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Tara Weatherell, Business Manager  
Donald McMahon, Director of Special Services  
Mary Ellen Simmons, Director of CIA



wrvsu.org

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December, 2020

Sharon School Directors' Report

I hope that this report finds you well, and that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Most of my time this past week was spent navigating the 11th hour curveball that the Agency of Education and Governor's office provided late Tuesday, November 24th. I'm hopeful that the information provided from my office assisted both faculty/staff and parents/guardians with navigating the new request specific to social gatherings.

Lyall Smith will also be joining the meeting next Tuesday to provide any and all updates specific to the parking lot Project. I'm happy to report that we will also have the third draft of the 21-22 Sharon budget to present to you Tuesday evening. This is the third draft of the 21-22 budget. The budget has been built to support expected wage increases for all staff, along with the predicted increases in health insurance. You will also note that we are budgeting 100% exposure on the HRA costs. This was a decision that Tara and I made early on in the budgeting process to ensure all possible exposures were covered appropriately. We will be looking for discussion, feedback, and your thoughts as we move forward to have a budget ready for Sharon board adoption in January. Finally, we will also be looking for formal adoption of several policies that have been approved in both WRUD and WRVSU. Those are also included in the agenda for review prior to Tuesday evening. These policies have been on the docket for the past two months.

**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.**

All schools across WRVSU engaged in a self-assessment of the five components and ten principles of MTSS. The self-assessment will then be used to inform next steps at each campus in order to ensure that we have the appropriate tasks articulated for continuous improvement. In addition, we will also be analyzing the results across WRVSU to make certain that our Road Map for Success clearly articulates the priorities specific to strengthening our System of Supports. To this end, we will be working together to offer differentiated professional development for all of our WRVSU teachers/staff during the in-service days of December 21 and 22.

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I'm pleased to report that we offered additional professional development on Friday, November 20th in Direct Instruction (DI). We have been engaging in a process to better define our menu of academic supports across WRVSU. To this end, we have identified DI as part of this comprehensive menu. Therefore, all principals, central office administrators, and interventionists are being trained in this approach in order to ensure fidelity of implementation. Please be clear, this is just one approach of several needed in order to ensure we have the right tools in our comprehensive toolkit to best serve our students.

As noted in recent communications, the budgets across WRVSU prioritize the addition of targeted math intervention. We currently lack the capacity to ensure our students receive responsive intervention in the area of mathematics. This effort will be supported through reallocation of funds, along with prioritizing it as a strategy for continuous improvement in our Consolidated Federal Grant (CFG).

**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 met with the Tarrant Institute on Thursday, November 19th to discuss next steps specific to Proficiency Based Learning and Alternative Pathways. Specifically, I'm very interested in how we can leverage our smaller middle school class sizes to increase personalized learning, passion projects, and increase student voice/choice. It is critical that we provide the opportunities for learner agency at a younger age to best ensure students understand that they are in the driver's seat when it comes to pursuing their passions through Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs). This work will take time, patience, and continued reassessment/refinement, but it is critical in making certain that our students feel relevancy in our classrooms. As I've stated before, with relevancy, also comes increased rigor!

I was very excited to showcase the pilot WRVSU elementary report card. The example provided to the SU board on November 23rd was in draft form only, but it provided a solid example of what they will communicate and emphasize. This work will go a long way to ensuring that we are engaging in our curricular documents, holding ourselves accountable to using our scoring scales, and recommitting to proficiency based instruction/assessment.

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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.***

The WRVSU board approved my proposal on Monday evening for the position of Chief Academic Officer of MTSS. This position will be posted no later than Monday, November 30th.

The timeline for hire is as follows:

Position posted on Monday, November 30th

Application closes on Thursday, December 31st

1st round interviews week of January 11th

2nd round interview week of January 18th

WRVSU Superintendent Candidate Recommendation and Board Interview on January 25th

I am working diligently to ensure that we are proactively communicating with the WRVSU community on all things Covid-19. To this end, I'm also going to be starting bi-weekly virtual drop-in sessions for faculty/staff. These sessions will be an opportunity for me to address questions that were submitted ahead of time by faculty/staff in order to ensure they have accurate and updated information about Health Department guidance, data used for decision making, etc. I'm also considering alternative methods of communication with the greater community in order to make certain they have accurate and timely information. I also wanted to notify all of you that all WRVSU school board meetings will now be completely virtual for the foreseeable future. We will reassess this once guidance changes from the Governor's office and Vermont Department of Health. In addition, we are once again going back to appointments only for visitors at the WRVSU offices. This is to ensure that we limit contact, and keep our WRVSU offices open for in person business.

I want to conclude by celebrating our successful navigation of Covid-19. Your staff, teachers, and administrators have and continue to work tirelessly to ensure that we are able to best meet the needs of our students. To this end, I also want to once again thank all of you for your support while we move forward during these uncertain times. I'm confident that all of our efforts will result in a much stronger organization.

Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday evening,

Jamie Kinnarney

Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU