

Carol Brigham
4/9/19

Thank you for allowing this time to be heard.

Carol Brigham, Whiting School Board, Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union

Thomas Sergiovanni, in his book, "Building Community Schools" quotes Irwin Blumer, school superintendent in Newton, Mass. (1992)

"Much of what passes for school reform is superficial and ultimately fails because the difficulty of the task—institutional change—is underestimated. Real change can only come as a result of the commitments of both the minds and the hearts of the total school community—teachers, parents, students, administrators and school boards. Reform should be based on careful identification of deeply and commonly held values. Change can only be achieved through people's acceptance of responsibility to further their goals through their words and their actions" (End Quote)

As organizers and leaders, we can get caught up in perfect systems and there **is** a place for systems in education. But when it gets down to the success of a public school...it needs the input and the ownership of the community it serves. Individually identifying and understanding the challenges of each school is needed to find the right solutions. Cutting out this process of the people is a sure way of undermining the trust and support that we need for success.

I do not believe that they are people anywhere in the state of Vermont that do not care about the **quality** of education, the **cost** of education or the **opportunity** our students have to education. They also care to have a **voice** in education.

Bill H.883 will very well polarize schools systems that are headed in the right direction and ~~may~~^{will} very well cause mistrust in the schools that need help.

As leaders, I urge you not to get lost in the **power** of leading, but remember **who** you are leading.

I would like to hand you two documents.

The first is last month's Principal's Report from Whiting School. Our Mission Statement is printed at the top. (Read)

The second is the RNESU Compact that all of the schools in RNESU have adopted and abide by.

Thank you very much.

RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT, March 2014
Whiting Elementary School

MISSION: *The Whiting Elementary School supports each student's social and academic growth as a self-directed learner. Our school reflects local traditions and connections to the global community. We value the past, embrace the opportunities and challenges of the present, while preparing healthy, contributing individuals for the future.*

I. K-6 STUDENT ATTENDANCE REPORT for the first 115 days of school 8/28/13-3/6/14:
Absences: 185 student absences, involving 26 different children

II. ENROLLMENT DATA: as of Thursday, March 6, 2014:

<u>PreK</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Total</u>	
7	5	4	7	5	5	5	2	40	(K-6 = 33)
								Jan. 2014:	37 (K-6 = 33)
								June 2013:	39 (K-6 = 31)

III. DISCIPLINE:

IV. FIRE/EVACUATION DRILLS:

V. PARENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- FOWS meeting, March 5
- Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 4, 7 pm at Whiting Town Hall

VI. SPECIAL PROGRAMS/EVENTS/FIELD TRIPS:

- 2013-14 Winter Festival: WES and SCS students went to Spartan Arena Wednesday, Feb 12 for all school skating outing
- The Vermont Symphony Orchestra's musical instrument "Petting Zoo" came to WES/SCS for an interactive program exploring musical instruments, Tuesday, Feb. 25
- Cathy Danyow, Tooth Tutor, came to WES on Wednesday, March 5th
- Our 4-5-6 team is going to Project Independence March 12 to share their Wonders of Whiting project
- The UVM Nutrition and Health program is at the school for 7-8 Wednesdays, doing interactive projects with our K-3 students
- Coming up: Monday and Tuesday, March 24-25, there will be an Artist-in-Residence program at SCS-WES. We will be hosting the *African Rhythms and World Music* duo from Brattleboro. This will be an energetic, highly participatory musical workshop experience for the kids. (for info about the group, go to www.jaycookmusic.com) Sponsored by Friends of Whiting School and Sudbury's Oscar Meyer fund.

