School Board Report

Windham Elementary School

9-9-19

**Academic Proficiency:**

-Aims Web testing has begun to obtain the fall benchmarks scores for all students in the school. These results will be utilized to focus specific instruction in the classroom, but also to help determine individual needs to be met in smaller groups or one on one.

-The trip to Sturbridge Village for the older students is Wednesday, September 18th. This field trip will help give the students a hands on experience for what life was like during colonization and Revolutionary times.

**Personalized Learning:**

-The after school program is up and running. We have averaged about 4-5 students per day to this point. Lisa will keep track of who is attending on which days and a report will come in October to review the financial viability of this new opportunity.

-Linda Whelihan from the Brattleboro Museum and Arts Center(BMAC), reached out to Mr. PJ about working with Windham School again this year. The upper grade class will be visiting the BMAC on September 9th to view the exhibits ending in late September. Also, Linda is planning to come to the school again to work with both classes on some art activities. Mr. PJ is working with Linda to complete the Vermont’s Art Council grant, hopefully for 1,000 dollars, to fully fund this experience here at the school.

**High Quality Staffing:**

-Sally, Sarah, and Mr. PJ attended the all day trauma training with Dave Melnick on Friday, August 23rd at Landmark College in Putney. This training reviewed many concepts and went further in depth with some others. Topics covered included but were not limited to: the 4 foundational concepts to understanding trauma, the needs to be a trauma informed school, many definitions and concepts within the trauma realm, the effects of trauma, the difference between misbehavior and stress behavior, the 5 core capacities to trauma transformation, and ways to intervein when students are on the right side of the bell curve in a high stress mentality…such as surprising the child’s brain, listen more than lecturing, and reframing the behavior.

-Both Sally and Mr. PJ attended the Keys to Literacy training on Monday, August 26th. This training introduced some new literacy strategies for reading comprehension and writing. The two core ideas from this training are the top-down web for organizing thoughts or essay writing, and two column notes, specifically for note taking. The two column notes were not gone into detail at all and will be covered at the next training in November. A few games were taught to help students get comfortable with categorizing as well. One example is to categorize these three things: a bed, a snowman, banana bread….any ideas? The presenter also taught the I, We, You concept. This means I will show it to students with me doing it to model how it is done, We will do it together as a group helping each other, then you, the students will do it on your own to show mastery and individual success.

**Safe, Healthy Schools:**

-School hot lunches began last week from the West Townshend Store on Tuesday and Friday. Sarah is currently leaving school at 11:20 to go pick up the lunches on those two days and returning at 11:45. Talks are still in the works between Mr. PJ and Tammy Mosher from the Stratton foundation about attempting to get lunches from Leland and Gray the other three days of the week. The grant from the Stratton foundation would cover the cost of the food, so we are just working on transportation at this point. A request has gone out to the Windham Community Organization to ask for volunteers to transport the food. I also received an email from Tammy last Thursday that Neighborhood Connections, Just Neighbors and Meals on Wheels are all engaged discussing the delivery of food from L&G to WE.

-Per Bill’s request, Sarah is keeping track of her mileage for picking up the lunches so she can be reimbursed this cost until we hopefully get volunteers to do the food transportation.

-Breakfast has been going well so far with students really enjoying that time to wake up, talk with their friends, and eat a little something. We just received several donations last week, so the fridge is packed full right now. If you are interested in donating anything towards our breakfast cause, please check with Mr. PJ or Sarah about what is needed.

**Financial Efficiencies:**

-Chris Medina, the new director of operations in the SU, has made a request to Adam’s Lock to get some copies of the front door key so that he can have one, Lisa can have one for afterschool, Cindy Kehoe can keep hers in case of emergency here at the school, and we can have an extra one or two here on file. Chris is also in charge of working on the water testing with Simon Operating Systems.

-Mr. PJ has applied for another grant from the Vermont Arts Council similar to the one we received for the work Christine Mix did with the students a few years ago on Windham history. This grant would be used for Linda Whelihan, from the BMAC, to come to the school to do 3-5 art lessons on puppet making. The grant application was just submitted last week, so we will wait to see if we get approved for this new art opportunity.

-Discussions are underway to try for a pasta supper in October.