

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WESTMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**WESTMORE, VERMONT
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

Town of Westmore
Annual School District Meeting at Westmore Municipal Building
May 5, 2016
Minutes

Westmore School Board members in attendance: Jami Blair, Megan Valley and Mark Perkins, Donald S. Van Nostrand, Superintendent, Heather Wright, business manager of the Orleans Central Supervisory Union and Greg Gallagher, Clerk, Westmore School District.

Community members in attendance: Dawn Wilcox, Vince and Louisa Dotoli and Ed Barber, *Newport Daily Express*.

Greg Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

1. To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Nominations for moderator were requested by Greg. Mark Perkins nominated Vince Dotoli, seconded by Jamie Blair. Jamie moved, seconded by Megan Valley to cease nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Vince Dotoli. The motion passed. Vince Dotoli was elected Moderator.

2. To receive and act upon the reports of the District Officers.

Jamie moved and Dawn seconded to accept the report as presented with the exception of Article 6. Passed.

3. To elect the following District Officers as provided by statute:

- a) One school director for a term of three years (Mark Perkins, whose appointment expires.)

Louisa nominated Mark Perkins for a three year term as school director, seconded by Jamie.

Louisa moved and Megan seconded to close nominations and have the clerk cast one ballot for Mark. Passed.

4. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money to pay indebtedness and current expenses of the District.

Louisa so moved, seconded by Jamie. The motion passed.

5. To see what salary the voters will authorize for payment of School Directors.

Louisa moved and Mark seconded to authorize the existing salaries for school directors- \$575 for the Chair, \$450 for the Board members, \$300 for the Executive Committee and alternate. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expense \$ 352,388, which is the amount the school board has determined necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$ 11,416.32 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 8.35 % lower than spending for the current year

Jamie so moved Article 6, seconded by Megan.

Jamie then moved, seconded by Louisa to amend the amount of Article 6 to be \$372,488 due to a typo (the correct amount can be found on the budget, page 6). The article passed as amended.

7. To act on any other business, which may legally come before said meeting.

Greg thought it was important for everyone to know the time frame of the events with Act 46. Don had explained to Greg that the budget just voted on and directors now will be effective through June 30, 2017. Then, if the District votes to unify, the new budget and directors will take effect July 1, 2017.

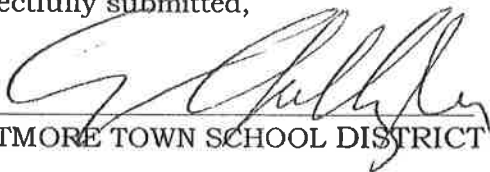
Donald said that Westmore is a very nice town to work with and it is pleasant working with the directors.

Jamie thanked everyone for their support.

8. To adjourn.

Jamie moved and Louisa seconded to adjourn at 7:28. Passed.

Respectfully submitted,




WESTMORE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

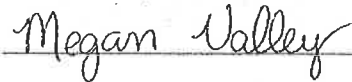
TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING

The legal voters of the Westmore Town School District are hereby warned to meet at the Municipal Office in said Town on Thursday the 4th of May, 2017 A.D., at seven o'clock in the evening to transact the following business namely:

1. To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.
2. To receive and act upon the reports of the District Officers.
3. To elect the following District Officers as provided by statute:
 - a) One school director for a term of three years (Jami Blair, whose appointment expires.)
 - b) One school director for Lake Region Union High School District for a three-year term (Konnie Perkins, whose term expires.)
4. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money to pay indebtedness and current expenses of the District.
5. To see what salary the voters will authorize for payment of School Directors.
6. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$ 380,583, which is the amount the school board has determined necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$ 12,463.71 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.17% higher than spending for the current year
7. To act on any other business, which may legally come before said meeting?
8. To adjourn.


Dated at Westmore, Vermont this 16th day of March 2017.





WESTMORE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I hereby certify the above warning was duly recorded in the records of the Town of Westmore previous to the posting and publication thereof.



