School Board Report

Windham Elementary School

8-12-19

**Academic Proficiency:**

-The school year starts right off with the fall testing window to set benchmark scores for all students on the Aims Web platform. Testing will begin in the first couple weeks so that the teachers may use that data and results to help plan whole class instruction as well as individualized remediation or small group work.

-Skills block time after lunch will again be used to help bolster skills that are proven areas of weakness as determined by the fall results.

-The upper grades class is heading to Sturbridge Village on September 18th as part of the collaborative district social studies unit on Colonization and the American Revolution. Our students will again be traveling and intermingling with the other sixth grade students from around the SU as we did last year when we went to Lowell Mills.

**Personalized Learning:**

-Plans to have after school time here at the school are in the discussion phase currently. Leigh has mentioned interest in have a couple days a week at the farm, and Mr. PJ has inquired with a parent to possibly be hired to cover two hours a day, so that we might offer five days a week of two hours child care from 3-5 or 3:30-5:30, which is my hope. This will be further explored and discussed today by the school board.

**High Quality Staffing:**

-The first days of the year before students arrive will be spent at professional development focused on Trauma and literacy. The first day welcome back with all SU staff is Thursday, August 22nd at L&G. That Friday the 23rd is Trauma training with Dave Melnick all day and the following Monday the 26th is Keys to Literacy training all day as well. Tuesday the 27th is a school based day to get classrooms ready, and the first day back with students is Wednesday the 28th.

-Mr. PJ will be at the Non-violent Crisis Intervention Training as well on Monday, August 19th for 3 hours to renew his certification which is required every year. Perhaps next year we will have our new admin. Assistant train as well.

-The art program this year will again be coordinated by Lisa Beshay, so if you have any ideas or would like to volunteer, please speak with Lisa about it. We will continue our partnership with the Brattleboro Museum and Arts Center as well as continuing to do some work at the filed house with ceramics and maybe more blacksmithing.

-The hiring of a replacement for Gail has been rather taxing, but hopefully has produced a viable candidate that will be meeting sally and I here next Tuesday.

**Safe, Healthy Schools:**

-Mr. PJ met with Chris Medina, the new director of operations for all the school buildings, this summer to begin getting him familiar with the school building. He is wonderful, enthusiastic, and should help relieve some of the burden of dealing with building and maintenance issues. He has become the new contact person for the water system testing, as well as agreeing to look into our heating system for further efficiencies.

-Wednesday, August 28th will be our annual back to school pot-luck breakfast from 8-8:45 or so. Followed by an all school meeting to begin the school year.

**Financial Efficiencies:**

-School lunches this year are hopefully going to be supplied by Leland and Gray. Breakfast is still being discussed as an option, but will likely again be offered here with Mr. PJ cooking and parents donating. This is all dependent upon a grant from the Stratton Foundation that Mr. PJ is working on with Tammy Mosher from the Stratton Foundation.