



From the Superintendent's desk...

Let it snow...let it snow...let it snow! Sorry... even though it means I'll have to shovel, I enjoy the winter season (hope you do as well). Aside from fighting traffic and buying presents, this season brings the opportunity to create special memories and share precious moments with family and friends. Whether you're young or young at heart, my holiday wish to all is TIME and PEACE to enjoy valuable moments with others, providing you extra smiles for years to come.



John Walker
Superintendent

On to other business:

Please accept this personal invitation to join in our **COMMUNITY FORUM** on November 30th. We are holding five informational sessions beginning at 7pm in the High School. All five sessions run simultaneously (40 minutes), and then repeated...allowing participants to attend 2 different presentations within 90 minutes. Topics include: Improving Sports Team/Club Participation... Helping our Children Read... What about this 2% Tax Cap?... The State of our Buildings and Grounds (Our next Bond)... Special Education, what's so special?

We are planning to provide important information and also seek direct input from all attendees...strengthening the partnership with our families and community. Please consider sharing 90 minutes with us on November 30th.

Kudos to the Fall Drama and the HS Select Chorus. Both student groups shared their talents last month in separate events. Word from the street...TWO THUMBS UP!...Wonderful performances, wonderful students. A special thanks to Mr. Dunn for his efforts.

Check out the district calendar, lots going on over the next few weeks...Bus Vote...Concerts...Winter Sports underway...and the COMMUNITY FORUM! Hope to see you out and about.

John Walker



Robert Magin
School Business
Administrator

From the

**School Business
Administrator**

Last May we were not able to present our annual proposition for purchasing buses. The governor had proposed some changes to state aid formulas that would have resulted in no aid for our bus purchases during the 2011-2012 school year. We receive approximately a 90% reimbursement on our bus purchases. Without that reimbursement, there would have been a significant impact on our local budget. Those proposals by the governor were defeated and we will continue to receive aid on bus purchases.

At this time we are presenting the following proposition:

Shall the Board of Education of the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District be authorized to purchase buses for student transportation with a total aggregate estimated maximum cost of \$450,000, with such cost paid in part by an expenditure of \$200,000 from the District's existing School Bus Capital Reserve fund, with the balance of such cost to be funded out of available fund balance as permitted by law.

The public is encouraged to vote on this proposition on **December 8, 2011 from 2:00 PM until 8:00 PM in the foyer of the High School.**

This proposition will allow us to continue the safe and efficient transportation of our students without the need to levy any additional taxes. Provided that there are not any new changes in state aid formulas, we plan to return to our normal schedule of presenting bus purchase propositions in May.

If you have any questions about this proposition or how we purchase buses, please contact our School Business Administrator, Robert Magin, at 315-594-3150.





Virtual Reading Buddies

Due to the efforts of their teachers, students at NRWE and Middle School were able to connect and try out some new technology! On October 14th, first grade students of Mrs. Lumb and Miss Kelsey participated in a "Virtual Buddy Reading" project with Mrs. Cole's and Mrs. DeFeo's 6th grade students at the Middle School (using Skype)! Mrs. Cole's sixth grade students loved being able to read a picture book to the younger students, but they were most excited to have the first graders in Mrs. Lumb's class read to them! It was a wonderful experience and the students hope to connect with their reading buddies many more times throughout the year!



The Cougar's Den is Open at the Middle School!



The Cougar's Den opened on October 14th and is open once a month during lunchtime in the cafeteria for students! Students receive Cougar Cash for following our core expectations of being respectful, responsible, safe & kind! They are able to use their Cougar Cash to purchase from a variety of items. Many staff offered special activities for students to purchase, such as: lunch with a teacher, playing board games after school, spa/manicure afternoon, ice cream & a movie, jewelry making & others. We appreciate our students for making our school positive!

FIRE SAFETY AT NRWE



On Friday, October 21st, students met with Sparky and members of the Fire Department. They learned about Fire Safety, practiced stop drop and roll, and found out how important it was for every home to have a safe outside meeting place to go to in the event of a fire. Students were treated to a tour of the fire trucks and a demonstration of how the fire hose shoots water! Kindergartners all received fire hats making them "official" firefighters!!!!



19 New National Honor Society Members



From top to bottom, L to R: Ms. Rothfuss, co-advisor; Benjamin, Nicole, Conner, Bradley, Ryan, Eric, Helen, Andre', Laura, Zack, Kate, Zachary, Meagan, Jordann, Nicholas, Erin, Kara, Carly, Harley.

