



WMEC Happenings

WINTER 2013

VOLUME 25

We must educate and involve our communities and we must do it soon!

WMCL Lesson Learned fall 2012

WMEC Member Districts

- Lisbon School Department
- AOS #97 Winthrop/Fayette
- Mt Blue RSD
- RSU 4 (Litchfield)
- RSU 10 (Dixfield, Mexico, Buckfield)
- RSU 38 (Maranacook)
- RSU 44 (Bethel)
- RSU 58 (Kingfield)
- RSU 73 (Livermore/Jay)
- RSU 74 (N. Anson)
- RSU 78 (Rangeley)

WMEC Chosen for MDOE Case Study

The Western Maine Education Collaborative was chosen to be featured as one of six case studies done by the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) through a Nellie May grant. The purpose of the grant is to help the Commissioner document the intent and progress some public schools are making to improve the learning experience for Maine students. WMEC is the only collaborative being featured. The other five studies are of public schools. The first three were completed last year. Those three and the newly posted WMEC study can be viewed on the MDOE web site at: <http://www.maine.gov/doe/cbp/case-studies/> and the WMCL Storage locker at <https://sites.google.com/site/wmclcom/>. Following are excerpts from the WMEC Case Study.

"This case study is an exploration of that turn towards proficiency-based/learner-centered education, which, in the region, they refer to as "customized learning." For this case study, over twenty educators were interviewed in September and October 2012. The intended audience of the case study is the community of educators and policy-makers exploring implementation of proficiency-based/learner-centered systems and practices in their own school districts."

The closing paragraph states: *"It is perhaps not an accident that organization/systems work was seen as essential to the Western Maine Customized Learning effort. A keystone of the customized learning effort is the importance of the culture of the district, and the structural aspects of the district that support that culture. The same could be said of the WMEC and the WMCL. The effectiveness of the WMEC as an organization was demonstrated in the way structural facets were put into place, thereby creating the conditions in which this educational work could happen. Both promote the ethic of shared leadership – the professional learning community – that creates a "deep bench" of leadership, a wealth of talent at every level to step up as needed. This deep bench – of administrators, teachers, parents, board members, etc. – is necessary for the transformative work promised by proficiency-based/learner-centered practice, and it is necessary for the WMEC, the WMCL, and its districts to continue meeting their mission of "improving student achievement" – for all students."*

In addition to the case study, a video company hired by the MDOE has shot hours of interviews with teachers, superintendents, principals, school board members and WMEC consultants in order to create a couple two minute video clips showcasing our work and perspective. They too will soon be available at the sites listed above.

Western Maine Customized Learning Travels

The WMEC Systems Change Partner has been working with districts in the region for the past several months. While on this journey, a clear analogy has emerged to help districts navigate this change process as they create and bring to life a shared vision. Districts are engaging in conversations around questions such as:

WMCL Train at the Station...

1. Is the conductor aboard? (the System Leader)
2. Is the Rail Agency aboard? (School Board)
3. Are the Engineers aboard (Shared Leadership Team)
4. Are the passengers aboard? (Students, Staff, Parents, Community)
5. Does everyone agree they are going to the same destination?
6. Do they all call it by the same name?
7. Does everyone have the same vision of the destination?
8. Does everyone know why the train is making the trip?



- 9 How long will this trip take?
- 10 Who has the rail map?
- 11 What are the major stations along the way?
- 12 What about sightseeing? Is it allowed?
- 13 How often will the engineers and the conductor meet to check on progress and do engine maintenance?
- 14 How often will the engineers and the conductor update the rail agency?
- 15 What about the people who have missed the train or who do not want to go to this particular destination?

On the Horizon



Sharing Circus: Participants of the 4 part WMCL series with Bea McGarvy will have an opportunity, on May 1st, to come to a “sharing opportunity” at the North Dining Hall at UMF. This will be a time to share stories, artifact and connections that have emerged from the customized learning work at the district level. Using a circus theme, this 3:00-6:00 session will explore the best things that have happened, what has worked, what has been the riskiest

WMCL Curriculum Units and Instructional Design Session: Building on the regional efforts accomplished during the past year, WMEC District Curriculum Decision Making Teams will have an opportunity to go deeper with the work during June 27 & 28 sessions at UMF. Teams will learn about curriculum models and instructional frameworks that support customized and personal learning for all students

Math in a Customized Learning World: Work has started to plan and deliver a 2-3 day professional development opportunity in August of 2013. The goal of the event is to increase the knowledge and skills of K-16 educators in their delivery of math instruction within a system of customized learning for all students. An on line course is also being considered with a professional organization. If offered, both opportunities would be at no cost to the districts.

World Café: In an effort to enhance the ability of school systems to provide Math intervention, a World Café process is planned for April 25th. The intent is to gather information about what is currently happening and what might be possible in WMEC schools.



Principals Network: On January 24th the group met to gather information on the supervision and evaluation systems being used in Gardner and get an update on the MDOE MEEC recommendations and proposed Chapter 180 legislation. The group also took a big step and gave concept approval to a three pronged approach to the work. It builds on Marzano’s Domains and Elements of supervision and evaluation, professional development for administrators and teachers and a technology based data management system that is efficient and effective. The group will continue to work on this proposal that will then be brought to the districts to be used by local committees.

**Western Maine
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Collaborative**

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**WMEC Board
Meetings**

**October 10, 2012
Auburn Supers
Office 12:00-3:00**

**January 16, 2013
Mt Blue Campus
4:00-6:30**

**April 3, 2013 via
Tandberg 4:00-6:30**

**June 5, 2013
Location TBD 4:00-
6:30**