

**WAITSFIELD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD AND
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**
March 2008

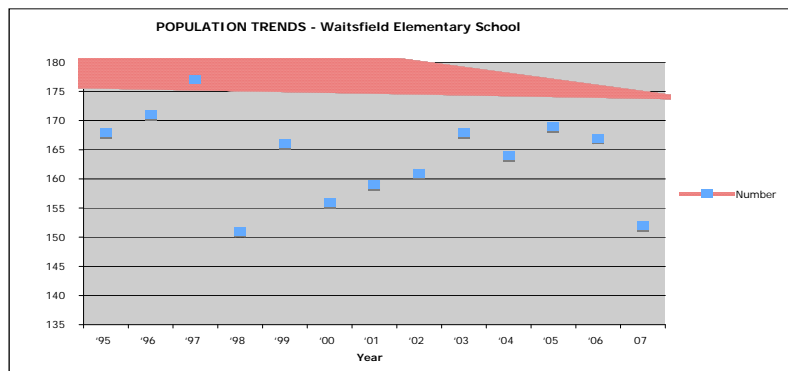
Elementary Enrollment as of October 2007

Grade	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Enrollment	20	19	15	25	13	20	18	22	152

Grade	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Enrollment	23	18	22	18	20	22	123

Enrollment Trends (1995-2006)

Year	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06
Number	168	171	177	151	166	156	159	161	168	164	169	167



Professional Staff List 2007-2008

Teacher	Position	Certification
Georgeanne Baker	Teacher – Grade 2	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Pamela Barnard	Contracted Physical Therapist	
Ann Beattie	Teacher – Grade 4/5	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Elizabeth Belknap	Teacher – Grade 4	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Nina Brennan	Teacher - French	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Lauren Briere	Contracted OT	OTR
Emily Church	Paraprofessional	
Sue Dillon	Nurse	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Raymond Drake	Teacher - PE	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Ellen Drysdale	Librarian	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Betsy Eckfeldt	Teacher - Preschool	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Catherine Fair	Counselor	Level I Prof. Ed. Lic
Daniel Greenleaf	Teacher – Grade 5/6	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Connie Hartshorn	Administrative Assistant	
Patti Haynes	Paraprofessional	
Jeremy Hill	Teacher – Music	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic

Lisa Chase	Contracted Individual Support	
Taylor Hubbard	Teacher – Grade 1	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Sarah Hughes	Paraprofessional	
Lynne Kingsbury	Teacher – Grade 3	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Susan Koepplinger	Teacher - Support services	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Nora McDonough	Teacher – Art	Level I Prof. Ed. Lic
Beth McGeorge	Instructional assistant/tutor	Level I Prof. Ed. Lic
Kay Marcelle	Teacher – Technology	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Barbara Morrison	Paraprofessional	
Heidi Nishi	Paraprofessional	
Krietta Phillips	Teacher – Kindergarten	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Joe Robinson	Head Custodian	
Richard Schattman	Principal	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Leigh Stockton	Speech Language Pathologist	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Sally Utter	Interventionist	
Lee Van Dine	Teacher – 5/6	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Arthur Washington	Contracted lunch program	
Katie Westhelle	Paraprofessional / After School & Winter Sports Coordinator	
Terry Wilcox	Teacher – Primary Unit	
Roy Yoder	Custodian	
Tom Young	Teacher – Grade 2	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic

The Waitsfield Elementary School Mission

It is the mission of the Waitsfield Elementary School to support students in the achievement of high academic standards; we believe that all students can master challenging academic material, and we expect them to do so. It is our mission to foster a safe, comfortable, and challenging learning environment. It is our mission to help teach children respect for themselves and others, and teach them to accept responsibility for their actions. It is our mission to enhance global awareness and acceptance of cultural diversity. Finally, it is our mission to make a positive difference in the lives of each of our students.

Staff Changes

The Waitsfield Elementary School continues to have great stability and consistency with staff. Sally Utter was hired on a part time basis as an “interventionist” to work in the support services area. Lisa Chase joins our staff as a contracted employee from Washington County Mental Health Agency and also fulfills the role of interventionist within the special education area. In addition, Susan Koepplinger has joined the staff as our new special education teacher. Beth McGeorge is now a part time special educator supporting children in the lower unit. All new personnel are filling existing positions. We are pleased to have each as part of the faculty and know they will contribute significantly to the children they teach.

