

Cabinet Report to Boards

February 2020

All Budgets have been board approved with many public meetings, budget informational meetings, and Annual Meetings on the horizon.

The WCSU Board will be meeting on February 10th at 6:00 pm at Leland & Gray to discuss the Weighting Study and possible actions. Here is a condensed breakdown of the simulations and the [WCSU school district impact from the fy18 fiscal year](#). Also, here is the entire study again for your review - [Pupil Weighting Factors Report](#). Finally, here is the [video from January 8 of Testimony](#) to the House Ways & Means and Education Committees

Also in January, Bill, Terry Davidson-Berger (Workforce Development), & Sarah Grasso (L & G Counselor) represented the WCSU on the [Pipeline & Pathways](#) Advisory Board meeting. The Pipelines and Pathways Program (P3), a high-school career awareness and preparedness program was launched by the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation last year. Many of our Leland & Gray students have taken advantage of this valuable partnership.

[January 31, 2020 Education Legislative Report](#)

On to February!

Academic Proficiency

Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Academic Support Team: The AST met this month to share instructional practices and review progress monitoring procedures and data. The team uses this time as instructional rounds to ask one another questions, reflect on their practice, and learn from one another. The AST also received training from Brian Buettner on Words Their Way Spelling Inventory analysis. This professional learning will be used to support classroom teachers in understanding their classroom data.

Local Comprehensive Assessment System (LCAS): Schools are in the process of gathering winter benchmark data. Students who do not meet the benchmark are being further assessed using diagnostic tools to plan for intervention.

Director of Special Education

Due to the incredible layered systems of support now available to students, several students have been able to reduce their need for special education supports. Students are feeling great

about their progress and the collaboration among departments and staff is significantly improving student learning.

Personalized Learning

Director of Special Education

Our Experiential Learning Center (ELC) and HOME Program at Leland & Gray are working on several personalized projects and experiences to ensure students are highly engaged in their learning and are moving toward the futures they desire. Specific post-secondary transition plans are developed for each student and the results have been wonderful so far! We also work closely with outside agencies including but not limited to HCRS (Health Care Rehabilitation Services) and Voc. Rehab.

High Quality Staffing

Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Professional Development: A second Keys to Literacy Coaching and Modeling day was held this month at NewBrook School. Elementary teachers from across the SU came to participate in the day and observe teaching by our Keys Coach and co-teaching with NewBrook teachers. The coach also provided a debriefing session after each lesson and a separate session just for parents.

Professional Development: Members of the leadership team attended a training with attorney Pietro Lynn on conducting employee investigations.

Leadership Team: The LT began their initial planning for professional learning (PL) for FY21. This has included a feedback survey to all staff in WCSU. The LT also continues its work on the implementation of change ideas and strategies for accomplishing the goals set out in the WCSU Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP).

Director of Operations

I was able to attend another VSA/VSBIT roundtable forum with other education facilities and operations managers from across the state. This meeting was structured as a panel discussion with representation from state department officials, engineers, architects and safety reps. Great discussion was had surrounding environmental impacts facing schools, school safety and building operations in context of maintenance and efficiency.

Director of Special Education

As we have moved toward specialization of special education staff, I have designed our staff department meetings to be more tailored to specific roles and responsibilities. At this time, case managers and I are working to ensure consistency among processes and procedures for procedural compliance; elementary special educators are working to review and redesign the special education referral process in light of our Local Comprehensive Assessment System (LCAS) and Multi Tiered System of Support (MTSS) work; and the Middle and High School

Special Education Department is collecting and reviewing assessment data to consider more efficient ways of providing instruction to students in those grade levels.

Safe, Healthy Schools

Director of Operations

Act 66 Lead Testing Update: We have received results from 5 schools. I have been working with building administrators and custodians on the next steps for lead remediation. Any fixtures that failed have been immediately removed from service for consumption. Plans are in place for replacement of these fixtures which is reimbursable from the State. As noted, all schools were previously in compliance with lead testing. The new law lowered the threshold for lead in drinking water from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 4 ppb. Fixtures that were previously compliant no longer comply.

School Safety Initiative Phase III: As part of Vermont's school safety initiative, Margolis Healy was asking for volunteer schools to host trainings. L&G was selected as a site and in May, they will be hosting a training for 20 WCSU leaders to attend. Morning session will cover an all hazards approach to emergency preparedness with an emphasis on options based response (Run, Hide, Fight) and best practices. The afternoon session will be a facilitated tabletop exercise for our leadership team.

Community Safety Team Meeting: On 1/30, we had a great turnout of community partners for the meeting. A tabletop exercise was conducted to simulate an emergency response for West River Valley impacting multiple schools. Great discussion was had surrounding evacuation process and potential locations and reunification. This is particularly helpful in an area with little resources and potential for longer response time, depending on the event.

Director of Special Education

Continued collaboration with Principals and our Behavior Specialist to build upon our continuum of supports available to struggling students. This enables more students to access the general education setting and improves our ability to eventually assist students with returning to our in-district schools. The Behavior Specialist has helped with development of plans, data collection and analysis, system development, teacher and staff coaching, functional behavior assessments for individual students, individual support plans, and more. Feedback so far is that we are able to help more students without looking to outside consultants whom are less familiar with the culture and needs of each school.

Financial Efficiencies

Director of Operations

Walk In Cooler: Over the fall, L&G secured a grant for the purchase and installation of a walk in cooler for food service operations. I have been working with Chris Parker and Ed McGrath on the procurement and preparation work that needs to be performed. We are planning to have the work done during the April break. Providing this WIC will allow Chris Parker to maximize food storage and reduce some of the stand alone refrigerators in the L&G kitchen.

L&G Site Assessment: Ed McGrath and myself have been engaged with an engineering firm to perform a structural site assessment of Leland & Gray. We are hopeful to have this work performed by Spring. Outcomes of this assessment will help with decisions and long term planning of the facility.

Director of Special Education

Continued work on regional collaboration with neighboring supervisory unions and nearby out of district placements. The hope is to determine some financial efficiencies with various populations of students whose needs are not currently able to be met within our districts.

Director of Finance

Required Reporting

W2 and 1099's were out the door a day ahead of the required date. Thanks to our team for making it happen especially in light of illness, mergers and a new accounting system.

Budgets

All districts now have a board approved budget. The range of increase/decreases of expense budgets range from 2.88%-18.89%. I will be producing a SU wide comparison as soon as all the town report documents are done.

Audits

I expect draft audits this week, once they are finalized they will be up on the WCSU website.