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Halifax Readsboro Searsburg Stamford Twin Valley Unified Union SD

Central Office Leadership Team Report

January 2023

Respectfully Submitted by:

- Barbara Anne Komons-Montroll, Superintendent
- Michael RobbGrieco, Director of Curriculum & Technology Integration
- Karen Atwood, Business Manager
- Troy McAllister, Director of Special Education

Kudos To

- Sam Mundt and Joel Hernandez (Art, TVMHS) for planning collaboration between TVMHS students to create a Portrait of Student Success trailhead sign (displaying the six competencies) for Halifax, Readsboro and Stamford, and to collaborate with students from each school to colorfully paint the each competency slat. Details to come!
- Skylar Mead (ELA/S.S. 5-8, Stamford) and her 7-8 students at Stamford for creating positive public service announcement flyers using historical propaganda techniques, building on their work with Portrait Competencies of Communication, Critical Thinking, and Responsibility, as well as the ideas of guest speaker Renee Hobbs (see below) and resources shared through the 5-12 Humanities PLC (meeting monthly at Wed. Trailblazer Hour).

In the Know and Engaged (*professional meetings the Central Office Leadership Team attended*)

- Barbara Anne attended the regional Vermont Superintendents meeting this past month.
- Mike attended bi-weekly Wednesday AoE meetings about various grant management and continuous improvement topics
 - No significant updates on state testing yet; trainings begin end of January

Professional Development Provided to Our Teachers & Staff

- On 12/21 during Trailblazer Hour, PK-4 Literacy PLC (professional learning community) engaged in an online workshop with MTSS/EST Coordinator Pamela Bernardo to discuss developing common local assessments for PK-4 Literacy Scope & Sequence.

- On 12/21 during Trailblazer Hour, the grades 6-12 Math PLC met with CORE Learning consultant Lisa Ramish (ESSER grant funded, coordinated by Mike), who is facilitating monthly meetings on effectively implementing the new Eureka Math² program.
- On 12/15 at the Mentor-Mentee monthly meeting with Mike and Marie Paige (TVES), mentees practiced writing lesson frames and seed questions for student discussions, while mentors practiced giving feedback for mentee teacher observations using video.
- On 12/14, during Trailblazer Hour teachers had options a) to engage in an online learning module custom designed by author Kristin Ziemke around fostering the Portrait competency of Empathy, b) to meet with Focus PLC colleagues, or c) to spend time planning student supports ahead of school-based team meetings [PLCs include: PK-4 Literacy; K-5 Math specialists (TVES); 6-12 Math; 5-12 Humanities/Science; Unified Arts; and Counselors/Nurses].
- On 1/4, All WSWSU staff collaborated to “unpack” Portrait competency of Communication during Trailblazer Hour (1:15-2:15) of Wed. early release in-service. Guest speaker, Renee Hobbs, an internationally renowned leader in media literacy, author of many books on media and communication, and former founding director of the Harrington School of Communication at the University of Rhode Island. Renee also created a follow up online learning module, and will lead a workshop on Critical Thinking in February.
- Jan. 18, All teachers and staff across our schools will be attending a required Hazing Harassment and Bullying training provided by Barbara Anne and Heather Lynn, Esq. It will be recorded so that those who can not attend the live session can see it at a future time.

Innovation Update

- On 12/21 during Trailblazer Hour, the 5-12 Humanities/Science PLC and the Unified Arts PLC continued their work to identify ways to collaborate to develop student learning opportunities and events connected to Portrait competencies, including co-designing lessons/units, planning performances and field trips, and more.
- With art teacher Sam Mundt and Woodworking teacher Joel Hernandez, a group of TVMHS students are planning to collaborate with Halifax, Readasboro, and Stamford students to paint a Portrait of Student Success trailhead sign constructed by TVMHS students for each school. Details to come!

Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

- We are excited to be moving forward with our JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Team). We have adults representing teachers, staff, and administration. We also have identified students from 6th grade and up to join us as well. We begin with our first facilitated meeting on January 26th.

Strategic Plan Update

- We have ordered the first proof of our Strategic Plan booklet and are in preparation to bring the booklets for distribution on our community engagement read show.
- We are still gathering input from board members regarding the gatherings we should attend to share our Strategic Plan as part of our community engagement efforts. Please [add your suggestions](#) for groups of people you believe should be included in your district’s road show (the linked spreadsheet has tabs for each individual district).

Facilities

- Completed three fire inspections with the Assistant State Fire Marshal
- Researching new types of low maintenance flooring
- Working on HVAC upgrades for all the schools
- Working on grants for HVAC upgrades

Safety Update

- The second meeting of the behavioral threat assessment team is being scheduled for February. The team will continue to fine tune the procedure of supporting principals with their behavioral threat assessment process.