WESTMORE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

WESTMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICERS

Jami Blair (Chair) Term Expires 2017
Megan Valley (Clerk) Term Expires 2018
Mark Perkins Term Expires 2019

**LAKE REGION UNION HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT DIRECTOR**

Konnie Perkins Term Expires 2017

ELECTED 2016 FOR ONE YEAR

Vince Dotoli Moderator

**WESTMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESERVE FUND BALANCE AT JUNE 30, 2016**

BALANCE	RECEIVED	INTEREST	EXPENDED	BALANCE
7/1/15	Appropriation	Earned		6/30/16
\$52,989.94	\$-	\$101.04	\$-	\$53,090.98

To see if the voters will authorize the Board of School Directors to place any unexpended, undesignated fund balance from the general fund operations at year ending June 30, 2008, as determined by audit, into an interest bearing reserve fund to be used in future years to offset deficit spending, pursuant to the provision of 24 V.S.A Section 2804. Approved by voters at the May 3, 2009 Annual Meeting.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Orleans Central Supervisory Union has engaged RHR Smith & Company to audit the school districts for the year ended June 30, 2016. The audited financial statement for Westmore School District is available for public inspection at the Superintendent's Office, 130 Kinsey Road, Barton, VT 05822.

Westmore School District

BUDGET REVENUES

Account Number / Description	2015-16	2015-16	2016-17	2016-17	2017-18	
	Budget	Anticipated	Budget	Anticipated	Proposed	
01-00-00-0000-4000-1110 PROPERTY TAXES/ED SPENDING	\$306,540	\$306,540	\$277,645	\$277,645	\$295,016	
01-00-00-0000-4000-1199 PRIOR YEAR FUND BALANCE	\$28,647	\$37,535	\$55,813	\$90,452	\$59,713	
01-00-00-0000-4000-1500 EARNINGS ON INVESTMENTS	\$1,000	\$1,335	\$1,000	\$1,111	\$1,100	
01-00-00-0000-4000-3150 TRANSPORTATION AID	\$19,860	\$19,861	\$22,672	\$21,708	\$21,858	
01-00-00-0000-4000-3152 EXTRA TRANSP. AID	\$2,409	\$2,409	\$3,238	\$3,319	\$2,896	
01-00-00-0000-4000-3201 MAINSTREAM GRANT	\$8,082	\$8,082	\$9,392	\$9,392	\$0	
01-00-00-0000-4000-3202 SPECIAL EDUCATION REIMB	\$1,863	\$2,226	\$300	\$278	\$0	
01-00-00-0000-4000-3203 EXTRA ORDINARY REIMB	\$0	\$18,397	\$0	\$3	\$0	
01-00-00-0000-4000-3204 EARLY ESSENTIAL EDUCATION	\$2,406	\$2,406	\$2,428	\$2,450	\$0	
GRAND TOTAL	\$370,807	\$398,790	\$372,488	\$406,357	\$380,583	2.17%

