

VISION FOR THE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The proposed xxxx Unified School District will realize the WRVSD vision by operating exceptional student-focused elementary, middle, and high school programs that will serve the students of Bethel, Chelsea, Rochester, and Royalton, and be the educational programs of choice for parents and students in other towns which choose to tuition their students. The goals of this effort will be to increase student opportunity and achieve equity across the entire region

The programs of the Unified School District will be known by:

Students being placed first!

Strong personalized learning at all levels.

Rich opportunities for all students.

Flexible/multiple pathways.

Best practices.

Being consciously/intentionally innovative.

Excited, engaged teachers who are using their strengths in creative ways.

An educational community known for strong relationships between students and among adults and students.

Every student having a meaningful relationship with at least one adult.

State-of-the art technology throughout.

Continuity between various grade levels

Substantial parent and community involvement.

Educational Programs of the New District will be offered as follows:

Elementary School

Elementary education will be delivered in individual towns for students PK-5. It is important to keep younger children close to home and to avoid lengthy transportation runs.

Elementary education will:

Seek critical mass for programs which may mean encouraging joint efforts across schools.

Provide more choice for parents within the district.

Provide hands-on, experiential education and gets kids outside!

Offer more after-school programs

Offer a broader array of opportunities—foreign language, arts, music, STEM

Assure strong parent involvement/strong community partnerships.

Assure similar levels of preparation at all schools, while valuing the unique characteristics of each school.

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Middle level grades will be provided under a single administrative structure for all students in the district. Middle school will be primarily provided in either one or two locations, depending on how to best achieve the following goals:

Broad opportunities for all children.

Critical mass to allow for sports teams, music programs, and other group-dependent activities.

Reasonable costs.

Tolerable transportation distances and times.

Middle level education will:

Provide the ability to access high school level classes as appropriate.

Provide a transportation system for co-curricular and evening activities.

Include after-school programming

Feature Personalized Learning Plans throughout

Provide robust STEM Programs, foreign language, arts, music

Provide an array of sports opportunities.

Include opportunities for vocational education.

Provide some opportunity for foreign travel

High School

High School will be provided under a single administrative structure with a single primary campus. Initially, there could be more than one primary site on a transitional basis. With sufficient state aid for construction, the district should plan to create a new high school facility in a central location that will minimize transportation time for students

High school education will:

- Feature strong personalized learning, rooted in personalized learning plans

- Focus on strong relationships between adults and students—including a strong TA program.

- Provide a comprehensive set of offerings—for college bound students and for those moving directly toward the workforce.

- Provide a broad suite of courses that will place students on the “cutting edge” (Todd’s list).

- Provide a full set of Act 77 Options—flexible pathways.

- Promote a critical mass of student to allow a wide range of experiences.

- Feature an outdoor education satellite program.

- Use resources across towns and consider creating the ability for students to attend a semester on another campus.

- Provide a comprehensive transportation system throughout region.

- Provide robust foreign language, arts, music.

- Offer a wide array of sports opportunities.

- Provide for foreign travel opportunities.

- Involve Capstone experiences.

- Use community partners extensively.

- Assure strong parent/community connections both in the four towns and in all partnering towns that tuition children.

- Assess success five years out from high school.

TRANSITIONING TO THE NEW PLAN

Upon approval of the plan in the spring of 2017 by the electorates of the involved towns, the board of the new school district will begin immediately to develop a plan for merged middle school and high school administration, effective for the 2018-19 school year. The District will further engage teachers and administrators in the design of the new programs and plans for the 2018-19 school year. This may involve seeking private grants to provide faculty release time to invest in the creation of this extraordinary new program. We will also begin immediately to advocate for funding support for a new centralized high school.