

WCSU Superintendent's Report

by Superintendent Sherry Sousa

What is remarkable about this school year is how unremarkable it is. After more than 2 years of being impacted by Covid, we were able to return to school without the dark cloud of Covid. While students and educators are forever changed, their desire to be in school together, to return to our rituals and annual events, and to invite parents back into our classrooms has brought great joy to all.

Educators' efforts continue to focus on the social and emotional needs of students, as their behavioral presentation is much different than in prior years. In addition, teachers and administrators made a significant commitment to alleviate inequities in academic achievement with yearlong professional development in literacy through LETRS training, and mathematics by forming agreements on math practices and instruction. If we think of addressing learning gaps through math and literacy best practices as a stool, the third leg is maximizing our daily schedule. The Leadership Team will review how we distribute time and resources with a national expert so that a student's day has the highest probability of meeting their needs and engaging their minds.

Our school buildings also require great attention as we witness the decline of our largest and one of our oldest schools. Woodstock Union Middle and High Schools' building continues to have significant systems challenges. The heating system failed on multiple days last winter and temporary adjustments were made. The sewage pumping station will be replaced next year, and the other major operations are monitored daily. As we see the building age, the Leadership Team has set as a priority to support the goal of a new facility for WUHS/MS.

Finally, it is important to note the change of name for the Windsor Central Unified Union School District and the Windsor Central Supervisory Union in July of 2023. After great efforts to gather input from community members and students, the Board supported the recommendation of the Configuration and Enrollment Working Group to change the district's name to the Mountain Views School District, with the supervisory union becoming the Mountain View Supervisory Union. The students who presented this recommendation noted that Mountain Views originated from a Killington Elementary student, is politically and socially neutral, is a unique district name in Vermont, is inclusive of all towns in our district, and is accurately representative of our geography.