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January, 2021

Sharon School Directors' Report

I hope this report finds you all well and looking forward to more positive news as we begin 2021. I was very pleased with the success of our virtual learning week from January 4-9th, and look forward to having students and staff back in school beginning on Monday, January 11th. We will be reviewing your projected revenue and expenditure report for the 20-21 school year, reviewing what I hope is the final draft of the 21-22 budget, and discussing how we should best move forward with the paving project. I expect that we might need a second meeting this month to finalize our budget and warning, but that should be a very quick meeting if needed. Please take the time to review all of the documents provided prior to our meeting on Tuesday evening. Also, I've asked Business Manager Weatherell to include the breakdown of impact on the current projected 21-22 tax rate in her report. It is troubling that our projected expenses PreK-6 are up only \$35,182 yet we project property taxes at this point in time to be up approximately 23 cents.

**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'm pleased with the progress made to date specific to increasing our understanding of a comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Supports. There is a great deal of work to be done in this area, but I'm confident that progress is being made. To this end, we brought in several different professional development opportunities across WRVSU on December 21st and 22nd. We are also continuing our work with Michaela Martin. The work is currently focused on the distributed leadership structures across WRVSU, and the specific role/function of our different teams.

I've decided to push back our search for the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) of MTSS a few additional weeks in order to allow for additional candidates. We have received applicants for the position of CAO, but it makes sense to continue the search in order to secure additional candidates. Therefore, we've adjusted the timeline accordingly and plan for an interview and potential hire at the February WRVSU board meeting.

We will begin working as an administrative team to review how the instructional day schedule must align with the priorities of the building. The schedule is critical in making certain that we can provide universal instruction and supports with fidelity. I plan to provide additional training

Jamie Kinnarney, Superintendent  
Tara Weatherell, Business Manager  
Donald McMahon, Director of Special Services  
Raymond Ballou, Director of Technology



wrvsu.org

461 Waterman Road, Royalton, VT 05068  
Phone: 802-763-8840 Fax: 802-763-3235

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and professional development for our principals and guidance counselors no later than the middle of January. The goal is to make certain that all schedules are completed, identified, and finalized no later than June of 2021. This ensures that teachers and students know their schedules prior to leaving for the summer break.

I'm currently completing my mid-year reflective conversation/supervision of all WRVSU principals. All WRVSU administrators have engaged in professional goal setting, weekly/bi-weekly supervision meetings, and this reflective conversation practice. This will all continue, but also include formal evaluations of the principals and central office administrators throughout the last week of January. I mention this because continuous improvement, reflection, and feedback is critical throughout all levels of WRVSU in order to realize the level of growth/success that we all desire.

**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 also encouraged by the work occurring in this area across WRVSU. We remain in different spots across our schools, but there are gains throughout. The following priorities are in place as we move forward throughout the remainder of the 20-21 school year.

- Final Draft of a WRVSU Elementary Report Card (aligned to identified WRVSU proficiencies)
- Increased momentum of Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs) and Pathways grades 6-12 (plan to ensure implementation no later than October of 2021)
- Finalization of intensive level programming and support for grades 9-12 (implementation in fall of 2021)
- Increased professional development and plan throughout WRVSU schools specific to outdoor learning and experiential education (presentation to the WRVSU board in the spring of 2021)

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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 received a WRVSU food service report from Bill Bosignore during the December WRVSU meeting. Mr. Bosignore has been providing a great deal of support and guidance to our food service programs during the pandemic. Therefore, I asked him to provide an overview of our current food service programs, and begin the conversation of centralizing food service to the WRVSU beginning in the fall of 2021. This would allow for further coordination, menu planning, bulk buying, and anticipated efficiencies. We will continue this during our January WRVSU board meeting.

We have been working diligently as a team of educators to strengthen our instructional practices while navigating this unprecedented pandemic. In addition, we've worked together in order to make certain that we are also realizing efficiencies across WRVSU. The next couple months will continue to be very busy with final preparations of the 21-22 budgets, ensuring that proactive communication regarding the budgets occurs, and that we are best positioned to make certain that we are ready to move forward in the fall of 22 with increased programming and opportunities for our students.

Happy New Year to all of you, and looking forward to our meeting on Tuesday evening,

Jamie Kinnarney  
Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU