

WINDHAM RAYMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regional School Unit #14

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SUPERINTENDENT
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Assistant

Donn S. Davis

June 7, 2010

Dear Parents:

In the fall of 2009, Windham and Raymond began the consolidation journey together as RSU # 14. As many of you may recall, the process leading to consolidation was the result of a State mandate and involved countless months of meetings and discussions. The vote to become RSU # 14 was the beginning, but prior to the start of the 2009 – 2010 school year many logistical issues had to be addressed.

One of the many issues to be addressed was District policies. The School Board designated a Policy Committee to review all policy practices by both Windham and Raymond School Departments and create policies combining practices with a goal of consistency. Policy Committee members Kate Brix (Chair), Alizah Shriver, Catriona Sangster, and Michael Mack have been working diligently on policies for RSU # 14.

Earlier this year, the Policy Committee met and reviewed all current transportation policies governing Raymond and Windham. Again, the goal was to establish single, consistent practices. Several meetings were held with the Committee and in May 2010 a review was conducted by the full School Board coupled with a series of public hearings and readings that ultimately led to adoption. The transportation policies will take effect with the 2010 – 2011 school year.

During the course of the development of the new policy there was much discussion at meetings regarding the individual practices of the Raymond and Windham communities and how past practices would change for both communities. The purpose of this letter is to outline some of the more prominent changes.

Windham had a traditional practice of servicing a series of private roads and Raymond had a practice of not serving private roads. After much discussion, the policy language was developed to mirror Raymond's practices. The revised policy was adopted by the RSU Board of Directors on May 26, 2010. Windham buses will no longer travel the following private roads: Woldbrook Drive, Linnell Road, Bittersweet Road, Quinn Road, Harvest Hill Road, Laskey Road, Evans Ridge, Sandbar Road, Sabbady Point Road, Brown Cove Road, and Collins Pond Road. The pick-up and drop-off areas will be designated by the Transportation Director.

Another significant piece that was added to the policy addressed transporting students from locations that are remote and/or inaccessible to schools or public roads. In cases that fall under this category, it will be the parental responsibility to transport their child(ren) to the nearest designated bus stop. In reviewing our present stops, students being picked up at Goose Pond in West Cumberland will now be required to move to a designated bus stop in Windham. This proposed stop will be located in the area of Pine and Cottage Roads in Windham.

The third significant change to the policy also involved two contrasting practices between Raymond and Windham. Windham's existing practice addressed consistent pick-up and drop-off of students. Students are required to have a consistent daily location both in the morning and in the afternoon. Exceptions are allowed for Wednesday afternoon release of elementary students due to Early Release practices. The practice also allows for different morning and afternoon locations, but both must be consistent. The Raymond practice differed in that it allowed for multiple transportation locations. The consistent practice for pick-up and drop-off locations becomes effective with the 2010 – 2011 school year.

We certainly realize that several families will be affected by these changes. The impact of these changes was discussed at length but it was also recognized that transporting larger groups of students requires consistent, efficient practices to ensure student safety. We look forward to working with the families of RSU # 14 and should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sanford J Prince IV

Michael Kelly

Sanford J. Prince IV
Superintendent

Michael Kelly
Transportation Director