



WFAPAC December 12th, 2024

Welcome & Introductions: Caroline Meeting called to order at 8:39

- Introductions - name, position here at WFAP, connection to school
- Event Updates
 - Craft show in November was amazing, thank you Erin and Lindsay! Thanks for all the hard work that went into this event. People were happy and the booths were full. We raised the fees this year and the event remained full!
 - Need for more/new volunteers to remain successful. It was very difficult to get volunteers for the event itself. Please, we need help for this event to continue. Many husbands helped with parking, big thanks to them. We need volunteers on the day of the event, let's support Erin and Lindsay

Financial Report: Christine- The craft show numbers are finalized and they did very well, over \$11,200. This is a great community event. Thank you everybody that participated. We might need to look into hiring a parking company. It was also suggested that maybe there be a small fee to enter that might help offset hiring a parking company. It was also suggested maybe a donation box be available. The event is always the first Saturday in November.

Annual Fund - there was a \$500 matching donation in there yesterday. We are over \$13,000 and are creeping close to our goal of \$14,000. Taxes have been submitted.

Planning 2025 Events: our goal for the FAPAC this year is community engagement and bringing people into our school.

- Speaker for parenting presentation: Jill Everett - is a guidance counselor in Burlington and very qualified to speak on how to support your child and have a smooth family environment. This is designed as hope for emotional management for both the child and caregiver. Parents (caregivers) and faculty and staff are welcome to attend.

Hold vote to approve speaker fee & event costs - \$300 is the fee for the program. If we add another \$200 we can offer snacks and encourage people to stay and chat.

Lyn Porter made a motion to approve up to \$500 for this event for expenditures for the event, seconded by Christine. It was an ask if there could be childcare, would Part 2 help with childcare for this event? In the past we have had childcare so it depends on what the numbers look like for childcare. Jill has stated that a maximum of 50 attendees. If we have childcare more than 50 people may attend so there may have to be a sign up. 50 allows for community engagement and Q & A period. Greg shared that if the event fills that it would be great word of mouth for future events. The school could come up with \$200 to support this event. Motion approved unanimously. Rachel will chat with the Part 2 people and Caroline will chat with Jill about availability. If this is well attended we might look at a second event in the future. This event could be promoted through the Williston Families Facebook Page and Front Porch Forum,

maybe people would be willing to sponsor childcare or food. It was asked if this could be virtual or recorded as well. Caroline will speak with Jill about the presentation options. Rachel is helping us with business outreach and this is super helpful.

Administration Report: Greg Marino - Greg presented some slides that were shared at Tuesday night's school board meeting. All of these slides are on the school board website from the previous meeting. These slides are not Williston slides but slides put together by Adam Bunting and Gary Marckres. Members of the Williston team have had one on one communications with all of the people who the reductions are affecting. Greg is not going deep into the reductions out of respect for faculty and staff as we move forward in this process. The board still needs to approve the budget and this will happen in the next few meetings. The budget will be finalized in January. If the budget vote fails more cuts will happen to lower the budget further for a second vote. Williston was asked to find \$575,000 in reductions. This was weighted the same as the other CVSD schools. This made it fair across the district. Greg is not going to try and put any attempt on a positive spin on these reductions. These reductions are a result of the fiscal pressure from the state formula. This is a painful situation and we have to make hard decisions. We have a caring community and workforce so we are tackling this situation head on. We did look for opportunities in some cases where we were aware of retirements or staff shifts to try and offset some of these difficult decisions. Greg shared that the phrase "student facing" is not always accurate as many of the behind the scenes such as academic coaches, bus drivers, food service, custodial all play major parts in our school community and impact our students. Class sizes will increase in third and fourth grade to 22-23 students. This is due to a reduction in the 3-4 level. Each grade band will see a one teacher reduction. We don't know what the kindergarten numbers coming in next fall are yet, and this will determine whether kindergarten will be 5 or 6 teachers. Middle school is very complicated due to people with multiple endorsements and this will determine where the cuts come from there. These are conversations that will happen in January and beyond. It was asked where the Pre K budget fits in. Pre K is budgeted in special education. It was asked if there was any reduction in the Pre K program. There is one school in the district who has a partner program for Pre K outside of the school. Could it be more cost effective to have a partner Pre K outside of the school? Greg will speak with Erin Gagne and Anna Couperthwaite to find out the answer to this question. It was asked if other schools will be asked to make reductions due to class sizes across the district as other schools have 19 students compared to 23 students in the classroom. Greg shared that all the CVSD schools are in different situations so the break points are different. We are looking at the experiences our students are getting. It was asked if it was good that we are making our own choices. Greg shared that because we are a bigger system we have more options. Greg believes most of the time being big is an advantage and gives us different opportunities. It was asked if Greg had heard about combining Hinesburg and Charlotte. Greg has not heard anything official and this would require much more discussion and research. Amanda wanted to know how the greater community is going to be informed. There is a plan in the works to make sure the information is shared. The new communications director is taking feedback and input and is working hard to find ways to get all the communication out everywhere. The LEAD team meets weekly and this will be a big part of the work of this team moving forward. If people have questions please direct them to the administration. We want to answer the questions so that it

is accurate information. Greg was thanked for sharing the information and not sugar coating the changes.