Technology Update

- We purchased 25 iPads through the Emergency Connectivity Funding Commitment for Halifax. These have been delivered, labeled and inventoried. Work continues on their configuration and deployment in our Mobile Device Management System. (We filed for reimbursement of the iPads through ECF and E-Rate).*
- We are finishing the work on our State Reporting ADM by Town Report.
- We submitted website revisions to our website design team.
- Work continues on extracting and entering SBEC Math and ELA SY21 and SY22 data for our WINGS data submission
- Our new central office phone system has been installed and we received training.
- A new copier was installed at Readsboro - Their staff laptops have been configured for printing.*

Policy Update

- In February, after budget season has calmed down, you can begin to see some of the new required policies brought forward by the VSBA on your local district agendas. During the month of January, principals are reviewing these policies.
- Exit Interview procedures are now in full swing. The exit survey are being sent out of the Superintendent's office and interviews will be coordinated according to the departing person's request. As this is a new procedure, tweaks will be made to improve the process as needed.
- [Policy Tracker](#)

Business Team Update

- Year end work is beginning and employees will be receiving W-2's later in the month.
- Budget process is nearing completion. It has been a trying budget season, with all Districts working to provide the best possible instruction to the students, while being conscientious of tax implications.

Special Education and Student Support Update

- EST work

- Researching if alternative to Sped Docs will support us better

Central Office Staffing Update

- Betsey Mosely our Accounts Payable Specialist will be retiring in February. We appreciate her years of dedicated service and are sad to see her go.
- Central Office is still searching for a Payroll Specialist. The most recent hire was not suited for this position and has resigned. We are investigating alternative creative options to meet this core need of our business office.
- We are actively conducting interviews for an Human Resource Specialist as Wendy Musiak will be starting as the Accounts Payable Specialist in February.
- Special education department is still hiring. We have multiple paraeducator positions (some group and some 1:1) and physical therapist assistant throughout the SU PK-12.

Board Negotiations Committee Update

- Things are moving along with regards to negotiations with teachers. The Board Negotiations Committee will have their upcoming meetings on Monday January 9th, Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm and Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 6 pm. As soon as negotiations with teachers is complete, the negotiations with staff will begin.

State Assessment Results Update

- All assessment results from 2022 are embargoed (not available to the public).
- State-level assessment results will be released later this winter.
- District and school level-results will remain embargoed until they are released in the [Annual Snapshot](#).

Required Training of School Board Chairs

- We want to remind board members that it is good practice to participate in VSBA trainings. Further, it is a legal requirement of the board chair to participate in 8 hours of training annually.
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/16/009/00561>
 - Section 561(b) requires the chairs of each school board within a supervisory union, the chair of the supervisory union board and the superintendent to jointly participate in at least eight hours of professional training annually.
- In order to help you with this, we have created an [easy reference sheet of all of the pre-recorded VSBA trainings board members may take sorted by topics](#). Simply, take a look at the choices, choose one, and let Barbara Anne know so she can watch it as well. There is also a VSBA conference coming up April 12 and 13th. Hold the dates if you are interested.

Vermont School Boards Association Resources

New Webinar

***How School Boards Can Support Student Achievement and Close Gaps
February 2, 2023***

Noon - 1:00pm

How does your board...

Ensure the district is accountable for the well-being and success of all students?

- Assure high expectations for student learning?
- Demonstrate responsible and inclusive governance?
- Engage and involve your local community?
- Create conditions for the success of all students and staff?

[Register Here](#)

1/12/23 Webinar

THIS THURSDAY

The Governance Core: School Boards, Superintendents, and Schools Working Well Together for Student Success

Noon - 1:00pm

Davis Campbell, author of [The Governance Core](#), will guide board members past difficult and formidable challenges. His recommendations from this book can lead to board and schools operating at the highest levels of effectiveness to support equitable experiences, opportunities, and outcomes for all students. This webinar calls for school boards, superintendents and school leaders to work cohesively with a growth mindset that raises clarity and efficiency. Practical and authentic, the Governance Core is based upon:

- governance mindset
- shared moral imperative for all students
- unified, cohesive governance system
- commitment to system-wide coherence
- focus on continuous improvement in the district

[REGISTER HERE](#) FREE WEBINAR

1/13/23 Zoom

THIS FRIDAY: NOTE THIS TRAINING DOES NOT QUALIFY TOWARDS SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD CHAIR REQUIRED 8 HOURS SINCE IT IS ONLY FOR BOARD CHAIRS

Board Chair Networking and Learning

We are convening a meeting for current board chairs and vice chairs on Friday, January 13 at 9:00am. The intent is to discuss common challenges and opportunities. You may be interested in sharing questions or suggestions for navigating uncertainties, running

effective meetings, receiving public comments, or other aspects of your role. Come prepared to contribute and learn.

[Click here to register](#) or for more information.

This networking will not be recorded. Please register if you can attend live. Participation will be limited to the first 40 registrants.

2/2/23 Webinar

How School Boards Can Support Student Achievement and Close Gaps

Noon - 1:00pm

How does your board...

- Ensure the district is accountable for the well-being and success of all students?
- Assure high expectations for student learning?
- Demonstrate responsible and inclusive governance?
- Engage and involve your local community?
- Create conditions for the success of all students and staffs?

[REGISTER HERE](#) FREE WEBINAR

Dates to Note

- Eboard Meeting, Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
- Superboard Meeting, February 8, 2023, at 6 p.m.