Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Our school district’s positive COVID-19 cases remain at zero (0) which is a testament to our community’s commitment to stay diligent and to follow the state and CDC guidelines regarding social distancing and face coverings. We hope this trend continues so our students are given the best learning environment during these challenging times. Below are a few additional highlights and updates for this week that we wanted our community to be aware of.

• **National Award Recognition**: Banwell Architects has received the Outstanding Project Award and National Recognition for the Golden Brook School in the Learning by Design Magazine’s fall 2020 Educational Architecture and Interior Design Awards for Excellence. See full article: [https://pubs.royle.com/publication/?m=31173&i=675108&p=48](https://pubs.royle.com/publication/?m=31173&i=675108&p=48)

• **NEASC Accreditation**: On October 14th, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) conducted a virtual visit of the Windham Middle School. The visiting members will be determining our eligibility over the next few months and if eligible, we will continue through the extensive accreditation process. Windham High School is already accredited and in cycle and we will be submitting applications for the Golden Brook School and Windham Center School in November. NEASC Accreditation proves a district’s ability to provide high standards of excellence over a ten-year cycle of delivery. Our overarching goal is to acquire a K-12 District Accreditation through NEASC.

• **Emergency Relief and Recovery**: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its financial impact on local school districts, the Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) has approved financial relief to all school districts to offset the unfilled FEMA reimbursements and address district expenditures that exceeded the CARES monies. Formal per pupil allotment will be forthcoming.

• **Website Rollout**: The website redesign project has been a two-year commitment for our administrative team. We are proud to finally be able to launch our newly designed and improved site. The overall goal of this project was to provide our school community with a functional, easy to use website where content is easily accessible. The official launch of the site will be at the end of October.

• **Windham Games Day and Shark Tank**: Unfortunately, both events have been compromised due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The high school science department will not be able to safely host the Windham Games Day (Trebuchet Day). Plans to host the Shark Tank activity on November 10 are currently in the works with some alterations made to keep everyone safe. Additional details about this event will be forthcoming shortly.

• **Eighth-Grade Overnight Field Trip to Washington, DC**: At the October 20th Board Meeting, the School Board and administrative leaders decided to cancel this year’s trip to Washington, DC due to uncertainty of the nation’s potential travel restrictions and safety guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the spring. WMS leaders will be providing alternative educational and local options as a way to replace this experience for our students. Additional details and options will be available for parents within the coming weeks.

I hope everyone enjoys the rest of their week. United we thrive, keep up the great work!

Thank you,

Richard Langlois  
Superintendent of Schools