

**2009-10 REPORT FROM THE WASHINGTON WEST
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CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

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Strengthening Our PK-12 Educational Organization

The WWSU Administrative Team, in conjunction with building principals and local board members, have worked hard this year to develop and implement many initiatives to further enhance and improve our schools for students and employees. A continued focus of the team's work is in systems analysis and design, in an effort to build sustainable programs, to increase our capacity, and to realize maximum efficiency and effectiveness. Increased program and financial accountability, greater rigor and relevance in our classrooms, enhanced relationships between students and staff, improved student outcomes, and responsible budgets are some key areas of work.

Several important changes have come our way from Montpelier that required a significant amount of our time and much collaboration. Budgeting was more difficult than ever, as we prepared and studied the impacts of essentially three possible budgets in each town; level services, level funded, and meeting the Challenges for Change (Act 146) voluntary target reductions assigned from the DOE. The local school boards in conjunction with school and supervisory union administration have wrestled with the impact of each of the scenarios and brought forth the options they felt were best for each school. The results of these difficult decisions are presented within the proposed budgets in each of the respective towns in our communities.

Act 153, the legislation around consolidating school districts and changing the responsibilities of the WWSU Board, still remains center stage. Administrators and board members are spending time listening, learning, and discussing the myriad of opinions regarding school governance, local control, and cost efficiencies. We have no current plans to change anything for next year, or even into the near future, but will continue to determine what the next steps should be for our communities. The law requires our district to identify, study, and consider all consolidation possibilities. We will get information out to our communities as it becomes available and/or any articulated plans actually materialize in our district.

Significant work has been done in the areas of developing hiring procedures, implementing a complete teacher, support staff and administrator evaluation system, expanding and coordinating student assessment data collections, policy development and revision, comparative program of studies analysis at HUHS, negotiating contract agreements for both teachers and support staff, enrollment analysis 1997-2015, implementing a new messaging and safety/emergency system (ALERT NOW), and beginning the work to transition our curriculum to the new Common Core Standards and our assessment program from NECAP to the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Vermont is one of 40 plus states signed on and engaged in this national endeavor.

Our website has continually improved throughout the year, and provides a wealth of information that may have been published in this report in the past. The budgets for each town are posted as well, including the costs per pupil and tax rates in each town. Other posts of interest might be our professional development offerings, student data assessment workbook, (which compares the students in each of our schools to other middle and high schools in the state), information on the Vermont Common Assessment Tool, newly adopted policies, labor agreements, and reports to boards from the superintendent outlining the work and accomplishments of the district.

The students in the WWSU continue to work hard, give their very best, and make us all very proud. Our parents and community members continue to support our work and our schools. We will strive to make continuous growth and to stretch ourselves to make all of our schools the very best they possibly can be. We will remain at the table advocating for our students and our communities at the state level, so that future changes will only result if and when improved student outcomes can be

demonstrated and cost efficiencies realized. Changing for the sake of change will not be a WWSU path. Please do not hesitate to contact the WWSU team anytime to share your thoughts. We appreciate hearing from you.

Business Manager Report

The Washington West Supervisory Union FY2012 budget is a total of \$990,402 and represents a budget increase of 2.5% with a resulting assessment of 5.4% to member districts. The WWSU budget includes \$20,000 to fund a Technology Coordinator. Coordinated technology will bring operational and financial efficiencies to the SU.

Recent Washington West Budget History:

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Budget Year	SU Budget	Budget Increase
2007-2008	\$ 861,613	5.6%
2008-2009	\$ 907,434	5.3%
2009-2010	\$ 933,561	2.9%
2010-2011	\$ 965,834	3.5%
2011-2012	\$ 990,402	2.5%

FY2012 school district budgets throughout the district range from a high of 1.6% increase to a low of a 4.7% decrease as shown on the table below.

School District	Proposed Budget Change from current Year	Current Cost Per Equalized Pupil	FY2012 Cost Per Equalized Pupil (based on proposed budgets)
Fayston	- .3%	\$12,549	\$13,199
Moretown	-4.7%	\$14,643	\$14,484
Waitsfield	+1.6%	\$12,721	\$12,669
Warren	+1.68%	\$11,587	\$11,139
Waterbury-Duxbury U45	+.52%	\$12,060	\$12,503
Harwood Union HS	-1.2%	\$12,466	\$12,634
SU Average		\$12,671	\$12,758
Vermont Average		\$12,204	

Additional information regarding all budgets in the Supervisory Union, as well as audited financial statements and student enrollment projections, can be obtained at <http://www.wwsu.org> under the Business Manager tab.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Washington West Supervisory Union and Waitsfield School District audited Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2010 are available at the WWSU offices in Waitsfield, Vermont or by calling 802-496-2272, ext. 117. They are also available on-line at **www.waitsfielelementary.org**.