

WPS TRANSITION UPDATE

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future. - John F. Kennedy

December 2017

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

The transition process began last year, and it is a colossal undertaking that is in addition to normal responsibilities in a work year.

The Transition Executive Board was assembled over the summer, each member bringing his/her expertise to the table. All Central Office Administrators and Principals were assigned to a group based on interest and experience. Teachers were given the opportunity to join the transition team in August. All teachers

who responded were placed into different workgroups ensuring a balanced representation. Parents were asked to join workgroups based upon the leadership roles they have throughout our schools.

After much evaluation and discussion, it was decided that North Middle School would house grades 5/6 and South Middle School would house grades 7/8. Ms. Bourque has been named the 5/6 principal, and Mr. Newton will lead grades 7/8.

All workgroups have monumental tasks in front of them. But each group's timing may be different. For instance, staffing decisions will not be made until our 5/6 and 7/8 workgroups determine each school's structure.

Our redistricting workgroup has three goals that require them to be completed in a specific order.

The support we have received from our community and city officials has made this monumental task easier. We thank you for your input, feedback, and most of all, patience as we strive to do what is best for students.

To find further details about WPS' Transition, go to:
<http://www.schoolsofwestfield.org/>

REDISTRICTING WORKGROUP HAS 3 GOALS

Currently the Redistricting Workgroup K-4 is developing a plan to **reconfigure our seven elementary schools** into six K-4 schools, as Russell will be closing at the end of the school year. Anticipated completion of this task is the end of January.

Once the elementary schools have been recon-

figured, **transportation for the entire district** will be looked at. School start times, bus routes and numbers, St. Mary's needs, and budget will all be considered when making final decisions. This major reorganization will take time, but WPS understands that this is an area that will affect **all** members of our educational

community, and we want to make the best decision as soon as possible.

Finally, this workgroup is responsible for **the physical move of all classrooms**. We have already begun planning, as this will be a major undertaking that will be executed in a limited time-frame.

DISTRICT TRANSITION WORKGROUPS

Communication:

*Stefan Czaporowski, Superintendent
 Shannon Barry, Coordinator of Grants
 Charles Jendrysik, WHS Principal
 Joanne Hentnick, FM Principal
 Alison Hamilton, Russell Principal
 Chris Tolpa, Supv of Humanities
 *Rachel Bullock, Parent
 Kevin Sullivan, School Committee
 Tom Dearborn, Gr 6-8 Technology
 Liisamajja Flinner, Gr 3 Teacher

Staffing:

*Paula Ceglowski, Dir HR
 Denise Ruzala, Dir Assessment & Acct
 Adam Garand, Admin of Special Services
 Stacy Burgess, AG Principal
 Jessica Kennedy, NMS VP
 Dan Sheehan, Gr 6-8 Woodshop
 Eileen Lynch, Gr 7 Science
 Donna Shibley, Gr 7 ELA
 Melissa Rutkowski, Parent
 Alex Kelleher, Gr 5 Teacher
 Lori Lyncosky, WEA President

Redistricting K-4:

*Ron Rix, CFO WPS
 *Pam Kotarski, Dir Transportation
 Mary Claire Manning, HL Principal
 Fran St. Peter, FA Principal
 Cindy Sullivan, School Committee
 Michele Douglas, Parent



*Indicates member of Transition Executive Board
 Diane Mayhew, School Committee member, is also
 a member of the Transition Executive Board.

5/6 School:

*Susan Dargie, Dir Curr & Instruction
 Katie Bourque, NMS Principal
 Kathy O'Donnell, SRS Principal
 Sal Frieri, MH Principal
 Lauren Pandolfi, Gr 5 Teacher
 Meredith Salois, Parent
 Michelle Tarbox, Gr K-5 PE/Health
 Tom Underwood, NMS VP
 Nick Witherell, Gr 6 Math
 Mary Keane, Gr 8 ELA
 Matt Wroth, WEA Vice President

7/8 School:

Chris Rogers, Admin of Student
 Interventions & Safety
 *Paul Newton, SMS Principal
 Cindy Kennedy, PM Principal
 Joe Langone, WTA Principal
 Pete Lurgio, SMS VP
 Greg Miller, NMS VP
 Beth O'Connor, Gr 8 ELA
 Kerri C'Miel, Gr 6-8 Art
 Caitlin Costello, Gr 8 Social Studies
 Joseph Mullett, Gr 8 Science
 Peg Hill, Gr 8 Science

5/6 AND 7/8 WORKGROUPS RESEARCH OPTIONS

The 5/6 and 7/8 workgroups represent teachers and administrators across the district. They have been meeting regularly and diving into research to determine a school day structure that is best for kids. Our Early Release Staff Development days at the middle school level have been devoted to giving all staff time to take a closer look at possible configurations for next year. Grade five teachers are able to join this group as well in order to

begin building relationships with the sixth grade teachers they will be working with next year.

The 5/6 workgroup has been reading articles and speaking to educators from other districts that currently use a 5/6 model. Some workgroup members also visited schools in Tewksbury and Shrewsbury in order to see first hand different approaches to scheduling and the structuring of classes.

The 7/8 workgroup has been conducting research, consulting with the New England League of Middle Schools, and planning site visits to gather ideas for school design. In addition to this work, committee members have identified topics and components of our new school that are most important to staff at both middle schools. We hope to finalize our school design plans by January 15th.