Westmore School District

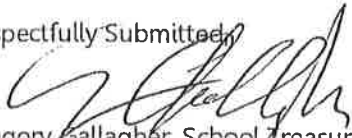
BUDGET EXPENSES

Account Number / Description	2015-16 Budget	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Anticipated	2017-18 Proposed
1100 GENERAL INSTRUCTION					
01-00-00-1100-5332-0000 EARLY EDUCATION SUPPORT (COFEC)	\$5,138	\$5,138	\$5,988	\$5,988	\$5,985
01-00-10-1100-5561-0000 ELEMENTARY TUITION	\$199,999	\$176,589	\$185,688	\$167,500	\$180,636
TOTAL 1100 GENERAL INSTRUCTION	\$205,137	\$181,727	\$191,676	\$173,488	\$186,621
1130 GENERAL INSTRUCTION-SECONDARY					
01-00-30-1130-5561-0000 SECONDARY TUITION	\$66,049	\$32,565	\$79,796	\$75,050	\$85,690
TOTAL 1130 GENERAL INSTRUCTION-SECONDARY	\$66,049	\$32,565	\$79,796	\$75,050	\$85,690
1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION					
01-00-00-1200-5324-0000 MAINSTREAM ASSESSMENT (OCSU)	\$16,796	\$16,796	\$16,209	\$16,209	\$16,405
TOTAL 1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$16,796	\$16,796	\$16,209	\$16,209	\$16,405
1211 PREK& EEE SERVICES					
01-00-00-1211-5330-0000 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
01-00-00-1211-5332-0000 PREK/& EEE ASSESSMENT	\$9,348	\$8,013	\$14,019	\$14,019	\$18,835
TOTAL 1211 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$9,348	\$8,013	\$14,019	\$14,019	\$18,835
2310 BOARD OF EDUCATION					
01-00-00-2310-5110-0000 BOARD SALARIES	\$1,850	\$2,075	\$1,850	\$2,075	\$2,075
01-00-00-2310-5111-0000 TREASURER SALARIES	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$275
01-00-00-2310-5220-0000 SOCIAL SECURITY	\$163	\$180	\$163	\$180	\$180
01-00-00-2310-5290-0000 CONFERENCE	\$50	\$0	\$50	\$50	\$50
01-00-00-2310-5331-0000 AUDIT ASSESSMENT	\$4,775	\$4,775	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
01-00-00-2310-5520-0000 INSURANCE	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
01-00-00-2310-5540-0000 ADVERTISING	\$50	\$210	\$100	\$100	\$100
01-00-00-2310-5640-0000 BOOKS	\$50	\$54	\$50	\$55	\$55
01-00-00-2310-5810-0000 DUES/FEES	\$275	\$359	\$289	\$435	\$452
TOTAL 2310 BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$7,738	\$7,927	\$7,777	\$5,170	\$5,187
2321 OCSU					
01-00-00-2321-5344-0000 CENTRAL OFFICE ASSESSMENT	\$9,211	\$9,211	\$8,257	\$8,257	\$12,377
TOTAL 2321 OCSU	\$9,211	\$9,211	\$8,257	\$8,257	\$12,377
2520 FISCAL SERVICES					
01-00-00-2520-5830-0000 SHORT TERM INTEREST	\$850	\$921	\$950	\$1,124	\$1,000
TOTAL 2520 FISCAL SERVICES	\$850	\$921	\$950	\$1,124	\$1,000
2710 TRANSPORTATION					
01-00-00-2710-5510-0000 BUS CONTRACT	\$55,678	\$51,178	\$0	\$0	\$0
01-00-00-2710-5331-0000 TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	\$0	\$0	\$53,804	\$53,327	\$54,468
TOTAL 2710 TRANSPORTATION (BUS CONTRACT)	\$55,678	\$51,178	\$53,804	\$53,327	\$54,468
GRAND TOTAL	\$370,807	\$308,338	\$372,488	\$346,644	\$380,583

2.17%

WESTMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT
TREASURER'S REPORT -- FY 2016
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

	<u>AGENCY</u> Merchants Bank (CHECKING)	<u>RESERVE</u> Community National (MMkt)	<u>ICS</u> Merchants Bank (MMkt)
FY15 BALANCE as of 6/30/15:	\$ 40,517.78	\$ 52,989.96	\$ -
DEPOSITS:			
Property Taxes-----	\$ 306,540.00		
State Revenue Total-----	\$ 48,108.23		
Transportation	\$19,861.00		
Transportation-Extraordinary	2,409.00		
Special Ed-Mainstream Block Grant	8,082.00		
Special Ed-Intensive	1,621.00		
Special Ed-Extraordinary	16,261.77		
Special Ed-EEE	2,406.00		
Prior Yr Adjusts to SpEd Revenue	(2,532.54)		
Revenue Anticipation Note			\$ 32,500.00
Bank Interest Income	\$ 188.38	\$ 101.04	\$ 1,151.26
WITHDRAWALS:			
Payoff of Rev Anticipation Note	\$ (33,426.24)		
School Director's Orders Total-----	\$ (307,513.07)		
Tuitions	(209,154.00)		
Student Transportation	(51,178.00)		
OCSU Assessments	(39,158.00)		
Audit	(4,775.00)		
School Board Wages/Taxes	(2,529.79)		
Fuel Overage	(95.75)		
Bank Fees	(85.40)		
Misc. Expenses (Advert, Membersh)	(537.13)		
INTERFUND TRANSFERS:			
Transfer In to Checking (close ICS account)	\$ 33,259.26		\$ (33,259.26)
Transfer In to Checking (to cover expenses)	\$ 7,530.00		\$ (7,530.00)
Transfer In to ICS ACCT (to maintain max cap)	\$ (7,138.00)		\$ 7,138.00
FY16 BALANCE as of 6/30/16:	\$ 88,066.34	\$ 53,091.00	\$ -
Bank Statement Balance 6/30/16:	\$ 88,066.34	\$ 53,091.00	\$ -
Less Outstanding Checks:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Plus Outstanding Deposits:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Reconciled Cash Balance:	\$ 88,066.34	\$ 53,091.00	\$ -

