

WINDHAM RAYMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regional School Unit #14

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<http://www.windhamraymondschools.org>

SUPERINTENDENT

Sanford J. Prince IV

Assistant Superintendent

Donn S. Davis

October 29, 2010

To the RSU # 14 School Community:

During the 2009 – 2010 school year one of the goals of the RSU # 14 Board of Directors was to take a look at how to proceed with our facilities planning. They wanted to review and evaluate the use of facilities to see if any efficiencies or savings could be obtained. Currently not every school in RSU # 14 is at full capacity. Two of our buildings are only at about 50% capacity. A Short-Term Facilities Use Committee was formed and consisted of parents, community members, staff, administration and Board members. This committee's charge was to bring forth a recommendation on how RSU # 14 could improve its use of District facilities, specifically to

- Create operating efficiencies;
- Operate buildings to capacity, thus reducing operating costs; and
- Minimize disruption to student population

In the spring of 2010 the Board of Directors reviewed the recommendations that were presented to them by the committee. During the summer of 2010 additional work went into gathering data on any potential cost savings and additional expenses, along with recommendations on how any change would impact student programs and services.

In addition to this work, last spring the Board of Directors submitted to the Maine Department of Education an application for funding construction of a new middle school, with the notion that both existing middle schools would be closed. We should know where we fall on the State's priority list in late summer 2011.

On November 3, 2010, the Board of Directors is meeting to further discuss next steps with the proposed recommendations. This will be a time where each member of the Board will express their opinion on whether or not they want to proceed with closing either Manchester School or Jordan Small Middle School. Please understand that if they choose to move ahead, opportunities for public input will be held November 10 at Raymond Elementary School and on November 17 at Manchester School.

On December 8, 2010, the Board will deliberate on what they heard from the public and then could proceed with a Board vote on December 15 to move ahead with a Referendum. As required by the State of Maine, the closing of any school would require a vote in the community where the school is located. If it comes to a Town vote, this would likely be in February or March 2011. *Please note these dates are tentative and are subject to change.*

The timeline for this process is on our website, along with an updated Facilities Report (dated October 27, 2010) under BULLETINS. Please go to www.windhamraymondschools.org

In summary, it is important for our citizens to be knowledgeable about the Facilities Report and the direction our Board of Directors plan to take. The Board of Directors' intent from the beginning has been to ensure that our facilities continue to add educational value to all of our students and they have done their due diligence to ensure efficiencies with our facilities.

Please stay involved and if I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Sandy

Sanford J. Prince IV
Superintendent