

Board Report from Warsaw Middle School

Sandy Nevens, Principal

January 3, 2010

Vacation: Long and Busy!

First day back from a long Christmas vacation. It was a vacation that was a mixed bag for me. I had my son home from his job in Florida. I skied and rang in the new year in New Hampshire. The snowstorm of a week ago took me three days to clear up for horses and vehicles to move around. I worked at home on observation write-ups and planning for meetings. And family was all around us at our farm as well.

Focus on School:

In addition to the work on observations and reading the first few chapters of a book for our A - Team, Delivering on a Promise: *The Education Revolution*, I revisited the book the A-Team and DIT Team read last summer, Teach Like a Champion because the staff received copies just before vacation. I reviewed three or four of the “forty-nine techniques that put students on the path to college.” At our staff meeting today, two teachers shared two techniques that they had taken from the book and shared in their classes. Our goal will be to read, share, and model these techniques as strategies for teaching middle school students.

No Opt Out, *The Five Principles of Classroom Culture* and *Do Now...* are three such lessons.

Hot off the Presses: The CIPS Plan for Warsaw has reached the hands of Steve Vose and has cleared the first hurdle in the course for Maine DOE approval. We have had ongoing CIPS Data Meetings and shared what we have learned with teachers in staff meetings. In addition I will be attending a CIPS Principal’s mandatory meeting on January 12. I cannot say enough about the energy of Data Team teachers Kayla, Darlene, and Lori whose creativity and planning help to make our work accessible to all teachers.

Earth Day, 2011

Allied Arts teachers are busy planning an Earth day celebration for Warsaw students and staff that will focus on our environment and student activities around the topic.

Letter to Warsaw Staff:

I know by now that the Board has been apprised of my decision to resign as Warsaw’s principal, effective at the end of the school year. I certainly do not wish to rehash my letter; nevertheless, I want you to know what my staff already knows. My decision was difficult, my words heartfelt, and my reference to the interpersonal issues that have led to the decision real and long-standing. I love this school, this staff, my colleagues, these students and parents, and this community. I believe that I will best serve this school through June because of my plans to make this year my last.

I will not be attending tonight’s Board Meeting, but will be certain to make this Board Report available to administrators and board Members.

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