Respectfully Submitted,

 Gregory Gallagher, School Treasurer

Westmore School District
Student Enrollments

<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>2016-17 # of Students</u>	<u>2017-18 Anticipated</u>
Alternative School		1	1
Preschool Eligible * (3&4 yrs old) * That we are aware of		8	8
COFEC (Barton Prek Site)	PreK	3	3
Barton School District	K	2	2
	1st	0	2
2016-17 Tuition Rate	2nd	0	0
\$10,050	3rd	0	0
	5th	1	0
	<u>6th</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	Total	3	5
Brownington	K	2	0
	1st	1	2
	4th	1	0
	6th	0	0
	7th	0	0
2016-17 Tuition Rate	<u>8th</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
\$10,050	Total	4	2
Orleans School District	K	0	1
	1st	0	0
	2nd	2	0
2016-17 Tuition Rate	3rd	0	2
\$10,050	4th	3	0
	5th	1	3
	6th	1	1
	7th	5	1
	<u>8th</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>
	Total	12	13
Brighton Elementary School	K	1	0
2016-17 Tuition Rate	1st	0	1
\$14,500	2nd	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total	1	1
Charleston Elementary School	K	0	0
2016-17 Tuition Rate	2nd	0	0
\$11,000	4th	1	0
	<u>5th</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	Total	1	1
Thadeus Stevens School	5th	1	0
	6th	0	0
Students were prorated for partial	7th	0	0
year attended	<u>8th</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total	2	0
Riverside School	K	1	0
Westmore pays the	6th	0	0
average announced tuition rate	7th	1	0
2016-17 Rate was \$12,2900 (Elem)	<u>8th</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
\$14,750 (Secondary)	Total	2	2

Lake Region High School	9	3	0
	10	0	3
	11	2	0
	12	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
Total		5	5

Total All Students (Inc. Prek Eligible Students)		39	38
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SUMMARY	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
PreK	0	2	3
Grade K-8	28	25	21
High School	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
Total Students	37	33	29

District: **Westmore**
County: **Orleans**

T235
Orleans Central

Property dollar equivalent yield
10,076

Homestead tax rate per \$10,076 of spending per equalized pupil
1.00

Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income
11,875

		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	
1.	Expenditures					
	1. Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$362,994	\$370,807	\$372,488	\$380,583	1.
	2. plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-	2.
	3. minus Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-	3.
	4. Locally adopted or warned budget	\$362,994	\$370,807	\$372,488	\$380,583	4.
	5. plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-	5.
	6. plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-	6.
	7. Total Budget	\$362,994	\$370,807	\$372,488	\$380,583	7.
	8. S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	8.
	9. Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	9.
Revenues						
	10. Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$57,860	\$64,267	\$94,843	\$85,567	10.
	11. plus Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	-	-	-	-	11.
	12. minus All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-	12.
	13. Offsetting revenues	\$57,860	\$64,267	\$94,843	\$85,567	13.
	14. Education Spending	\$305,134	\$306,540	\$277,645	\$295,016	14.
	15. -Equalized Pupils	24.09	24.61	24.32	23.67	15.
	16. Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$12,666.42	\$12,455.91	\$11,416.32	\$12,463.71	16.
	17. minus Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	-	-	-	17.
	18. minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	-	-	\$69.82	-	18.
	19. minus Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	19.
	20. minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	20.
	21. minus Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	21.
	22. minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	22.
	23. minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	23.
	24. minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	NA	-	-	-	24.
	25. Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$16,166	threshold = \$17,103	Allowable growth	threshold = \$17,386	25.
	26. plus Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	\$16,166.00	\$17,103.00	\$12,825.85	\$17,386.00	26.
	27. Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$12,666	\$12,456	\$11,416	\$12,463.71	27.
	28. District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	136.418% <small>based on \$9,285</small>	131.683% <small>based on \$9,285</small>	117.682% <small>based on yield \$9,701</small>	123.697% <small>based on yield \$10,076</small>	28.
Prorating the local tax rate						
	29. Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [(12,463.71 + (\$10,076.00 / \$1,000))]	\$1,3369 <small>based on \$0.98</small>	\$1,3037 <small>based on \$0.99</small>	\$1,1768 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1,2370 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	29.
	30. Percent of Westmore equalized pupils not in a union school district	71.90%	76.12%	77.94%	84.16%	30.
	31. Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (84.16% x \$1.24)	\$0.9612	\$0.9924	\$0.9172	\$1.0411	31.
	32. Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	93.69%	106.68%	102.08%	104.38%	32.
	33. Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$1.0411 / 104.38%)	\$1,0259 <small>based on \$0.96</small>	\$0,9303 <small>based on \$0.99</small>	\$0,8985 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$0,9974 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	33.
<p>If the district belongs to a union school district, this is only a PARTIAL homestead tax rate. The tax rate shown represents the estimated portion of the final homestead tax rate due to spending for students who do not belong to a union school district. The same holds true for the income cap percentage.</p>						
	34. Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [(12,463.71 + \$11,875) x 2.00%]	2.46% <small>based on 1.80%</small>	2.37% <small>based on 1.80%</small>	2.10% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.10% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	34.
	35. Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (84.16% x 2.10%)	1.77% <small>based on 1.80%</small>	1.80% <small>based on 1.80%</small>	1.64% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	1.77% <small>based on 0.00%</small>	35.
	36. Percent of equalized pupils at Lake Region UHSD #24	28.10%	23.88%	22.06%	15.84%	36.
	37.	-	-	-	-	37.

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$10,076 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value. The Tax Commissioner also recommended an income yield of \$11,875 for a base income percent of 2.0% and a non-residential tax rate of \$1,550. New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and the income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.
 - Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.
 - The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

Orleans Central Supervisory Union

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 07/01/2015	\$ 1,481,614.79
Income:	\$ 7,984,824.98
Interest:	\$ 5,173.92
Expense:	
School Board Orders:	\$ 3,265,848.43
Payroll:	\$ 4,511,850.57
Ending Balance 06/30/2016	\$ 1,693,914.69

**ORLEANS CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION
PROGRAM FINANCIAL REPORT**

FY17	FUND BAL	ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS	ANTICIPATED EXPENSES	ANTICIPATED FUND BAL
	7/1/2016	2016-17	2016-17	6/30/2017
Art	(10,389)	62,107	52,882	(1,164)
Central Office	64,574	568,752	666,418	(33,092)
COFEC Building	31,368	192,491	194,452	29,407
EEE/PRE-K	(36,323)	467,300	525,780	(94,803)
Mainstream	509,442	3,418,634	3,903,587	24,489
Music	2,817	143,636	147,177	(724)
Nurse	7,306	60,235	61,652	5,889
Physical Education	(470)	58,358	57,808	80
Transportation	0	771,316	771,316	0
Audit	0	42,000	42,000	0
	ANTICIPATED FUND BAL	PROPOSED RECEIPTS	PROPOSED EXPENSES	PROPOSED FUND BAL
FY18	7/1/2017	2017-18	2017-18	6/30/2018
ART	(1,164)	54,898	53,734	0
Audits	0	48,000	48,000	0
Central Office	(33,092)	675,307	642,215	0
COFEC Building	29,407	178,452	207,859	0
EEE/PRE-K	(94,803)	666,479	571,676	0
Mainstream	24,489	3,926,686	3,951,175	0
Music	(724)	151,712	150,988	0
Nurse	5,889	57,572	63,461	0
Physical Education	80	59,538	59,618	0
Transportation	0	787,952	787,952	0
Audits	0	42,000	42,000	0
Food Service Coordinator	0	27,334	27,334	0
Curriculum/Improv. Of Instr,	0	60,906	60,906	0