New and Revised Policy

Policy development, review, and revision are the responsibility of the WES Board. Policy guides our school operations in a variety of areas, all of which ultimately move our school

toward best practice. In the past year, policies have been reviewed, revised or developed in the areas of discipline, harassment, and animals in the school. If you are interested in reviewing any of the school's policies, please make an appointment to come in or we can mail a copy upon request. Some policies are also available on the school's web site.

The Waitsfield School Web Page

The Waitsfield Elementary School web site was launched last year. With the support of Aaron Carlino, web designer, we were able to design a web site that provides parents, teachers, and other members of the community with a wealth of information about the school and school events. If you haven't visited the regularly updated site, please do so soon at: <http://www.waitsfielelementary.org>. The site is a great way to stay in touch with student events, posts of student work, calendars, board and PTA minutes, articles of special interest, and much more.

Action Planning

This year, we are the second year of our three-year Action Plan. Goals have been established in the areas of reading, mathematics, writing, health and wellness. The Action Plan defines the school's goals and priorities for three years. This plan is then used to guide budget and staff development. In June, teachers and the administration reviewed all year one goals and summarized progress toward our goals. Copies of the action plan are available on the web site (go to staff/PDF).

Accountability

The Waitsfield Elementary School is committed to presenting town residents with comprehensive assessment data. This data can help community members understand the overall performance of the school. In a recent accountability report, the State Department of Education indicated that the performance of the Waitsfield School far exceeds State of Vermont expectations with regard to what it calls "adequate yearly progress." In fact, in 2006 the Waitsfield School met its adequate yearly progress targets for the year 2013. This is a reflection of the quality of our teachers and the talents of our students. Without family support and partnership, these targets could not be met.

Another important area of accountability is that of *teacher appraisal*. All schools in the Washington West Supervisory Union, including Waitsfield, are implementing a system for comprehensive appraisal of teacher performance. Each teacher is evaluated on an annual basis (goal setting and goal review) with a comprehensive summative appraisal once every three years. This process is designed to provide teachers with essential feedback for continuous growth and professional development.

Transportation

The Washington West Supervisory Union contracts with the *First Student* bus company for transportation services in Waitsfield, Fayston, Moretown, Duxbury, and Waterbury. At the WES we run two busses in the morning, one mid-day bus for the kindergartners, and two busses at the end of the day. This year we conducted a bus survey to better understand how the system is working for students and their families. Results of this survey appeared in the Valley Reporter and on our web site. In an effort to address environmental and parking lot safety issues, parents

are encouraged to use the school transportation bus system whenever they can. The following data reflects the levels of ridership this year:

- Each morning, bus 1 transports 35 elementary and 48 Harwood students
- Each afternoon, bus 1 transports 29 elementary and 40 Harwood students
- Each morning, bus 2 transports 16 elementary and 55 Harwood students
- Each afternoon, bus 2 transports 12 elementary and 58 Harwood students

While elementary participation is approximately 40% of capacity, when combined with Harwood, capacity is close to 100%. In addition to the AM and PM bus runs, we do provide a mid-day run to accommodate preschoolers and kindergartners. This run averages 24 students.

Staff Development

The Washington West Supervisory Union has developed a comprehensive staff development program for all schools in the Union. On eight Wednesday afternoons throughout the year, teachers meet at Harwood Union to participate in a range of workshops and courses. Each is designed to improve instruction. These half days have been very worthwhile according to teacher and administrative feedback. We recognize that early release days place a burden on each family and we appreciate your support.

The Arts

This year, students performed a number of wonderful plays. They included “Once upon a Lily Pad”, It’s a “Jungle Out There”, and “The Wizard of Oz.” All are invited to join us at the Valley Players for our production of the Wizard on March 28th and March 29th. Murray may make a guest appearance as Toto.

At the Waitsfield Elementary School’s holiday program, students performed a variety of songs, and readings. These songs and readings drew upon the traditions of Christians, Jews, and Muslims. It was heavily attended by parents and others within the community and was just one more example of how Waitsfield values its youngest members.

