

May, 2021

Sharon School Directors' Report:

I want to begin by congratulating the entire faculty and staff of Sharon Elementary School for their wonderful accomplishment and acknowledgement on Thursday. Senator Leahy held a press conference at the school and ribbon cutting in response to the Farm to School Initiative that he has supported throughout the state. Sharon was clearly chosen due to their long standing and superior work on Farm to School. I was planning to join the faculty, staff, and Principal Haley on Thursday morning, but had car troubles. I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for all that they do to incorporate Farm to School into their learning environment.

It is with a heavy heart that I notify you that Don McMahon, Special Services Director has submitted his letter of resignation. I want to express my sincere appreciation for Don's work here at WRVSU this past school year, and for his previous services in the Orange Windsor Supervisory Union. We have posted for the Special Services Director position. We will use a similar timeline and approach as to when we hired Ms. Anda Adams, Chief Academic Officer of MTSS.

The timeline will be as follows:

Special Services Director Advertisement	Week of April 19
Hiring Committee Formed	Week of April 26
Screening of Applicants	Week of May 10
1st Round Interviews	Week of May 17
Superintendent and Community Interviews (two finalists)	Week of May 17
WRVSU Board Interview (Finalist)	Monday, May 24th

The board will also hear updates regarding our third draft of the Anti-Racism Policy and the work that is underway in the WRVSU Energy Committee. Finally, we will also be coming together Tuesday evening for our annual board reorganization. I've included some documents for review in your board packet. I hope that you find these useful and informative prior to the meeting.

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.**

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



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We are working diligently to ensure that we are best leveraging our Recovery and Consolidated Federal Grant funds to spearhead systematic professional development in Literacy, Math, and Social/Emotional learning this summer and next school year. To this end, principals have been working collaboratively with their building based leadership teams to identify areas of need and to provide proposals for this important work. I've been very pleased with our recovery plan efforts and I'm confident that we are leveraging these resources strategically in order to increase student achievement.

We have completed SBAC assessments in English language arts, math, and science over the last several weeks. We will be prepared to share this data with the full board and the local boards in June. This data will act as a baseline in our recovery efforts. One area of concern that we've recently discovered through our SU-wide data analysis is the significant discrepancy in office referrals by gender. I mention this because it is resulting in further analysis around achievement, engagement, and intervention/supports. I highlight it as an area of concern, and it is something that we will continue to progress monitor (as we take steps to address the concern).

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**

You should be aware that we are working diligently to address our significant concerns in regards to math achievement across the schools of WRVSU. To this end, Bonnie Bourne and other teachers/administrators across WRVSU will be coming together to create a professional learning community that is focused on implementing a three year action plan to address our low achievement in mathematics. This group will be called the WRVSU Math Advocates. They will provide guidance and progress monitor our efforts.

In addition to mathematics, we will also continue with our next phase in literacy development. To this end, we will be providing additional professional development in structured literacy. This will allow us to better ensure our teachers have the content area expertise needed to differentiate instruction, along with providing explicit instruction in phonemic awareness and phonics. This ensures that we continue the momentum gained in literacy.

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Finally, I'm pleased to report that all schools across WRVSU will be implementing social/emotional learning next school year. This will ensure that we have a common universal approach to social/emotional learning in each district. The approach won't be prescribed by the Supervisory Union, but instead the SU will support each district with ensuring the professional development and resources are in place to ensure implementation with fidelity.

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 Executive Board discussed during their April meeting the fact that Ripton has approached the WRVSU about joining our organization effective July 1, 2022. Board Chair, Kathy Galluzzo and I were able to provide an overview of an informal meeting that was held with a community group from Ripton. In addition, some members of the Ripton Community group joined us on Monday evening to discuss their reasoning and desire to appeal to the State Board of Education for designation as a member district of WRVSU. It was a positive meeting, and I look forward to continuing this important conversation.

I wanted to report that a third draft of the Anti-Racism policy has been completed and shared with our attorney Dina Atwood. I'll share that third draft with the policy committee once it has been reviewed.

The WRVSU Energy Committee held our first meeting on Thursday, April 8th. We will be gathering together information specific to energy consumption and usage across our member schools in order to begin digging into what the data indicates around efficiency efforts. Also, I'm pleased to report that all of our districts have joined an effort for a Request for Qualification (RFQ) to secure an energy audit as we look at how to possibly leverage performance contracting in order to allow us to address delayed maintenance across our member schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Kinnarney
Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU