

WINDHAM SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

1 School Street

Wilmington, VT 05363

Phone 802-464-1300

Fax 802-464-1303

<https://www.wsusu49.org>

Halifax

Readsboro

Searsburg

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Twin Valley Unified Union SD

Central Office Leadership Team Report

June 2022

Respectfully Submitted by:

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

Kudos To

- Melissa Jutras (TVES Humanities, 1-2) recipient of the distinguished [John T. Poeton Award from the Vermont Council of Reading](#) for her work as an “outstanding educator fostering literacy with students and colleagues”
- Members of the WSWSU Portrait of Student Success Strategic Implementation Planning team (including teachers, board members, community members and school/CO leaders) for developing an exciting plan for implementing our shared vision, to be presented 6/8.

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

- On May 6, Mike attended the Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association (VTCLA) meeting focused on implementing Act 173 with presentations by AoE Act 173 leaders.
 - Curriculum leaders expressed concerns that interpretations/definitions vary widely among and within supervisory unions of a “coordinated curriculum” and a “common local assessment system,” two of the so-called levers of Act 173, as well as concerns with vague guidance from AoE and Act 173 supporting materials. AoE leaders invited curriculum leaders to co-develop more guidance in summer and fall 2022.
- On Wednesdays, Mike and Karen participated in the weekly AoE meetings about ESSER and other federal grants.
- On May 19th Barbara Anne Attended the VSA Spring Meeting, focused on “How To Create More Sustainable Environments for Teachers and Students
- On Thursday May 26th, Adam participated in the AoE Direct Certification Refresher
- On May 27th Barbara Anne facilitated the South East Region of Superintendents meeting, where they hosted the Executive Director or the Upper Valley Teacher Training Program and discussed how to create a pipeline of teachers into our region.

Professional Development Provided to Our Teachers & Staff

- On May 19th, the Mentor-Mentee participants met to reflect on their experience and offer feedback for program evaluation.
 - 85% of new teachers and mentors rated their mentor-mentee experience as most effective (4 or 5 out of 5), and
 - 100% of new teachers rated the Mentor-Mentee program as most effective (4 or 5 out of 5) for supporting them through their first year.
 - ⅔ of Mentors rated the monthly meetings as effective (4 or 5 out of 5) for their growth as mentors (with two very experienced mentors offering neutral or less effective responses).

Mentor-Mentee program leaders meet in June and August to consider participant suggestions for program improvement, and to adjust the program to meet strategic plan goals for SY22-23.

Innovation Update

- On May 9th, Portrait Strategic Implementation Planning (Portrait SIP) team of stakeholders from across our schools met to provide feedback and input on the draft strategic plan developed by the Portrait SIP Writing Team. The draft plan will be presented at the Superboard Meeting on June 8th.

Next Steps:

- June 8, Portrait Strategic Implementation Plan presentation, Superboard mtg
- June 1-14, Portrait Leadership Committee coordinates collection of images and quotes for final Portrait Strategic Plan publication
- June 14-17 Administrative Leadership Team develops logistics, timing, and measures for Portrait goals and strategies
- June 17, Portrait Leadership Committee submits images, quotes, letters, and layout instructions to Battelle for Kids graphic design team
- July 17, Battelle for Kids delivers WWSU Portrait of Student Success Strategic Plan for publication
- August-September, Portrait Strategic Plan rollout to families, boards, community, and staff

Central Office Updates

We welcome Lauren Biasi of Bennington to replace Jo Anna Young as the new Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. She will also serve as Board Support Specialist and help with agendas, minutes, and questions from board members. She can be reached at execassist@wswu49.org. Here is a little blurb about her:

"Greetings everyone! My name is Lauren Biasi, and I am taking over the position of Executive Project Assistant to the Superintendent from Jo Anna Young. I am relatively new to the state of Vermont, having moved here from Long Island (NY), and I am very excited to be joining the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union. I have been an inventory manager for car dealerships, personal assistant to directors on indie film projects and photographers in NYC, as well as a musical theater teacher for schools, camps and theaters. I look forward to bringing my organization skills to this position and am ready to help in any way I can!"

