both continue to analyze our approach to providing intensive interventions. It is clear that we need to strengthen our menu of interventions both in academics and social/emotional. We are also working directly with our colleagues that serve students via what was formerly known as the Restorative Classroom. We are working with them to redesign and reimagine how we can transform that program into more inclusive programming for the students of WRVSU. To this end, we plan to join that team on a bi-weekly basis to support,

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analyze data, and create a strategic plan for how we move forward with better supporting our students in the least restrictive learning environment.

2) WRVSU will implement a PK-12 Proficiency Based Learning System. WRVSU school will utilize a comprehensive approach to ensure relevancy, rigor, and personalization. This will be achieved through the following:

- **Curriculum**
- **Instruction**
- **Assessment**

I'm pleased to report that we had over twenty-five teachers from across the WRVSU attend a recent professional development offering from Aimee Toth. In addition, we have had 70% of our teachers participate in a WRVSU virtual lesson platform in order to share ideas, mini lessons, etc. It is this type of collaboration and engagement that is needed in order to ensure that we use the collective genius across the WRVSU in order to best support our students.

We continue to focus on our work in literacy, while also turning an eye on addressing our students' struggles in mathematics. To this end, Bonnie Bourne and Mary Ellen have been meeting and supporting teachers in the area of mathematics. This is just the start of a larger scaled approach to ensuring that we have the same instructional blocks/approaches to high quality math instruction.

Finally, I've requested that we move forward with the development of a WRVSU elementary report card that clearly articulates the achievement of the WRVSU proficiencies through grade 6. This report card is task one of many in order to ensure we all are teaching, assessing, and communicating achievement of the WRVSU proficiencies. I'm confident that this is a needed step in order to ensure equity and accountability across the WRVSU. You can also expect a data report on baseline achievement data as measured by STAR 360 during your October meeting. This data will be used to progress monitor cohort growth throughout the 20-21 school year in both math and reading.

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3) *The WRVSU will improve student learning and increase equitable educational opportunities through the development of a culture that promotes interdependence among all stakeholders and enhances student achievement, choice and voice.*

I'm pleased to report that the WRVSU Equity Task Force continues to move forward with the development of a WRVSU Equity Policy. In addition, we are working across the WRVSU to form a Student Support Team that brings together our top social/emotional experts and other support agencies to ensure that we are coordinating efforts to provide wraparound support for our struggling students/families.

In addition to settling on a consistent in person learning schedule throughout our eight elementary schools, we have also implemented the WRVSU Virtual Learning Academy, and partnered with the One Planet Program to ensure that we were able to offer highly engaging enrichment and intervention opportunities daily from 1:30-3:00.

The synergy and desire to work collaboratively across the WRVSU is palpable, and will go a long way in ensuring that we achieve our goal of becoming schools of excellence.

With great excitement for the reopening of schools,

Jamie Kinnarney
Superintendent of Schools
WRVSU