

Jamie Kinnarney, Superintendent of Schools
Anda Adams, Chief Academic Officer of MTSS
Annette Rhoades, Director of Special Services
Tara Weatherell, Business Manager
Raymond Ballou, Director of Technology
and Communications



wrvsu.org

461 Waterman Road, Royalton, VT 05068
Phone: 802-763-8840 Fax: 802-763-3235

March, 2024

RSUD School Directors Report:

We will be reviewing a revised FY25 budget during Monday's Board meeting that results in an equalized tax rate of 1.2765 or .041 cents or a 3.11% **decrease** from last school year prior to the CLA. We will be looking for the Board to either adopt the budget on Monday evening or provide us with final directions prior to a Special Meeting the following week to get a FY 25 budget approved.

I held my final WRVSU morning check-in and coffee to discuss Act 127 and H850 on Friday, February 23rd. I've been interviewing with the Valley News and the Herald to try and keep in front of the needed communication regarding how each of our districts are in unique positions this budget season due to Act 127/H850. To this end, I also joined students and our Work-Based Learning Coordinator from WRVHS on the Royalton Radio last Tuesday morning to discuss all of this. We have also shared that podcast out to our communities. Finally, I also provided a letter that went out to the Rochester/Stockbridge communities last Thursday to share with them the current status of the budget and remind them that we would be working to finalize the FY25 budget over the upcoming weeks.

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.**

The WRVSU Board reviewed the WRVSU winter academic data report during last week's Full Board meeting. CAO Adams was in attendance to discuss our progress to date on meeting our identified academic achievement goals and to discuss the growth that we've been observing throughout the supervisory union; and where we need to increase supports in order to meet our achievement goals. I'm personally pleased with the progress that we are observing, but remain concerned about our progress of increasing achievement within certain cohort groups. You will be receiving the RSUD VTCAP report on Monday evening.

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**

Our schools throughout the supervisory union are currently beginning conversations or engaging in pilots of Capstone/Passion Projects. We expect to have most schools piloting some type of Capstone/Passion Project next school year, with the expectation that they will be in place in all schools by 25-26.

You will be receiving a draft of the WRVSU Portrait of a Learner during your March WRVSU Full Board meeting.

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 have provided the following brief progress monitoring of my professional goals for the 23-24 school year below.

1. Strengthen curriculum and coordination strategies while also ensuring a strong strategic plan for instruction and professional development.

a. Recommended actions for 23-24:

*"Meet or exceed WRVSU Student Achievement Goals and Targets in the Academic Progress Report dated 22 November 2021".

You have received your Winter Academic Data reports for your local districts and now the WRVSU. I remain confident and committed to working with our administrators and faculty/staff to meet the adopted academic achievement targets.

*"Produce Social/Emotional Goals and Targets for Board adoption in October of 2023"

We have shared examples of social/emotional data reports for the Board in January in order to provide additional context for our work in social/emotional learning/supports. I planned to have a draft of these goals ready for review this month, but Act 127 and H850 have taken priority in regards to navigating the complexities of the budget season. I'll work to have a draft of goals ready for review during the April Full Board meeting.

*"Produce a revised PreK-12 curriculum that is adopted by the board in October of 2023"

We have revised and updated 80% of our curricular documents ([located here](#)). The rest of our curricular documents will be finalized and ready for publication by no later than August of 2024.

*"Produce the WRVSU Portrait of a Graduate that is adopted by the board in May of 2024."

A draft of this important work will be ready for Board review during your March Board meeting.

Strengthen WRVSU operations and facilities

a. Recommended actions for 2023-2024

*"Work with the Board to budget across the WRVSU member Districts strategically to make certain annual fiscal transfers occur into Capital Facility and Maintenance funds."

We have been working diligently to preserve FY23 surplus funds as transfers into our reserve funds (Building, Capital, and Tuition) across the WRVSU. We have also budgeted for annual transfers into our reserves in four out of our five operating districts.

*"Develop a 5-10 year Capital Facilities Plan for all member districts by May of 2024."

