

MSAD 53 Board of Directors Meeting

Sandy Nevens, Principal
Warsaw Middle School

October 5, 2009

I. **Beginnings ...**

Warsaw Middle School has had a strong start to our school year in several key areas:

➤ **Warsaw's Open House**

Although we held our Open House on September 17, the same night as Manson Park, we had 350 plus parents turn out for the night. We began the night in the gym with a student from each new teacher's team introducing the teacher. A short welcome by me followed the student introductions. Parents of 7th and 8th grade students who wished to signed up to allow students to take their new MLTI laptops home and, for first time laptop parents, to hear state and Warsaw information about care and use of the laptops. 7th and 8th graders new to the MLTI laptops paid a user fee as in past years, but those eighth grade students who paid last year were considered paid through the 2009-2010 year as well.

Parents meeting their students' teachers and touring their classrooms is always a highlight of the night, and September 17th was no exception. Student Conferences in November are our next opportunity for parents to join us at Warsaw en masse, and we always look forward to it.

- We also will be welcoming Laura Wyman who will be taking over the Transitions Math Position and bidding a fond farewell to Jennifer Bailey who is moving out of state.

➤ **Getting Involved: Fall Sports Participation**

Fall sports has gotten off to a strong start with 88 students participating. We are offering football, girls' and boys' soccer, and field hockey. The football team notched its first win in three years, and all fall sports are engaging students in healthy competition and participation in a team environment.

➤ **Getting Involved: After School Activities**

We offer many after school activities as part of our commitment to engage students in hobbies, academic and physical pursuits, and other programs of interest beyond the school day. Although funding for some past activities has placed them on hiatus, the following activities are being offered: Gaming Club, Drama, School Newspaper, Student Council, Yearbook Club, and more to come... I have met with one of Warsaw's community partners to help Warsaw to

continue our Outing Club and Chef's Club. Civil Rights Team and Student Council Meeting occur before and during school, respectively. Stay tuned!

➤ **Garden Dedication**

Staff members have tilled and planted a memorial garden near the flagpole outside the Warsaw Middle School dedicated to the memory of Warsaw Teacher, Teresa Kane and Substitute Teacher, Pat Swift. WMS Student Council members have funded and helped organize the project that is ongoing.

CIPS

➤ **CIPS Team for Warsaw:**

We have new members of the Warsaw CIPS Team for the 2009-2010 school year. The names with asterisks are new to the team this year:

Fran Farr, CIPS Advisor for Warsaw
Jan Laux, MSAD 53 School Board Director *
Emily Vigue, Warsaw Parent
Anne Miller, Curriculum Specialist
Sandy Nevens, Warsaw Principal
Gregory Kane, Warsaw Assistant Principal
Lindsay Bolduc, WMS 7/8 Math Teacher*
Darlene Ulrickson, WMS 7/8 Math Teacher*
John Campbell, WMS 7/8 Math Teacher
Kayla Brown, 5/6 Math Teacher*
Val Cianchette, 5/6 Math Teacher*
Marilyn Graham, 7/8 Reading Teacher
Paula Young, Special Education Teacher
Lori Stevens, Tech Integrationist*

➤ **CIPS Plan for 2009-2010 ***

The CIPS Team has met once so far this school year, but not with our full CIPS Team. During our first meeting on September 9, 2009 we focused on establishing group norms; reviewing the 2009-2010 CIPS Plan; beginning the plan for the 2009-2010 CIPS Plan; scheduling future meeting dates; reviewing last year's CIPS Plan with an eye to developing the 09-10 CIPS Plan; beginning to look at CIPS Meeting Dates; implementing a renewed focus on improving classroom practices in math. (see *Focus on Math Curriculum below*)

* A work in progress! Our next meeting will firm up our direction for the 2009-2010 school year as I discussed in last month's Board Report.

Next CIPS Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2009 from 3:15 – 5:15

Focus on Math Curriculum

➤ **Math with Meghan**

Meghan Southworth a Maine Math and Science Alliance (MMSA) consultant will be working with us throughout the 2009-2010 school year. Ms. Southworth taught a course last year to Warsaw Math Teachers that was widely applauded for helping our 5-8 math teachers realign our Connected Math Program (CMP) and focus on our Best Practices in middle school math through CMP and Maine's Learning Results.

In early development of our CIPS Plan for the 2009-2010 school year, we recognized the need for a math consultant who would work with Warsaw staff by offering a course for math teachers, spending time in math classrooms and providing support and feedback to all math teachers, and serving as a resource to Warsaw in all things mathematical. Meghan's visits to Warsaw third year will most often be full day visits, including time visiting classrooms, meeting with teachers, and offering the after school course. We believe we are extremely fortunate to have Meghan Southworth work with us because she brings excellent credentials as a math expert, a prior connection to our staff, and experience as a Maine middle school teacher.

Meghan has already been here twice since school started, and she will return on October 8 for her next full day with us.

Testing One, Two...

➤ **NECAP Preparation**

We discussed NECAP Preparation with our focus on knowledge that students are comfortable with, but may need a bit of reinforcement; targeting strategies and problems that students were close to getting, but just missed.

Finally, we reviewed some of the changes that separate the NECAP Test from MEA's. Many of the changes were minor, but a few needed significant focus in preparation and review of procedures with staff.

AYP Letter from the State

I have included as an attachment a copy of the letter I received from the state regarding Warsaw's 2008-2009 MEA scores and AYP status. Although we know that we have work to do and are still not out of the woods, it is certainly encouraging to see **2009 Progress: All Targets Met** in both Reading and Math.