Recovery Planning Update

- Recovery Plan FY22 evaluation submitted to AoE on May 31, 2022
- Recovery Plan goals and strategies considered, integrated and updated in Portrait Strategic Implementation Plan. The latter combines the Recovery Plan goals developed in spring 2021 with goals developed to realize the Portrait of Student Success vision. This process will be reviewed at the June 8 presentation at the Superboard meeting.

Presentations or Reports to the Board

- Tate and Pam's presentation on ACT 173 is [here](#). It has important information for you to know about the history and up to date changes to this law and its impact on us. Please watch it and feel free to email them with any questions.

Policies

- All boards are actively reviewing an Exit Interview Policy. It will be in front of the Superboard in June for a collective board vote with the goal of implementing the related procedures for the next school year.
- Please view the live [Policy Tracker](#) for more information.

Facilities & Safety

- [Vermont School Facilities Inventory and Assessment Report](#) is completed. Bureau Veritas was contracted by the state to perform an inventory of school facilities in Vermont, and assess their condition based on a Facility Condition Index (FCI) rating. Overall, Vermont's education system as a whole has a high FCI of 71.4%, indicating a greater need for replacement or upgrades. WSWSU scored midrange at 54%.
- On May 3rd, 2022 Heidi Joyce, Risk Management Consultant for VSBIT (Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust) conducted its 3 year building and playground safety inspections at Twin Valley Middle High School and Twin Valley Elementary School; and building inspection for Stamford Elementary school. Final reports are expected shortly.
- Capital improvement work for Twin Valley Middle High School is approved for the summer. Pods D & E will have roof shingles replaced, and asbestos tiles will be removed from the cafeteria floor, and new tiles installed.
- COVID19 test kits were delivered from the state of Vermont. These tests are for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Halifax Elementary has purchased a new Husqavarna YTH24K48 lawn mower tractor for cutting the school grass; and a new basketball hoop is being delivered June 6th for installation to replace the one that was hit and damaged by a delivery truck. The owner of the delivery truck is purchasing the new replacement basketball hoop.

Business Office

- Karen attended the Tri State ASBO conference last week in Whitefield NH. Business Officials from VT, NH and ME gather annually to gain valuable PD regarding hot issues in the business end of education while networking and having a little fun. The conference was back in person for the first time since 2019.

- The Business Office is working hard to get ready for the end of the year closeout. Reconciling PR and AP in preparation for FY 23 and year end auditing.
- We applied for funding for student and staff devices through the third round of Federal Emergency Connectivity Funds

Staffing Across the Supervisory Union

Please take a look at [this article from EdWeek that explains some of the reasons for the teacher shortage across the state and the nation.](#)

We are implementing the Teacher Sign On/Stay On Incentives for positions for which there is a shortage. [The procedures for the Teacher Sign On/Stay On are here.](#)

Superintendent Support and Supervision

Barbara Anne is completing her final supervision and progress on goals meetings with each principal and administrator. Those principals in their contract renewal year are also referencing the standards and expectations listed in the [Vermont Principals Association supervision and evaluation tool](#) that corresponds to the National Standards for Principals in their meetings. Barbara Anne has also supported Mike and Karen who are the direct supervisors of Pam Bernardo, Adam Bisson and Robert Tober with regard to completing their evaluations which included input from all principals and administrators.

Special Education:

- We are actively advertising for 6 special education teachers and a Speech Language Pathologist as well as many paraeducators
- Welcome to Emma Lee Spring who is the Intensive Needs Teacher for the WSWSU Community Program. Staff are very happy with her skills, experience, and priorities! The Community Program will run a Month of full-day Extended Year Services program from 7/5-8/5/22.

Vermont School Boards Association Resources

- If you missed a webinar you wanted to attend, please visit the [VSBA Webinar Archive](#) where you can view the recordings of the meeting at your own pace.
- [VSBA Resolution](#)
- Strategic Planning Webinar, June 2, 2022 Noon-1pm [Register here](#)
- Policy Governance Webinar, June 9, 2022 Noone- [1pm Register here](#)

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Why teachers are leaving:

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/how-bad-could-it-get-state-and-district-leaders-work-to-combat-teacher-shortages/2022/03>

Dates to Note

- Super Board Meeting, Wednesday, June 8th, 2022 at 6 pm
- E-Board Meeting, June 22nd, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
- E-Board Meeting, August 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.
- Super Board Meeting, September 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

