

## **Bellows Falls Middle School Principal's Report Rockingham School Board – September 19, 2011**

**Enrollment:** The enrollment at BFMS is 259 students. The distribution of students is: 5<sup>th</sup> grade – 43 students; 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 62; 7<sup>th</sup> grade – 86; 8<sup>th</sup> grade – 68. Currently we are at 35% free/reduced lunch. Students with and IEP (SPED) number 49 (18%); students with a 504 plan number 20 (8%); and students with an EST plan number 21 (8%).

**First Days:** The first days of school have been quite exciting. I have had a great time greeting parents and students in morning. Most students began the first day of school with complete schedules. There have been some glitches with the technology, which we are working on. We have also had to change some schedules based on student need. This year we are offering 8<sup>th</sup> grade students Algebra I class and an English 9 class, both for high school credit. We also have some 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in pre-algebra and a pre-English 9 class, which may provide them with partial credit towards their high school career.

I provide faculty and staff with a memo on a bi-weekly basis called WIGO (What Is Going On). This memo contains information about upcoming events, curriculum updates, future trainings, and always ends with “things to ponder when planning” which is about differentiated instruction, assessments, or intervention strategies, to name a few.

We have a tentative date for open house, September 29, 2011. We will have a cookout from 5-6 and Open House from 6-7. I am confirming grills, and have applied for the permit to block off the street.

We are in the beginning stages of planning our work with Mahesh Sharma (math) and Winona Lowe (Strategic Instruction Model, writing).

**BFMS Building Report:** All the usual summer maintenance to the building was accomplished. This was done in spite of the fact that we were missing one of regular custodians. We were able to relieve the building of much clutter with the rental of a 30 yd. dumpster, and also donated/recycled probably several thousand unwanted library and textbooks to “Got Books” through the Walpole recycling center. Some of the library books also went to our local Westminster recycling center.

Two leaks were found over the band room closet: the first one was repaired on the roof by Long's Roofing, the second was a repair to a roof drain in the ceiling by James Plumbing.

As reported at an earlier meeting, all of the shop equipment was sold. The remaining machines will be used in the district. However, the dust collection system still remains as we had only one reply to our Craig's List ad.

**21C:** The afterschool program that has been identified as “21C” is changing its name. They have adopted a new identity, the A.I.M. Afterschool Program (Achieve, Inspire, Motivate). The program will return on September 19<sup>th</sup>, new to the program will be their work with the UVM Extension’s 4-H, this will allow the program to run programs such as GPS mapping, robotics, small machines, and embryology. The UVM program will provide the tools and curriculum; this program is free of charge and will begin in November.

Looking Forward,  
Heidi Lucas-Moccia