Health and Nutrition

Our breakfast/lunch program is contracted with the Fayston School. This is the 4th year for our partnership; Arthur Washington and Cheryl Joslin staff and coordinate the program and are to be commended for a job well done. The program has made a commitment to working with local farmers to use locally grown products to the greatest extent possible.

Sue Dillon, our school nurse, coordinates all health services and provides direct instruction to all classes on a rotating basis. Topics covered included nutrition, safety, physical activity, making healthy choices, dental health, infection prevention, media literacy, and human growth and development. Last year nursing services were increased by one half day per week. This has offered WES students with additional support and instruction.

Health screenings for vision, hearing, height, weight, and blood pressure have been completed; referrals were sent home, as appropriate. Sue also coordinates our weekly fluoride treatments for those students whose parents want them to participate. Again, parent volunteers make the

program possible. This year, WES has participated in the Washington West Supervisory Union dental hygiene program and welcomes Marion Moore as our contracted dental hygienist.

PTA

This year, the annual ski and skate sale was a great success under the leadership of Krissa Hammond. This was Krissa's second year as the sale coordinator. Sales exceeded last year, giving the PTA a good funding base to support a wide range of enrichment activities. This year, the PTA is sponsoring a two week long dance residency with Karen Amirault. The focus of Karen's work will be South American cultures. Teachers are linking classroom instruction with the residency to provide students with a rich and meaningful learning experience.

In addition to our residency programs, the PTA funds field trips to the Flynn Theater and other venues. They purchased books for the library, sponsored the winter sports program, responded to staff requests for materials and special events, and hosted a staff appreciation breakfast. The Waitsfield PTA is a critically important part of our school's richness and depth. Thank you to all who support the PTA. We couldn't do it without you.

Non-commercial Book Fair

Instead of continuing our commercial affiliation with Scholastic Books Inc., we developed a relationship with a locally owned Montpelier bookstore and provided students with only high quality books. Thanks to the effort of our school librarian, Ellen Drysdale, and Sandy Tarburton, we were able to continue our work with Bear Pond Books to provide a book fair that gives children great literature. With this being the third year for this fair, we are receiving lots of inquiries from other schools interested in moving in this direction.

Media Literacy

Media literacy continues to be an important focus for the school. The school strives to be a "commercial free zone" and is vigilant in its commitment to safeguard all students from the influence of advertising within the school building. Part of this commitment includes providing students with the tools of media literacy, so that they may understand how they are influenced by our media saturated society. All students participate in a course of study in this area prior to their graduation from grade 6. Again, visit our web site for more information on this important aspect of the school program.

The Waitsfield Ways

This is the fourth year of implementing The Waitsfield Ways. It is a statement of those behaviors that each student and staff member agrees to follow as a member of the school community. We are using the Waitsfield Ways to discuss issues and problem solve when necessary. The Waitsfield Ways frame many of our assemblies as children develop role-plays and demonstrations for all to see and discuss. The Waitsfield Ways now appear in the school's handbook and include:

- Set a good example for yourself and others by helping those in need
- Respect each other's body, property, feelings, and differences
- Do your best
- Keep our school safe, neat, and healthy

Technology

The Waitsfield School is a leader in the area of integrating technology across the curriculum. It is truly impressive to see how the use of mobile computing stations have allowed students to create digital projects, media production, and applications for Internet for research. New to the repertoire of students this year is the use of podcasts, blogs, and wikis. We are now streaming content-based video from the Internet and enable students to actively engage through the use of a "Smart Board."

This year, staff presented at the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference and the Dynamic Landscapes conference. Topics for these presentations have included: medial literacy, integrating technology in the classroom, applying technology to the teaching of science and writing, and more.

A technology task force was re-established to guide the school's implementation of its board adopted technology plan. This task force consists of teachers, the school technology coordinator, a board member, and the school administrator.

At the Waitsfield School, we believe technology is a tool for enhancing learning across all areas of the curriculum. Application of technology is evident in PK-6 grade, art, and music. We have both a computer lab and a mobile lab that can be placed in any classroom to support class-based research. Students are developing many skills through the use of technology including Internet research, manipulating digital images, keyboarding, development of spreadsheets, ability to evaluate web sites, drawing and painting, and creating digital multimedia projects. Our school is constantly upgrading the technology infrastructure of the school so our students will have access to information in a manner consistent with current standards. This year we set up a wireless network throughout the school, upgraded our library automation system, replaced one computer lab with current generation computers, purchased video and still digital cameras, replaced outdated printers, purchased on "Smart Board," and replaced an LCD projector. Our use of software is in full compliance with copy-write and site licensing regulations and requirements, and ethical use of technology is emphasized with students.

