

Monthly Leadership Update for Wiscasset School Committee

Administrator: Charles Lomonte

Month Reporting: March

Please include a brief summary for each topic (bulleted points are fine). This will be shared with the School Committee on Thursday prior to the monthly meeting.

What major projects or new initiatives are happening this month in your department?

As of March 8th our entire middle school has been invited back to in-person learning. Our Leadership group has opted to an "overflow area" in the cafe for the high school classes over the limits of allowing for proper social distancing. This will be done by each individual teacher at each block. We continue to allow more and more high school students back each week as we have students back for 4 days in grades 9-12.

What, if anything, do you feel you need as support from the School Committee to accomplish these projects?

- 1.) Thank you for giving our staff the autonomy to continue allowing students back for 4 days. The process has been carried out collaboratively and thoughtfully and keeps at the forefront the safety of all our students and staff.
- 2.) Discussions are beginning by students and staff regarding our WMHS Prom and our WMHS Graduation. As always we will be following all guidelines given by the CDC, and MDOE. We would appreciate the board's input on these events as we begin preparations.

Share any exciting accomplishments or goals that your department has reached this month.

- 1.) Our Winter Carnival was a success this year thanks to the careful planning and creative problem solving of Ms. Pooler and our WMHS Student Council. We were fortunate to be able to do anything like it. Many other schools have completely abandoned these activities due to the pandemic. The virtual broadcasts and safe activities were just what our students needed to get through the winter COVID blues. Congratulations to our school nurses for being recognized by the students for their Leadership and Hard work this year during the pandemic. Their recognition was well deserved. Although there were not many, our Senior Class came through the Winter Carnival Triumphant followed by Juniors with a close

second. We are grateful to all students that planned and participated including our student council officers Gwen Webber, Matt Eckert, Gabrielle Leavitt, Naomi Wood, Kyle Ricker, and Madison Westrich.

- 2.) Mr. Wenkus has been able to secure sets of **Snowshoes and Winter Outdoor Gear** from LL Bean with recent CRF funds. Our students are taking full advantage of the winter weather using this new equipment to "head for the hills" where the recent snowstorms cooperated in affording our students another safe, outdoor, physically exhilarating experience. The students are thrilled to be snowshoeing during their PE classes and the new equipment is getting good use. This is a great way to stay socially distanced while getting quality exercise which is critical for our students now more than ever.
- 3.) Our first of **two construction projects** is now complete. Our ribbon will be cut on the new WMHS Classroom this Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:30 A.M. This will begin a series of middle and high school students back to school as our numbers continually increase to in-person learning. Special thanks to our crews that worked tirelessly to make this project come through on time including Mr. John Merry, Mr. Jeff Speed, Mr. Phil Divece, Mr. Tony Goulette, and Mr. Alan Small. Their efforts should be applauded and recognized by all. The room number is ROOM 115 and will be occupied by Ms. Liz Hemdal for our Middle and High School Health Classes. Ms. Sarah Adkins will now occupy Ms. Hemdal's older classroom to allow for more middle-level students in ELA and Social Studies. WMHS will now focus on our second construction project that includes two newly refurbished portable classrooms that will be located near the music room.
- 4.) Our last **Parent Advisory Council** hosted a discussion with parents and students regarding some of the current issues facing our students today including the Coronavirus, Social and Civil unrest, and other world, national, and local issues. Our middle and high schoolers gave the council a deeper insight into how these issues are affecting our students. With an eye on the mental health and wellness of our students, the council discussed multiple ways of supporting them through this difficult time.
- 5.) Special Congratulations to **Mr. Michael Hendrickson** Grade 11 who is the February Recipient of the Michael Hendrickson "Student that Makes a

Difference" award sponsored by our Wiscasset Booster Club. Michael received a \$25 Amazon Gift Card as well as a copy of **Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage & Triumph** by Travis Roy. Michael was honored for his good spirit and positive attitude during this pandemic.

- 6.) WMHS is now making preparations for our virtual Parent Teacher Conferences coming up March 18th and 19th. We look forward to touching base with parents so we may further support our students.

If applicable, share numbers or statistics that are new or important for the School Committee to know at this time (e.g. percentages for free reduced lunch, special education, out of district placement, etc.)

WMHS Status as of 3/8/21

Total Enrollment = 273

of Students attending 4 days = 140

of Students attending Hybrid = 71

of Students Fully Remote = 62

Monthly Leadership Update for Wiscasset School Committee

Administrator: John Merry

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What major projects or new initiatives are happening this month in your department?

The new classroom had a successful opening on Monday February 22nd.

Jeff Speed has officially retired, he will be missed. The Superintendent and I interviewed two candidates for the current open custodial positions. We hope to have them filled soon.

Still awaiting permitting from the state fire marshal's office on setting the portable. H.C Crooker notified me yesterday that they will be unable to assist us with this project. I am reconnecting with Jack Shaw & Sons to follow up on his proposal and start putting a calendar together.

We received one proposal for the exhaust fan installation project at WMHS.

Resource sharing initiatives are being discussed with WCC.

What, if anything, do you feel you need as support from the School Committee to accomplish these projects?

Share any exciting accomplishments or goals that your department has reached this month.

The changes to bus routing in order to accommodate the 4 day school week to date is working well. We continue to monitor numbers but as of now everything is working fine

Monthly Leadership Update for Wiscasset School Committee

Administrator: Lorie Johnson

Month Reporting: March

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What major projects or new initiatives are happening this month in your department?

We have no major project going on right now.

What, if anything, do you feel you need as support from the School Committee to accomplish these projects?

We are all set at this time. We appreciate all of the support that the School Committee supplies.

Share any exciting accomplishments or goals that your department has reached this month.

We are excited to have more students in the schools, we enjoy seeing them at breakfast and lunch. We are still working on getting numbers up in both areas of remote and in school lunches and breakfasts.

If applicable, share numbers or statistics that are new or important for the School Committee to know at this time (e.g. percentages for free reduced lunch, special education, out of district placement, etc.)

We currently have 158 students that qualify for free and reduced meals. The current percentage is at 35% for the district of Free and Reduced. We are holding steady at this number.

Monthly Leadership Update for Wiscasset School Committee

Administrator: Warren Cossette

Month Reporting: March

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What major projects or new initiatives are happening this month in your department?

Technology

We ordered 60 Swivls that are incredibly powerful remote teaching tools. The Swivl allows all attendees to be able to speak, and be seen and heard, through the automatic voice activation. eRate will begin Phase II in June and July.

What, if anything, do you feel you need as support from the School Committee to accomplish these projects?

The School Committee has been very supportive.

Share any exciting accomplishments or goals that your department has reached this month.

Athletics

Currently we are continuing to do skills and drills in basketball (7-12) four nights a week. Basketball finishes 3/5 The Boys group has grown to 12 participants, and the Girls are currently at 8.

The WCC is partnering with WSD to provide swimming opportunities for Our High School swimmers have done extremely well. Nathan Gilliam was 1,2 place for all Class A, B swimmers in his respective competition events.

We are planning on Track and Tennis (B/G) in the spring season if MPA approves.

If applicable, share numbers or statistics that are new or important for the School Committee to know at this time (e.g. percentages for free reduced lunch, special education, out of district placement, etc.)

Currently we are in the process of training (myself-Warren) to understand, and be prepared to offer eSports next fall. eSports are the fastest growing activity in the secondary education interscholastic realm. I will continue to update as we learn more about this exciting new opportunity.

Monthly Leadership Update for Wiscasset School Committee

Administrator: Laura Mewa

Month Reporting: March

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What major projects or new initiatives are happening this month in your department?

- The NWEA testing window has closed, data has been gathered and analyzed. Small group interventions in math and ELA are beginning to take place.
- The monthly newsletter will resume for April, May and June communicating to parents and the community some highlights that are happening at Wiscasset Elementary School.
 - This tool will be a helpful way to educate and communicate with families and community stakeholders what Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports is, what it looks like at WES and how to bridge this model from school to home.
- I attended the February Parents In Education (PIE) meeting
 - There are some potential fundraising opportunities on the horizon, if they are approved, details will be presented.
 - Staff have been encouraged to attend the meetings, the collaboration door has been opened.
- A team has been created to begin training on Tier II PBIS. We have been meeting weekly for the past two weeks and will continue to meet for the remainder of the year. Our goal is to complete the training by June so that we can begin to roll out targeted behavioral interventions, school wide, in the Fall.
- We are beginning to create a team, district wide, to receive training for a Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to address academic and behavioral supports for our students.

What, if anything, do you feel you need as support from the School Committee to accomplish these projects? Not applicable

Share any exciting accomplishments or goals that your department has reached this month.

- We were able to assist several families, through private donations, with heating costs and groceries.

Monthly Leadership Update for Wiscasset School Committee

Administrator: Ken Spinney II

Month Reporting: March 2021

Please include a brief summary for each topic (bulleted points are fine). This will be shared with the School Committee on Thursday prior to the monthly meeting.

What major projects or new initiatives are happening this month in your department?

- Numerous IEP and Section #504 Meetings.
- More of our students with IEP's have transitioned into in person learning for more time.
- Contracting for Speech and Language Services. We have these secured for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school-year.
- Participation by a few staff in a Drummond Woodsum Workshop "Leaving High School.....Long Last Looks Must End". I would recommend discussing some of the changes in special education law with the board at some point and potential outcomes.
- Completing necessary state reports
- Working on a tuition billing system that will allow our department to be more fluid and accurate. The amount of transient students along with the number of students coming from other districts than Wiscasset makes this a challenge especially during Covid. Despite this fact, we are making progress.
- Posted for a Speech and Language Pathologist for the 2021-2022 school-year. This may be a difficult position to fill, but we are starting early.
- I will be posting for a district psychologist and extended school year staff in the near future.
- I am beginning to think about Extended School Year (ESY) Services. We are in discussion about what summer programming could look like for students in the general curriculum. My hope is to hold the ESY program in a strategic manner in regards to dates of the program and any potential general curriculum programming.

What, if anything, do you feel you need as support from the School Committee to accomplish these projects?

- I feel strongly our district needs a full-time Wiscasset Psychological examiner due to the high number of students with IEP's, Covid, and the reality of having to likely complete several appropriate initial and three-year review evaluations.
- Continuation of our current special education continuum until we are further along with early intervention systems at primary level. Over time, I suspect the rate of special education identifications will be lower with general curriculum supports and interventions.

Share any exciting accomplishments or goals that your department has reached this month.

- Ever since being employed in Wiscasset, I have been highly impressed with the quality of our special educators, related service providers and support staff. I have the opportunity to participate in the majority of IEP meetings where data is shared on student achievement/behavior/social skills and/or functional performance. I'm proud of our staff working hard to provide specially designed instruction and seeing the assessments and products to substantiate solid progress over time. Our therapists work small miracles with the therapies they provide. Our Ed. Tech's support numerous students in the general curriculum and special education settings implementing a variety of behavioral intervention plans and delivering/supporting an array of needed goals and objectives.
- Our Special Education and Section #504 filing systems are improving due to a lot of hard work by special educators and our special education administrative secretary.
- We have had a couple of students with high needs move to Wiscasset. In these circumstances, our staff have assessed and supported these students well. We have accessed Orientation and Mobility Services, as well as, the Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

If applicable, share numbers or statistics that are new or important for the School Committee to know at this time (e.g. percentages for free reduced lunch, special education, out of district placement, etc.)

STATISTICS:

WES Total Enrollment (As of 2/24/21) - 178
WMHS Total Enrollment (As of 2/24/21 - 273
WES Section # 504 Plans-2
WMHS Section # 504 plans -19

Breakdown of disabilities (Not counting those students in the Sheepscot Regional Education Program-SREP):

Emotional Disability-14
Specific Learning Disability-46
Speech and Language Impairment-11
Other Health Impairment-23
Intellectual Disabilities-2
Multiple- Disabilities-7