Jamie Kinnarney, Superintendent of Schools
Anda Adams, Chief Academic Officer of MTSS
Annette Rhoades, Director of Special Services
Tara Weatherell, Business Manager
Raymond Ballou, Director of Technology
and Communications



wrvsu.org

461 Waterman Road, Royalton, VT 05068
Phone: 802-763-8840 Fax: 802-763-3235

Drafts of these plans are coming forward to our District Boards and the first Drafts were shared with Sharon this month. All Boards will receive completed drafts by no later than their May Board meeting.

*"Successful completion of capital and facility projects scheduled throughout the WRVSU during the summer of 2023."

I am very pleased with the work that has occurred across our buildings over the past fiscal year. We have completed over 6.5 million in capital projects and are currently working on capital projects and forthcoming Bond votes in both Sharon and the White River Unified District.

*"Collaboration with school district Facility Task Forces to develop needs assessments and potential capital improvement projects to address deferred maintenance by the spring of 2024."

We have plans to address deferred maintenance and facility work in all of our districts during the summer of 2024.

Increase WRVSU Board effectiveness and agency through the development of a working plan and calendar for board development, including training, adoption of WRVSU Board Civility/Code of Ethics policy, and VSBA procedures.

a. Recommended actions for 2023-2024

*"Continue to lead and support efforts and strategies to strengthen SU and District Board effectiveness through a Board Development Calendar and annual Board retreats."

We have had very successful Board retreats this past year in all of our districts. We attempted to have a WRVSU Full Board retreat in December, but weren't able to coordinate a quorum of the Full Board. To this end, we did create a WRVSU Full Board Committee that worked to create and adopt WRVSU 23-24 Board Goals.

*"Board mentor/mentee program will be progress monitored and revised by March of 2024."

We will be working to gather feedback from Board members next month on our WRVSU mentor/mentee program. We will then get a Task Force together to analyze this data and revise the program in order to be ready for implementation in April.

*"Adoption of Board Civility/Code of Ethics policy by September of 2023"

This policy was adopted by all Boards in October of 2023.

4. Continue to strengthen WRVSU's reputation and standing with a special focus on increased school/community partnerships.

a. Recommended actions for 2023-2024

*"The adoption of a three year communication and marketing plan by April of 2024."

The communication and marketing plan will be ready for review by the Full Board in draft form during your March Board meeting. I feel confident that it will be ready for adoption during the April Full Board meeting.

*“All WRVSU schools will hold community conversations a minimum of every 6 to 8 weeks. This will be modeled off of the WRVSU 22-23 Community School conversation model.

I feel confident that this goal will be met by all of the WRVSU member schools.

*“Increase in average daily membership across WRVSU member districts”

An ADM report provided by Mr. Ballou this winter demonstrated stability within our ADM and increases in some of our member districts.

*“Increased percentage of students that remain in our organization PreK-12”

I am incredibly proud of the work that has been done to increase the number of students that choose to remain within our organization PreK-12. To this end, we see enrollment up in Rochester Elementary due to increased enrollment via our neighboring school choice district of Granville/Hancock, and enrollment at the WRVHS via WRVSU school choice students choosing the WRVHS. Our enrollment at WRVHS is up by over 18 tuition students from fy 23 to fy 24. We look to continue this trend in fy 25.

5. Development of a Policy/Procedure calendar to ensure regular progress monitoring of WRVSU policy/procedures on a bi-annual basis.

a. Recommended actions for 2023-2024

*“Focus on making certain all relevant procedures are reviewed and posted in conjunction with policies on the WRVSU website by October of 2023.”

This is an area that will need further attention and focus over the upcoming summer months. I plan to work with a team of administrators to finalize the identified procedures and present them to the policy committee for review during our August policy committee meeting.

*“WRVSU policy committee will create a calendar for the progress monitoring of policy/procedure by November of 2023.”

We have a working schedule that has already observed some delays due to the nature of policy revisions, but I'm feeling confident that we are on track to review and revise all of our WRVSU policies over the next calendar year.

Respectfully,
Jamie Kinnarney,
Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU