OCSU November Superintendent Updates

October's work focused on connecting professional learning with direct evidence of student needs. On October 28, our leadership team collaborated to strengthen professional learning communities, refine expectations, and foster alignment across all schools. Key grade-level work followed on October 30: K–8 teams analyzed common formative assessment results to guide instruction and plan targeted interventions; PreK teams focused on essential standards and learning targets; and high school teams came together to prioritize behavioral expectations to support a strong tired system of support. Concurrently, paraeducators, guidance counselors, and SEL specialists also worked to strengthen student support systems. In addition to our local work, I attended the initial Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) data presentations, which provided crucial insights into statewide trends and current ESSA accountability measures. This work clarified how reporting timelines, student inclusion, and privacy protections impact published results. These insights will be integrated with local assessment data to drive our continuous improvement priorities.

Family and community engagement also remained a central focus through ThoughtExchange planning, with a community input survey scheduled to launch after the general election. I also want to celebrate and highlight the OCSU PTCA's efforts in putting on such a successful Fall Festival. It was a pleasure to attend this event again this year and see the community come together. Thank you to all who made that happen. Also, a special thank you to EMS/LR Board member Bernard White, who answered my last-minute call to donate more apples for the cider press!

Key topics addressed at the October CESA meeting included bylaws, fiscal-agent designation, asset mapping, and future needs. There is no action to report. The AOE has issued an Act 170 merger-planning memo to guide study committees, alongside updates on Act 169's tuition-increase cap regulations. The state also provided updated Class Size Minimum Guidance. Over the next month, the leadership team will discuss this guidance and its potential impacts on the OCSU learning community.

Facilities walkthroughs and joint coordination among school leaders, facilities personnel, and the facilities committee helped establish clear maintenance, safety, and budget priorities. In technology, we focused on continuous strengthening of cybersecurity awareness, setting guidelines for approved artificial intelligence tools, and managing licensing costs to ensure sustainable access to critical learning resources. These initiatives directly support District Quality Standards for safe and effective operations. Lastly, at the VEHI annual meeting, it was announced that the FY 28 health insurance increase should be budgeted at 2.5 percent.

It's hard to believe it's already November. I am immensely proud of our leadership team, our educators, our support staff, and our students. I wish all Board members a Happy Thanksgiving, and thank you for your work to support our schools and students. Jackie

Learning and Instruction - Erica Harryman

- Student Social Emotional Learning Screening: Schools have been administering fall social-emotional screenings. Teachers and school leaders are reviewing the results to better understand students' strengths, identify areas where additional support may be

needed, and plan next steps.

- Academic Interventions: We are reviewing intervention practices across our schools, including how students are identified for additional academic support, how that support is provided, and how we monitor progress to determine whether students are improving. Our goal is to ensure that students receive timely, targeted instruction based on their specific learning needs.
- Vermont's New Graduation Requirements: Vermont is preparing to establish statewide graduation requirements that will begin with students entering ninth grade in the 2027–2028 school year (the graduating class of 2031). The Vermont Agency of Education has invited educators who teach grades 8–12 to help inform the requirements for core academic subjects, including English, mathematics, science, and social studies. I have shared these opportunities with the appropriate OCSU teachers and encouraged them to identify additional colleagues who should have an opportunity to provide input. This gives our educators a voice as the state develops expectations that will affect our future graduates.
- Title I Federal Compliance: I am completing the annual Title I comparability review required by the Vermont Agency of Education. This review helps ensure that our schools receive equitable staffing and instructional resources through state and local funding, rather than relying on federal Title I funds to address differences. The required documentation is due November 6, 2026.
- OCSU Spelling Bee: We are beginning preparations for our OCSU-wide spelling bee competition. This event will provide students with an opportunity to showcase their spelling skills and represent their schools. Additional information will be shared as planning progresses.

Finance - Melissa Fortuna

- Finance Committee meetings are scheduled on the following dates:
  - LRUEMSD - November 5th @ 5:30 pm (virtual only)
  - LRUHS - November 9th @ 5:00 pm
  - OCSU - Reminder that the OCSU board does not have a finance committee - budget will be reviewed and discussed at the monthly board meeting - November 4th @5:30 pm
- Reminder to everyone to review the Audits in the October board update prior to the next carousel meeting. I recommend reading the Management Correction letter with responses and the Fund Balance worksheets. Please submit ANY questions via email to Jackie and Melissa prior to the meeting so we have time to research your inquiries.

Facilities EMS - Jason Rowell

- We have been working on the FY28 Local Building Ops budgets; we have made significant changes to individual lines but globally the budget hasn't changed a whole lot. We are trying to correct instances where we have been charging things to the wrong lines for several years or significantly over/under budgeting individual lines. In some cases, we moved money from individual lines to a single district-wide line to reflect the way we are *actually* purchasing products and services. The one big change is that our heating oil and electricity costs have increased significantly. We hope to take up most of this through "found" cost savings, but the overall budget may increase slightly.
-
- The proposed budget numbers have been sent over to the business office for review, they will then go to the finance committee for board input; once any recommendations are incorporated, we will hold a meeting with the admins, in conjunction with the business office, to review the final numbers and field any comments.

Human Resources - Lisa Worden and Monica Fisher

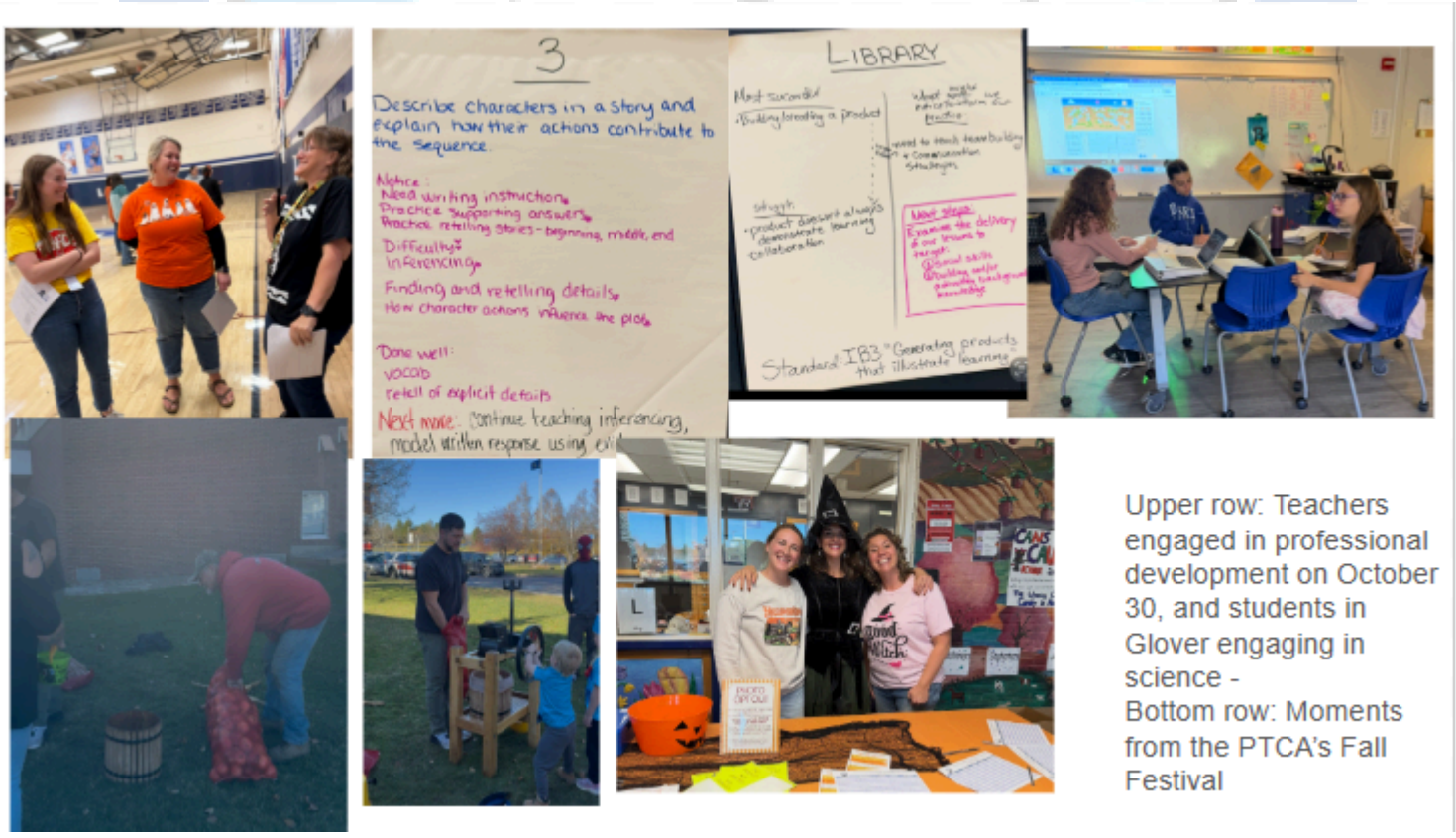
- We currently have 5 open positions - 1 coach, 3 FT and 1 PT position(s)
- Please see FY26 exit survey - please let me know if there are any questions.
- I am currently working on open enrollment and have been out at the schools to assist with any questions

Special Education: Sandra Lapham

- Paraprofessional Professional Development: On October 8th, Terra Geer led a professional development session for all Pre-K through 12th-grade paraprofessionals. The session focused on key instructional strategies to foster and facilitate student independence, as well as effective practices for student data collection.
- Act 173 Special Education Plan Submission: The annual Act 173 Special Education Plan has been submitted to the Agency of Education (AOE). This required annual submission reports on our anticipated extraordinary expenditures and includes data from our current-year special education staff survey.
- Special Education Guiding Coalition Leadership Team: We have established our Special Education Guiding Coalition Leadership Team, composed of myself, Alison, and seven special educators. During our initial meeting, the coalition focused on establishing priority areas and defining strategic goals for year 1.

Pre-School Programs - Julie Lavine

Child Nutrition - Becca Boucher



Upper row: Teachers engaged in professional development on October 30, and students in Glover engaging in science -
Bottom row: Moments from the PTCA's Fall Festival

OCSU