

Waterville Public Schools Educational Forum

March 22, 2017

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Welcome

Sara Sylvester

Chair of Waterville Board of Education

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Opening Remarks

Eric Haley

Superintendent of Schools

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Waterville Public Schools Today

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George J. Mitchell School

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Mitchell School Highlights

- **Strong family, community and college connections**
 - Nationally accredited Before/After School and Summer School Childcare programs
 - Playground pals, practicum students and student teachers from Colby, Thomas, and KVCC
 - Colby Mentor Program
 - Partnership with Good Shepherd and local donations from businesses and churches for the food pantry
 - School and parents working together to support the needs of students through the PTO
- **Dedicated, experienced, collaborative staff**
 - Highly experienced teaching staff committed to ongoing professional development for continuous improvement of instructional practices
 - Administrators with a combined 70 + years of educational experience
 - Dedicated educational technicians working with special education students
 - Dedicated Title 1 staff providing reading and math interventions
- **Instructional programming informed by student data**
 - Teachers meet with administrators, math specialist and literacy specialists three times per year to review student data to determine needs and identify programming to address those needs
 - Team Leaders Meetings are held monthly and Grade Level Meetings are held twice per month to review and address school goals, for curriculum planning, and to address behavioral needs/expectations

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Albert S. Hall School

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Hall School Highlights

- **Strong family, community and college connections**
 - Parent Teacher Organization
 - Perfect Attendance Awards in partnership with Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce
 - Donations from area businesses, including JoAnn Fabrics and CMP
 - Food pantry in partnership with Good Shepherd and with donations from local businesses and churches
 - Food Corps staff to support learning about healthy food
 - Playground pals, practicum students, and tutors from Colby, Thomas and KVCC
- **Dedicated staff**
 - Administrator, team leaders and grade level teams work collaboratively to set school goals, develop behavior expectations, write curriculum and discuss instruction and student performance
 - Grants written by staff provide resources not provided through school budget
 - Staff provide after-school opportunities for students
- **Many programs to meet student interests and support student needs**
 - Data review meetings to monitor student achievement
 - Title One programming (including literacy and math tutors and supplemental instruction)
 - Kennebec Behavioral Health school-based counseling
 - After school programming: Lego Robotics, Civil Rights, Community Board, Sprout Scouts, Healthy Kids, Tech Ambassadors, Homework Club

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Waterville Junior High School

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WJHS Highlights

Dedicated and caring staff and community working together to meet all student needs

- Staff committed to student success as evidenced by exit interviews with all 8th graders
- Leadership team meets regularly to assess data to determine curriculum delivery and instructional needs

Varied academic and extra-curricular offerings

- Music: Strings, band, chorus
- Read 180 reading program
- Gifted and talented program
- Alternative education programming
- Unified arts offerings including forestry, forensics, wellness, physical education, media literacy, engineering, art, guitar, keyboard, JMG
- Foreign language (French & Spanish) exploratory and first year course offerings
- 3 drama productions
- 17 sports teams in addition to intra-mural offerings
- Clubs (gaming, Lego robotics, outing, writing, book, homework, civil rights, student council, Odyssey of the Mind, yearbook)

Broad network of supports to meet needs of middle-level students

- Food pantry & clothing for those in need
- Dental clinic, vision screening, flu shot clinic
- Colby tutors and mentors

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Waterville Senior High School

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WSHS Highlights

- **Strong state assessment scores**
 - In 2015-16, WSHS juniors outperformed area schools and exceeded state average on statewide assessment
- **Wide variety of co-curricular activity offerings**
 - Art Club, Jazz Band, Pep Band, Pit Band, Book Club, Drama, Green Team, Homeroom Buddies, Key Club, Math Team, NHS, Ocean Bowl, Outing Club, Science Olympiad, Ski Club, Skills USA, STAND, Student Ambassadors, Student Council, Tri-M Music Society, Vocal Traction, and Yearbook.
- **Recognitions and awards**
 - State and nationally recognized Science Olympiad team. State Champions 1996-2010, 2012, 2016. Runner Up 2013-2015. National medals earned in 2016.
 - Renowned music program that frequently earns an “Excellent” or “Outstanding” rating in national competitions.
 - One Act Play Regional Champions in 2004, 2005, 2011, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Runner Up 2002, 2003, 2008, 2014.
 - Since 2006, WSHS teams have won 33 state athletic championships in a variety of sports.