ORLEANS CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

130 Kinsey Road, Barton, Vermont 05822
Tel: (802) 525-1204 ♦ www.ocsu.org ♦ Fax: (802) 525-1276

Superintendent's Report 2016-2017

I would like to start by thanking school board members, community members, parents, students, staff, teachers, and administration. The Orleans Central Supervisory Union community is truly a special place! As I enter my third year as Superintendent I am excited at the growth of the schools and the dedication of everyone working to provide the best opportunities for students.

In July, the OCSU Board adopted their Strategic Plan. Under the tagline "Proceeding with Purpose!" the Board identified three key areas for growth over the next five years. The Focus Areas are: 1) Ensure high expectations for every student in every school, 2) Provide a caring and supportive environment for learning, and 3) Provide for a culture promoting trusting relationships between community and school. Driving the work in these areas is OCSU's Mission:

It is the mission of the Orleans Central Supervisory Union to ensure all students have a right to an environment that fosters learning and development, celebrates diversity, and promotes inclusion, in a system where schools, parents and community partnerships strengthen opportunities for students and families through developmentally-based programs focused on individual needs in classrooms where activities address the strengths, interests and differing abilities of each student.

Last year the school boards took on the challenges of Act 46, the law that incentivizes changing governance structures toward a "preferred structure" aimed at reducing costs and increasing opportunities for students. This led to a vote this past June for school districts to consolidate into a single structure, which was defeated by the voters. Boards are returning to the drawing table this year to study further opportunities available to communities, with the goal to continue to improve efficiencies and save money, in particular the "small schools grant" which is worth \$500,000 across all the schools.

It is always a challenge to provide the most beneficial educational opportunities to our children while maintaining an affordable budget for the community. Business Manager Heather Wright has been working closely with school boards to do just that. Ms. Wright and the members of the boards continually demonstrate fiscal responsibility and work hard to ensure each penny spent is appropriate. I believe you'll see this in the presented budget requests of the supervisory union for the next fiscal year.

Education in OCSU begins with our littlest of students, pre-kindergarten. This is the first year of full implementation of Act 166, the Universal Access to Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Education law. Act 166 is an opportunity for children and families, and Pre-Kindergarten Lead Teacher Julie Lavine has worked diligently hard with families to ensure students three and four years of age can attend the preschool program of parents' choice.

Additionally, under Ms. Lavine's leadership, the Orleans Central Early Childhood Program is in the process of implementing the E-MTSS, or Early Multi-Tiered System of Support. Through this work and the collaboration with Head Start the pre-kindergarten program continues to grow stronger for the students. In this first year of E-MTSS, teachers are involved in intensive training to support implementation with focus on supporting students' social-emotional growth. OCECP is also preparing to become a demonstration site, where teachers from other programs will visit to train and learn from the great work happening in our pre-kindergarten program.

The public school system serves all students, regardless of readiness levels. Under the leadership of Special Services Director, Kathy Poginy, students with special needs are provided with many opportunities to receive the same educational opportunities as their peers and within the regular classroom. Special education services and staffing are all employed at the supervisory union level and deployed to schools as needed. By providing the support at the SU level, Ms. Poginy is able to monitor and adjust delivery models when student needs change. This model also protects individual districts from large cost increases of individual students by spreading the costs across all the schools in the supervisory union.

The schools are lucky to have strong administrators. Principals continue to show their dedication to their students and staff and their commitment to a strong education. As they strive to continue to improve their instructional leadership skills, Director of Instruction Bev Davis is leading the team toward identifying opportunities to support teachers in improving work with student engagement and formative assessment. The administrators are committed to providing professional development opportunities and focused support for teachers as they move their work to a continued higher level which will help us meet the needs of all our students.

The schools across OCSU continue to implement great programs for students. It is a pleasure to be given this opportunity to serve the wonderful communities, the members of the school board, and the families and students. I look forward to the continued growth of the organization.

Respectfully,



Donald S. Van Nostrand
Superintendent