

Subject: Comments for Education Committee visit to WRVSU

Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 7:39 PM

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Burleigh Griffith and I am the Preschool Director and Lead Teacher at Rochester Elementary School in Rochester, VT. I have worked at the school for 9 years, first as a Paraprofessional, then stepping into the lead teacher role 3 years ago. I love my job and our small school, and would like to take this opportunity to share some of the reasons with you. First, the rural and somewhat isolated location of Rochester means that our Pre-k to 6th grade Elementary School is an integral part of our community, providing not only high quality education to the students that we serve, but also local jobs, student supports including meals, and events organized by the PTO like Bingo nights, fundraisers, and concerts.

Second, I firmly believe that the small size of our school brings distinct advantages over a larger one. We as teachers are able to get to know all the students, not just in our own classes but in the whole school. Having these positive and supportive relationships means in part that no student is overlooked or "slips through the cracks" when they need help, but also further strengthens our sense of community. We are also able to form good relationships with the parents and families in our district as well and partner with them to better support our students. Rochester is part of a combined district with Stockbridge Central School and also serves the students from Hancock and Granville. We often take part in all school events and celebrations with the teachers and students from Stockbridge. We hold Winter and Spring concerts as a district, year-end Field Days, and multi-grade combined educational field trips. With smaller class sizes, a focus on positive relationships, and a unique ability to pivot to face issues or challenges, our school stands as an example of a true community of learners with teachers, administrators, and staff that care deeply about student wellbeing and are willing and able to do whatever it takes to help them succeed.

Thank you,

Burleigh

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Burleigh Griffith

Preschool Director and Teacher

Rochester School