VII. PERSONNEL:

- A posting for the Whiting Preschool Teacher vacancy has been submitted to schoolspring.com and the local newspapers

- VIII. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSERVICE ACTIVITIES:**
- Lisa Italiano of the VT Writing Project worked with staff and students Thursday, Feb. 27, and our teaching staff attended a joint SCS-WES staff meeting on 2-26 focused on an introduction to the literacy portion of the new Smarter Balance assessment coming our way in Spring, 2015 (replacing NECAP)
 - Professional Staff will meet with their RNESU in-service 2013-14 groups on Friday, March 14
- IX. SUPERVISION & EVALUATION:**
- X. FINANCIAL:**
- XI. FACILITIES:**
- New windows will be installed March 14 by Desabrais Glass in both bathrooms and 2 of upper hallway windows
- XII. MISCELLANEOUS:**
- On behalf of the students, staff, and families of Whiting Elementary School, an appreciative “Thank You” to the citizens of Whiting for generously supporting our school by adopting the amended 2014-15 budget!
 - NECAP results from October 2013:

Whiting Elementary School
 NECAP Results, October 2013
 18 students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6

NECAP Category	Reading - # of students per category	Math - # of students per category
Proficient with Distinction	1	6
Proficient	11	4
Partially Proficient	2	7
Substantially Below Proficient	4	1

Ed Barnwell, Principal

March 2014

Carol Brighan
4/19



Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union

... dedicated to the development of character, competence, creativity and community

VALUES

- *Caring* ▪ *Effort & Resilience* ▪ *Visual & Performing Arts* ▪ *Social & Personal Responsibility* ▪ *Acceptance & Celebration of Diversity* ▪
- *Mutual Respect* ▪ *Individual & Collective Achievement* ▪ *Appreciation of the Natural World* ▪ *Physical Health & Wellness* ▪
- *Lifelong Learning* ▪ *Equity* ▪

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students are successful learners, workers and citizens by becoming:

- Academically Accomplished**
- Effective Oral and Written Communicators**
- Effective Collaborators**
- Independent & Creative Thinkers**
- Innovators & Problem Solvers**
- Globally Aware & Responsible Citizens**
- Community Contributors**
- Physically & Emotionally Healthy**
- Kind, Caring & Gracious**
- Appreciative of Visual & Performing Arts**
- Aware & Respectful of the Natural World**
- Confident, Courageous & Persistent**
- Responsible & Motivated Self-Advocates**
- Respectful, Fair & Just Individuals**
- Curious & Lifelong Learners**

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Students participate in learning opportunities that:

- ...provide access to a rigorous academic curriculum
- ...engage students in authentic and relevant work
- ...integrate best and “next” instructional practices
- ...promote critical thinking & innovation
- ...are personalized & proficiency-based
- ...are both minds on and hands-on
- ...are project/problem based
- ...are interdisciplinary
- ...include community service & service learning experiences
- ...engage students in the natural world
- ...integrate the effective use of technology
- ...are vocational and experiential in nature
- ...encourage student voice, ownership and leadership
- ...promote “habits of mind” or executive skills
- ...are extended beyond the school day, school year and school building

OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS, RESOURCES & PRACTICES

The RNESU community is committed to fulfilling our mission and values by providing:

Adequate Instructional Staffing

Adequate Support Staffing

Adequate Continuum of Intervention & Support

Access to Quality Professional Development

Adequate Instructional Resources

Access to Current Technology

Safe and Adequate Transportation

Safe, Healthy & Efficient Facilities

Equity in Access to Programs & Services

Positive Learning Environments

Effective Governance & Leadership

Effective Professional Practices

Effective Feedback, Assessment and Grading Practices

Effective Communication

Opportunities to Collaborate

A Culture of Continuous Improvement

Opportunities to Recognize & Celebrate Achievements

Community Engagement

NEEDS ASSESSMENT & PROGRAM EVALUATION

RNESU will assess student outcomes and evaluate programs based on:

**Regular Review of
RNESU, School and Grade Level Profiles**

**Regular Review of
State, RNESU, School, Grade Level and
Individual Student Data**

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

RNESU will develop and implement programs with attention to:

The Common Core State Standards

Vermont Educational Quality Standards

Vermont School Quality Standards

Common Board Policy

Multi-Year Supervisory Union Action Plan

Annual School Action Plan

Professional Goal Setting

Student Goal Setting