Student projects that are technology based include: claymation, cut paper animation, video documentaries on water issues, production of a student yearbook, use of computer based magnification for soil science studies, incorporating scanned images into text documents, and much more.

As a result of our integrated approach to applied technology, our students are developing proficiencies that will enable them to access a broad range of essential knowledge and skills. These skills include communication and collaboration, innovation, creativity, productivity, media literacy, and research methods. Thanks to our strategy for integrating technology across the curriculum, students are more engaged and excited about learning.

Performance Space Upgrades: The gym is also our cafeteria, performance space, and meeting hall. It is a part of the school that is used by many school and community groups. As such, it was decided a number of years ago to upgrade the facility. A three-stage plan was developed. First would be an upgrade of the sound system. Second would be improvement of lighting, and

finally would be the upgrading of the stage itself. This year, phase one was completed and a new sound system was installed. Half of this system was supported with PTA funds and half was from the school's supplemental building maintenance and upgrade fund.

School Board Committee Reports: This year, the WES school board established two committees. They include a communications committee and a building and facilities committee.

Building and facilities committee: Given the emerging 21st century realities of global *peak oil* and *climate change*, the facilities sub-committee of the Board is exploring a number of projects designed to make our school more sustainable over the long term. These include expanding the community garden plot and developing educational programs to connect the garden to the school's learning environment and the larger community; researching biomass heating options - wood pellet and wood chip fired burners, for example - for increased energy efficiency and reduced reliance on fossil fuels; and reducing our physical plant's energy "outputs" through various means. We have conducted an energy "audit" with Efficiency Vermont, and are currently exploring ways to fund and implement various energy reducing and money saving projects. We're also looking at other facilities-enhancing projects, like re-grading the school's athletic field, just south of the main building.

Communication committee:

The Waitsfield School Board has created a Community Relations Committee. The purpose of the group is to discuss issues and ideas that support the school and its relationship with the community, and to explore new areas of opportunity on which to focus. For the 2007-2008 academic year, the committee's goals are to (1) identify and research issues of significance, and (2) develop recommendations on how the school could best move forward with public relations endeavors. Committee members include parents, teachers, and school board members.

Building Reserve Fund: Last year, the town approved a plan for establishing a fund for maintenance and upgrades to the school. Approximately 65% of funds were expended, leaving another 35% for future efforts. This year funds were used to upgrade gutters, carpet three classrooms, partially support the installation of the new sound system, and replace single pane windows and window units. In addition, funds supported the enclosure of a new space in the library, now referred to as the fish bowl. The town will once again be asked to contribute to this fund so that it may remain viable for years to come.

Building Use and Maintenance: The Waitsfield School is arguably the town's most valued asset. The condition of the building continues to be excellent due to the hard work and dedication of Joe Robinson and Roy Yoder. The parking lot that was reconstructed last year continues to serve us well. This year, Waitsfield residents will again be asked to contribute to its building maintenance and improvement fund. This reserve fund is used to support building maintenance and improvement projects. These projects may include items such as addressing water purification, drainage, roofing repair, etc. This year, the school building was not only used for education of children but also as a community center. Over 40 groups used the building for meetings, classes, or activities.

We are planning on participating in the new water system and have actively sought State of Vermont water resource grants to assist with the associated hook-up fees. The new water system will help assure that our children have access to quality water.

It truly takes a community to have a great school. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful school community. It would not be possible without a strong staff, supportive parents, and an involved and committed community. The staff, board, and administration would like to offer our thanks to the many volunteers, the road crew, town officers, and each and every one of you for your continued support. Without that support, we couldn't provide our students the quality of education that we do. The work and success of the Waitsfield School is truly a community effort. Thank you!

Respectfully Submitted By:

The Waitsfield Board of School Directors

Melissa Siner Shea, Chairperson
Wrenn Compère, Board Member
Sandy Tarburton, Board Member
Troy Kingsbury, Board Member
Rob Williams, Board Member
Robert McNamara, Superintendent
Richard Schattman, Principal