
March, 2021

Sharon School Directors' Report

I'm very excited to announce that the WRVSU Board offered the position of Chief Academic Officer of MTSS to Ms. Andra Adams. Ms. Adams will be joining our team officially on July 1st, but I fully expect her to begin onboarding very soon. The CAO hiring committee interviewed five candidates prior to forwarding two on to me for interviews. It was clear that Ms. Adams has the skill set necessary to assist our team in moving WRVSU and our member schools forward in ensuring all our students reach their greatest potential.

We need to discuss the board's desired approach to holding our annual meeting in May. I'll be looking for a decision on Tuesday evening. We will also need a special meeting in March to approve the annual warning. This can be a quick meeting and I'll ask the board to set the date of the special meeting Tuesday evening. Finally, we will also need to be prepared to review the bids for the paving project.

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.**

We continue to work at all levels of the organization to become data informed. You will receive an academic data report on Tuesday evening by Principal Haley. I strongly encourage you to take special interest in cohort growth. You will notice that there are some areas to celebrate, but also areas that need further analysis to better understand how we can better meet the needs of our students both through universal instruction and targeted/intensive intervention. I'm pleased with the direction we are heading in specific to the use of data to make informed decisions, but there is still room for us to grow. To this end, I've been meeting with the Upper Valley Educator Institute to discuss a professional development offering that will begin early next fall to ensure common data analysis protocols and practices are in place across WRVSU.

Director of Special Services, Don McMahon presented a Special Education data report to the WRVSU board on Monday, February 23rd. The data is being used to inform how we can continue to improve our system to better meet the needs of students, while also looking to increase efficiency/sustainability. To this end, we are looking to move forward with the budgeted funds to bring in our very own WRVSU School Psychologist at a lower cost and substantial savings (instead of contracting those services out at the tune of over \$125,000 annually). This would allow us to complete our own comprehensive assessments, evaluations,

and cognitive assessments. It is to be determined whether or not a suitable candidate exists, but we are moving forward with trying to identify one.

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**

We are continuing to work on the identification of grade level proficiencies that will be reported across all of our WRVSU elementary schools. This will better ensure that the WRVSU elementary curriculum is being implemented with fidelity through instruction/assessment. I am still committed to having a final draft of the WRVSU Elementary Report Card to share with the board in August.

I'm very interested in how we can leverage Title IV funding to increase Pathways programming across Sharon Elementary School. In addition, we are beginning the work at the SU level to launch a significant effort in the area of Mathematics. In some ways Sharon Elementary is ahead of the curve through the professional development that has been completed over the course of the 20-21 school year, but there is still a great deal of work to be done.

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've included the latest draft of the Anti-Racism policy in your packets. Please review it prior to the meeting and offer insight either at the meeting or to your policy committee reps. I hope to have another draft completed for March, with the hope of adoption come April.

We will be continuing the discussion Tuesday evening specific to centralizing food service. Tara and I will be discussing our current financial situation and how we would suggest we move forward with a potential two-phase approach. The goal would be to create stronger interdependence between our food service programs, while analyzing every opportunity for further efficiency and cost savings. This would maintain our current staff, while utilizing their skill sets more in order to better support all schools of WRVSU. I will be asking the board to give us a signal as to whether or not they would support action on this in March.

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



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We are preparing for the Agency of Education's request for our Recovery Plans to address Covid-19 related regression. I'll be working with the Administrative Team to identify key data points, the plan to address the identified areas of regression, and then ensure our plan is implemented to best meet the needs of our students. This work has already begun and resulted in a productive meeting with principals, Carrie McDonnell, Don McMahon, and me to discuss how best to intervene for students this summer.

We have received confirmation from the VT Agency of Education that it is safe to use the yield of 11,385 for calculating tax projections. This is good news for our town and member districts. It does decrease the impact on taxes for Sharon and now the board approved budget has an increase of less than 14 cents.

Finally, the WRVSU and CVSU have come together through a formal MOU to share services in both technology and fiscal matters. This will result in CVSU Chief Financial Officer, Chris Locarno working with Tara Weatherell and the WRVSU Business Department while Ray Ballou offers technical assistance to the CVSU Technology Team. The WRVSU Executive Board acted on the MOU in early February. I'm excited by the possibilities of this joint partnership and strongly believe it is the way of the future in regards to resource sharing.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Kinnarney
Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU