

WISCASSET SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Wiscasset School Department Monthly Board Report For Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Ken Spinney II, Special Education Director

Recognitions:

- Thanks to all the Wiscasset School Department Staff and Community for welcoming me into our schools. Everybody has been warm, kind, and helpful during a time where I am learning about our district, school processes, and about my new position.
- We have an amazing special education staff! Each day, I get to interact with them more and see them in classrooms, meetings, and for professional development. I am very impressed with their commitment to students and willingness to continually improve.

Training:

- On November 20th early release day, our special education teaching staff will be meeting with me to go over areas of need in our paperwork. I want to develop commonality in our thinking on how to write individualized educational plans, written notices, and other required forms. We are also having Adori/Acuity trainer attend to assist with answering questions about the technology we use daily to record information electronically. Lastly, we are allowing time for teachers to meet with each other both horizontally and vertically, which is important for any school based team. Educational Technicians will receive training on how to deescalate difficult situations.
- On December 20th, the Department of Education will provide further training on best practices on IEP development based on the latest regulatory requirements and changes.

Updates:

- Thank you to the Wiscasset School Department for hiring me as your new Special Education Director. I am happy to be a part of your school community. The first two weeks of my employment have been enjoyable. We have some very good teachers and support staff, which become clearer each day. The students are wonderful!

WMHS Leadership Update

November 12, 2019

By Charles Lomonte, Principal

- Special thanks to our volunteers including Ms. Pooler, Ms. Fraire, and Officer Hubert for giving their time and resources to our students at the **2019 Haunted High School Event**. It was a huge success after being postponed and raised over \$980.00 dollars for the WMHS Food Pantry and the WMHS Turkey Aid Program.
- I would like to give a special shout out to **Deb Melanson** for her continual culinary efforts with her students. Our students are so lucky to have these experiences and gain so much from cooking including math, science, and life skills. Great job Ms. Melanson and crew!
- **1st quarter academic assemblies** will be held this Friday, November 15th. Both assemblies will be held during achievement time.
- A kudos highlight to **Mary Ellen Bell** for supporting and highlighting student interests outside the school. Our very own Nathan Gilliam shared his outdoor interest of Medieval Battle practices through the Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA). in Ms. Bell's classroom on Friday. Nathan shared his knowledge and wisdom of history, weaponry, and battle practices as our students participated. Highlighting student interests is a fantastic student motivator which was evident in Ms. Bell's class. Thanks to Ms. Bell for setting up the demonstration.
- **Our Leadership Team** met last Tuesday, November 5th @ 2:40 P.M. The team reviewed our grading data and are grading guidelines for WMHS.
- Special thanks to all staff that assisted in our **WMHS production** last Thursday. Your positive contribution to our school will help to continue to move our school forward. The video will be posted on the website as well as be used as a promotional tool at secondary school fairs etc. Your efforts were amazing ! Thanks.
- Thanks to all our staff for your hard work at **parent teacher conferences**. Both nights were well attended. Special thanks to Ms. Faulkingham for setting up the PTC Fast Schedules. We got LOTS of positive feedback from parents on both nights.
- Our next **Parent Advisory Council** will be held this Thursday, November 14th @ 5:00 P.M. in the Administrative Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.
- October was **WAE Wilderness School** month at WMHS; WAE students worked with Andy Bezon of Midcoast Conservancy at the Hidden Valley Nature Center to visualize and create new mountain bike trails on the Sugar Hill. Nature-based experiential

learning is a regular a regular part of the WAE program. Special thanks to Ms. Andersson for coordinating these trips.

- Come celebrate **National Cardigan Day** this Wednesday at WMHS!!! In honor of Mr. Rogers and Kindness!!! Everyone is invited to wear a cardigan to represent Kindness Month!! See the attached flyer.
- WMHS "**Turkey Thyme**" will begin on November 13th and end on November 22nd. This year, instead of working as Advisor Groups, we will be working as classes to bring in food items for needy families in our community. The class that brings in the most food will earn \$200 for their class treasury and a 2019 "Turkey Thyme" Winner Certificate!! Check out the flyer attached.



Leadership Update


November 11, 2019

Transportation –

- Fuel tank replacement project is complete. I have been issuing system keys to the town departments for the past few weeks and everyone seems to be settling in quite nicely with the new system. I will be getting re-certified for this new system as it has a few different features than the last one. We do get inspected randomly by the State, and one of the new requirements is annual re-certification by the system operator.
- The new gas buses have been performing very well for us. The two driver's really like the buses and how quiet they are.
- We did receive a recall notice on one of the new buses on the possibility of not enough rivets on the roof. This bus is currently in Augusta being inspected, and will be corrected if needed.
- I will be working with our mechanic and discussing the need for newer up to date diagnostic software. This will be a topic for budget discussions.



Facilities –

- Paving: We need to put a plan together on addressing the driveways and parking lots. We are spending a astronomical amount of time weed whacking and trimming grass along sidewalks/curbing/parking areas. This gets done 3-4 times per summer
 - Roofing: Our roofing systems are very old. A large amount of the roof drains on the ballasted roof on the 1951 wing at WES are higher than the roof line, meaning all of the water doesn't drain. It ponds around the drain, freezes in the winter, and damages the rubber roofing causing leaks. I will be working with our roofing contractor G&E Roofing to come up with a course of action for the near term.
 - The maintenance equipment storage building at WES is now weather tight and ready for storing equipment.
 - There has been 3 service calls this fall for roofing issues on our two oldest roofs at WES and WMHS. These are the last two ballasted roofs that we have left in the district. These particular roofs are over 20 years past their expired warranty periods which was 1998.
 - As a heads up also, I am noticing warping, twisting, separation, and rising of boards in some areas of the WMHS gym floor. We will monitor this.
 - Preventive maintenance on the boilers and heating systems is scheduled for this month, and not October as reported earlier. This is a twice per year contracted activity provided by our heating and mechanical contractor Siemens.
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11/12/19

School Nutrition Update

• Enrollment

We currently are at 49.9% Free and reduced students in the district. 258 free & reduced. Total enrollment 517

• Over Due Lunch Bills

We are still struggling to get over due accounts paid up. I have been asked why we charge so much. I don't just come up with a price and go with it. I have a worksheet that I have to fill out for the State. This tells me the lowest price I can charge students and adults for lunches. I have attached the lunch price equity tool that gets filled out each year. Currently the maximum price allowed by DOE and the Superintendents Food Service Committee is \$3.00 for lunch. There is currently no max for breakfast. Current lunch prices are \$2.75 at WES and \$2.85 at WMHS. Current breakfast price at both schools are \$1.50.

• Parents

I need to stress again for parents to be aware that we feed every student that comes to us. If they do not want their child to eat breakfast or lunch we need a signed letter from them stating their wishes. We are still getting calls from parents asking why they are getting a bill when they are sending a lunch daily with their child.

• Substitutes

We are still in need and are looking for substitutes in both kitchens.

Thank you,
Lorie Johnson
School Nutrition Director