School Board: Angela Aresenault - no report

Staff Reports:

ABS PreK-2: Becca Ashford - Becca shared a video that was made by second grade students for their craft fair. It was super cute. Pre-K- No Report

Starlings (K)- No Report

Explorers (K) students are continuing to dive into their math and literacy work! They had an awesome trip to the Echo Center at the beginning of November. Thank you for the funding for this! The kids loved exploring the Mo Willems' exhibits and they had several parent volunteers join in the fun!

Shooting Stars (1)- No Report

Trailblazers (2)- After the election unit, the second graders voted for the new team name to be Trailblazers! Their current social studies unit is around economics: needs/wants, goods/services, consumer/producers, spending/saving/donating. They have been learning about this topic and then having a craft sale (with crafts the 2nd graders will be making and selling) next week. They will then use the profits to buy and donate items to the Food Shelf. Here is the commercial for the craft sale: Craft Sale Commercial

WCS 3-4: Michelle Cadoret - 3-4 Update:

Equinox- Students have been learning about Vermont geography- exploring places and learning to read symbols with the large VT map. In Four Winds Nature Science we learned about identifying different coniferous trees and their seeds.

Caine's Arcade- power of creativity and teamwork. We invited parents in to see and play students' games they built.

Kaleidoscope- We had a wonderful trip to the VT State House and History Museum in October! In November, students learned about the election process by participating in a Candy Election. We held primaries to nominate "candy-dates" then made posters and buttons to support our favorites. (FYI the winners were: Morrissey class = Kit Kat and Kellogg's Class = Warheads. THANK YOU so much to the FAP for providing funding for our field trip as well as grant money to buy the button maker!

Mosaic- 3rd graders have started the big multiplication unit in math! We're wrapping up a fluency unit on Shel Silverstein's poems and students will be performing poems for each other before the break. We've been writing personal narratives and are starting to write book reviews. (Dinklage)

-The Parker students were thrilled to show off their math menu and Steps for Multi-Step Problem Solving during a recent Math Studio

-Our 4th graders just celebrated the culmination of our Vermont History unit with an open house. Students enjoyed sharing their Vermont opinion essays and slideshows, as well as their Vermont 3-D maps. It was well attended by families.

WCS 5-8: - no report, no representative

Student Services: Chris Ford - no report

Essential Arts: Lyn Porter

Winter sports are well underway. Lots of kids being active!

Cara Clopton received recognition as the Rosen Publishing Northern New England School Librarian Award. The award includes a set of Rosen Publishing print titles for the winner's school, a year's subscription to a Rosen database, and a letter of recognition sent to the school superintendent.

Lyn Porter received recognition from the Fenway/Wasabi Bowl. She was the only recipient from Vermont as this award recognizes school personnel from all over New England. Lyn was chosen as one of 12 semi-finalist. There were 3 finalists, so 15 honorees out of 1200 nominations. This recognition comes with being honored on the field at Fenway during the Wasabi Bowl game being played by U Conn and UNC Tarheels. The game is on Dec.28th and tickets are for sale and if a large contingent from people supporting Lyn go to the game there would be a photo opportunity in front of the Green Monster (this would require 50 or more tickets sold using the QR code assigned to Lyn). The game is at 11am.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities:

- Evening meeting - topic and timing? - the meeting will not be structured exactly as the regular meetings. The staff would not be required to come. The thought was to schedule Jill and work around that date. We are trying to decide what will bring people in.
- Other community building ideas?
- Open positions - we have a Vice Chair Position open this year and both Chair and Vice Chair will be open next year. Please if you have any interest speak to Caroline. Caroline is tentatively willing to be Vice Chair next year if there is a chair.
- Big Basket Raffle planning has started - we need help, please reach out. This is a huge lift that can not be done by only a couple people.
- Celebrate the Arts & Community Night @ CVU on January 9th - this will be a great event
- Upcoming budget vote on town meeting day - school board meetings have presentations on different aspects of the budget and provide an opportunity for questions and input
- Amanda sent a survey to teachers about what teachers/staff might like for gifts. Thank you Amanda!

Meeting adjourned: 10:30