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Mid-Maine Technical Center

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MMTC Highlights

In 2015-16:

- **438** students enrolled in one of **13** programs (WSHS represented **27%** of overall enrollment)
- **299** students (84%) earned a total of **708** industry-recognized certifications
- **212** students earned **841** college credits, a savings of **\$107,648** to students and families
- **64%** of graduating seniors were accepted into college programs related to their course of study
- **81** students participated in Off-Site Work Experience program

MMTC is funded by a regional cost-share based on 3-year average enrollment, generating **\$1.4 million** in revenue in 2015-16. WPS receives state subsidy for CTE expenditures at a rate of **65.6%**

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Mid-Maine Regional Adult Community Education



MMRACE Highlights

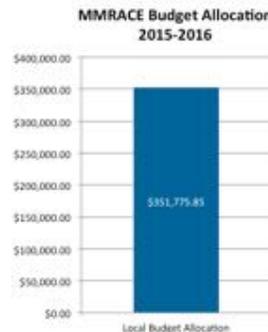
- ◆ **Wide variety of programs that reach many community members**
 - Since 2011, we have had 10,401 community members take advantage of our enrichment classes
 - All enrichment courses are funded through self-supporting registration fees for each class
 - Partnered with 20 businesses to offer enrichment courses and provide additional marketing through our brochure & website
 - Since 2014, employed over 80 local instructors, each semester, to teach enrichment classes
 - Since 2011, we have helped 230 adults earn their high school diploma or equivalency certificate
- ◆ **Partnerships with employers to assist them with labor shortages and provide training programs**
 - Partnered with three local healthcare facilities to provide CNA/MA and a soft-skills training program
 - Since 2015, assisted 41 people to earn industry-recognized credentials that provides a livable wage.
- ◆ **Revenue exceeded expenditures by about \$36,000 in 2015-2016**



Budget Allocation:
\$351, 775.85

MMRACE Revenue:
\$387,762.73

Difference:
\$35,986.88





Educare Central Maine

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Educare

- Educare is not formally part of Waterville Public Schools but is a public-private partnership with KVCAP
- Educare does not take away from Waterville Public Schools subsidy

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Current Challenges

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Current Challenges: Demographics

- **Homeless students** — 45 children are currently homeless
- **Free and reduced lunch -**
 - Mitchell - 72% Hall - 70% WJHS - 63% WSHS - 59%
 - Summer meals program: 11,974 meals in 2015 13,500 meals in 2016
- **Transient population** — 30% of students in K-3 turn over each year
- **Children with special needs -**
 - State average of 17% of students identified vs. 23% identified in Waterville
 - 1975: 3 identification categories 2017: 13 identification categories
- **Mental health needs** — 80 students served by Kennebec Behavioral Health services
- **Wide range of academic needs**
- **Declining enrollment** — from about 1,950 in 2007 to about 1,750 in 2016

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Current Challenges: Programming

- **Decrease in academic offerings due to decreased staff caused by budget cuts and declining enrollment**
 - Since 2007, 15 high school positions have been eliminated
 - 27 high school electives have been eliminated
 - waiver of minimum course load is often applied
 - limited offerings cause more schedule conflicts for students
- **Sharing teachers across buildings limits offerings**
- **Fewer sports teams/shared sports teams**
- **Deferred renovation of high school**
- **Reliance on private donations for building improvements**
- **Challenges attracting applicants due to pay scale**
- **Need for additional supports for students**

Adjustments made in these changing times

- Sharing district administration
- Sharing teachers across districts
- Sharing sports teams
- Student course offerings across districts
- Private donations
- Working closely with city

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Tipping Points

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Comments? Thoughts?
Questions?

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Moving Forward

- Attend school board and city council meetings
- Contact elected officials locally and at the state level regarding the need for adequate school funding
- Join a school parent organization or booster group
- Volunteer
- Share our story with others
- Share your experiences with others

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