On November 1, 2011 the NR-W National Honor Society Induction installed 19 new members. Tyler T., 12th, NHS President, was Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Dunn provided music on the grand piano. Readings on the qualifications of membership on character, leadership, service and scholarship helped the general student body to understand what makes an exceptional student and role model. Co-Advisor Ms. Rothfuss identified the achievements of new inductees and swore in the new members. Principal Benz and Assis-

tant Principal Hoyt, identified the qualifications and pledge for new members. Inductees must have met qualifications of a minimum 90.0% overall average, submit an application including three character references, and a faculty committee reviewed all candidates. Co-advisor Mrs. Packard was instrumental in much of the background work for the ceremony. National Honor Society is a great achievement and honor.

Congratulations!



Kari Durham
BOE President

*V*iew from the Board...

Water Cooler Conversations & the Importance of the Chain of Command

*It's the same all over – humor me
and review this common tale:*

When Carol left from work last night she was in a horrible mood. Nothing had gone right at work that day. She was a member of a secretarial pool and things just kept breaking down. She was running reports and the computer froze, in a vain attempt to finish something she decided to carry out the typewriter and then make copies for a meeting. After typing and manually spell-checking she went to make thirty copies and the machine was labeled “out of order.” It wasn’t her day and she decided to call her boss and left a voicemail detailing the facts and how her work was now incomplete. She went home frustrated but determined to try again tomorrow. Entering work the following day she was still upset. She stood at the water cooler complaining and sighing. Many of the other employees were sympathetic and even added some of their frustrations to the conversation. Mid-afternoon the President of the company came to visit Carol at her desk and inquired about the reports. She responded they weren’t ready and began repeating her story about the troubles she’d encountered. After listening quietly the officer simply asked, “Who did you call for help?” Carol responded that she had left him a message, didn’t he retrieve those? Then she began echoing the sentiments heard at the water cooler and how there were many dissatisfied with many working conditions. The President again asked, “and did they speak to human resources to get these items addressed? Did you call the Copy repair center? Did you contact IT services for the computer issue?” Carol was astonished. She just told him what more could she do? He responded, “but those areas are for others to resolve. Those issues are handled by very trustworthy people who are experts in their fields. I oversee these operations but in the end those that are most closely responsible must be given the opportunity to respond first. They are closest and would be most efficient.” Carol understood. She called the names he listed and went back to work – no harm, no foul. Valuable lessons learned.

This is the board conundrum. We are the faces around the water cooler. All of us participate in many different faces of small community life. We are the ones with sympathy (and empathy) for most problems encountered in our quaint district. The problem is that we are NOT the ones equipped or empowered to **SOLVE** the problems. So many times just being present or listening mistakenly engages people in the thought that we are going to **MAKE** a change or seek a reso-

lution. This is false. Many of the board members are simple listeners by nature and process and learn from others. We want to hear what everyone is concerned about (or proud of or worried about, etc) but most times it is unnecessary & unwarranted for us to take these issues to the board level. Many times – my family can attest – you will hear me say, “this isn’t a board issue but let me give you the name of the person you can call.” This should not be misinterpreted as a board member expressing disinterest. Certainly, I’ve heard your concern and very likely will reflect on it. BUT – I can’t solve any issue (especially alone, and very likely not even with my 8 cohorts). What we can do – and will – is help you find the source **CLOSEST** to your particular issue and guide you to that contact. There have even been times when I will contact this person and tell them to expect your call – simply because I already have a relationship and it may be inherently easier for me to break the ice. Otherwise, once again, you will hear this full board rely on and adhere to the Chain of Command. This chain serves a great purpose and its **SANCTITY** can’t be under-valued. Allowing those that are appointed to serve, hired to handle certain responsibilities – this is absolutely necessary for success. The board’s role is limited in scope and vital to making sure that we stay on track. Addressing policy and tracking the pulse of our finances – these issues need all of our time and attention.



Presentations/Discussions:

- Middle School Building Tour
- Administrator Reports
- Curriculum Reports
- Student BOE Member Report



Public Access:

- Rosa Fox, MS Instrumental Music Teacher, provided members and principals with music department concert schedules.



Approval:

- Treasurer’s Reports for July and August 2011
- 2012-13 Budget Calendar
- School bus purchase proposition

Appointments:

- 2011-12 Curriculum Council Members
- Boys’ Mod. Basketball Coaching Appointment: Jay Reynolds
- Volunteers



“The Mission of the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District is to create a safe and enriching learning environment that will prepare our students to make positive and meaningful contributions to society.”

