

Efficiencies Save RSU # 14 Money

2011 – 2012

Windham Middle School received a \$500 grant for installing motion sensors in two Field Allen classrooms, which will help conserve energy costs. The grant request was submitted by Teacher Helen Hurgin and her class.

RSU # 14 received a generous donation of file cabinets, chairs, partitions and work surfaces from Preservation Management, Inc., in South Portland.

The staff is always busy writing grants to improve student instruction and health, and to save the District money. The following grants were awarded in October 2011 from the Communities Putting Prevent to Work – PROP: \$2,000 to Windham High School for a new garden that will provide fresh produce to the lunch program; \$2,000 to Jordan Small Middle School for a new solar power system for the hoop house (enclosed garden) that will also provide fresh produce for the lunch program; \$2,000 to Windham Primary School to expand the Open Air Classroom; \$521 to Jordan Small Middle School to purchase fitness balls for health classes.

Received \$6,000 reimbursement from Maine DEP for installation of new heaters on buses.

Established a new Girls Volleyball Team at Windham High School which will be funded by parents and students.

New, energy-efficient water heaters were installed at Windham Middle School and Jordan Small Middle School.

We received \$2,000 as the final payment from the Caring About Lives in Maine project. This initiative relates to the Maine Youth Suicide Prevention Program and was funded through a federal grant.

Each summer during the high electrical demand days, we keep our utility costs down by shutting down the HVAC systems at mid-afternoon and turn them back on early the next morning. During 2010 – 2011, we saved approximately \$60,000 by doing this.

Windham Primary School received a \$250 mini-grant from the federally funded Safe Routes to School program to buy equipment as incentive prizes and for recess use.

The 2011-2012 ice hockey team will be totally funded by parents and players at approximately \$18,000.

2010 - 2011

The Windham Raymond Athletic Boosters continue to provide funds for our athletic programs. Over the last two years, they have donated over \$45,000, plus giving many hours as volunteers.

We have reduced our transportation school bus mileage and gasoline consumption due to our new routing software system. We saved over 694,532 miles since Raymond and Windham consolidated in 2009.

The Maine Forest Service Wood-to-Energy Grant Program will help RSU # 14 eliminate approximately 38,000 gallons of fuel oil that is consumed by the Raymond Elementary and Jordan Small Middle

Schools. This is a significant reduction in the use of non-renewable energy resources and will also result in an estimated savings of approximately \$35,000 to \$55,000 per year.

In March 2011, Manchester School received a grant of \$2,250 from PROP to build a greenhouse, called a Hoop House, and to purchase other materials to improve and enlarge their horticulture education programs.

All school buildings in the District were closed at the end of the day on Friday, February 18, 2011 and remained closed to all but support and maintenance staff until noon on Sunday, February 27, 2011, in an effort to conserve energy. All appliances and computers were unplugged; window shades closed; and the heat was turned back 55° in Windham buildings and to 60° in the Raymond buildings.

Backpack Club program provides supplemental food to children in need through non-perishable, kid-friendly snacks over the weekends and vacations. Hannaford's in Windham provided 40 backpacks from February 2010 through the end of the school year. Stephanie Joyce, School Health Coordinator, wrote a mini-grant for \$500, funded by United Health, to assist with the Backpack Club program.

Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives – funded through the Federal Communities Putting Prevention to Work Grant. \$4,475 was awarded to our schools for a walking trail initiative.

Two Windham High School students initiated and raised funds to renovate the basketball courts and skating rink at Manchester School. Funds were also contributed by the Town of Windham and the Maine Red Claws Basketball Team.

Manchester School Nurse Vickie Clarke was awarded a mini-grant of \$1,224 from Let's Go!/5-2-1-0 Goes to School.

Windham Primary School was awarded a \$750 grant from Exxon/Mobil Educational Alliance for the Technology for Scholars program. The money will be used to fund needed technology to be used in classrooms. Thanks to Linda MacDonald of the Big Apple Store in Windham for her efforts in getting this grant.

2009 – 2010

Check out www.i225.org – our i225 PEP Grant website – to see what our students are learning and doing through the new programs / improved programs in health and physical education.

Principal Randy Crockett (Raymond Elementary & Jordan Small Middle Schools) says: “One of the benefits of consolidation has been the sharing of resources and expertise that a large school district can facilitate. This has resulted in improved student achievement in reading and math as we have implemented extra support and new instructional methods to help struggling students improve their skills.” “Perhaps the greatest benefit of becoming part of a larger school district has been the opportunity for teachers and administrators to share best practices, brainstorm solutions to instructional and organizational problems, and collaborate to provide the best educational opportunities we can for all students.”

In the 2006 fiscal year, the District recorded a total of 294,819 school bus miles. In 2007 that number dropped to 277,794 – a reduction of 17,025 miles, achieved through initiatives like consolidated bus stops, consolidated athletic runs and reduced vocational program trips.

Burners in the majority of school sites have been converted to accept dual fuels of oil and natural gas. We saved \$40,000 in the 2007 – 2008 school year, the first year of conversion by utilizing natural gas. Approximately \$50,000 per year in savings since then - \$140,000 in just three years with potential savings over time that could reach \$1 million.

Due to the conversion to natural gas in the major buildings on campus, and the District's ability to negotiate commodity and deliver costs with Maine Natural Gas, the effects of the rapidly escalating cost of heating fuels has been controlled. The heating fuel budget for the 2008 fiscal year actually decreased slightly.

The District belongs to Maine Power Options, a statewide cooperative that negotiates electricity and fuel supply prices for municipalities and non-profits, a cooperative of over 600 entities. Through the supply prices negotiated through Maine Power Options, the electricity budget was reduced in 2008 - 2009 by \$58,000.

The Jordan Small Middle School's heating and ventilation system converted to digital controls to improve air quality. Additional hot water capacity in one wing of the school is now available to provide adequate, balanced circulation for the heating demand. This work was funded by a Special Town Meeting vote and cost approximately \$130,000.

Upgrades to all schools in heating, ventilation and air conditions systems have made them more efficient and are saving us money. We have a professional engineer on staff managing our complex physical plant and supporting staff members.

P& G Masonry donated repair work on the Jordan Small Middle School gym wall above the shed roof to stop leakage.

The roof, roof drains, entrance doors and boiler were all replaced at Field Allen School and we made the conversion to natural gas.

Lighting in the Jordan Small Middle School gym was replaced by brighter, more efficient units. Two-thirds of the \$12,000 cost was covered by a grant from Efficiency Maine. Other, smaller adjustments to lighting and expanding staff awareness of energy use have helped reduce electricity costs.

Lighting upgrades show a savings of \$36,000 and we have designated lights in all our buildings that are kept off when areas are getting limited use.

All schools are now involved in recycling programs. Raymond Elementary School has two "waste free" snack days where snacks brought to school come in reusable plastic containers, rather than something that is thrown away after one use.

We are forecasting \$16,000 in savings due to zero-sort recycling. (Savings would be higher but we have to pay disposal costs that the Town is currently paying.)

Fields and Grounds share equipment with Westbrook and South Portland - \$5,000 saved annually in rentals.

The Maintenance Department now shares staff and equipment between the two Towns and is able to complete work previously done by hiring sub-contractors.

Utilized Windham maintenance staff to complete minor repairs and office changes District-wide to reduce outside contracted services

Sharing District-wide furnishings – outfitted offices in Raymond with workstations stored at J.A. Andrew School at no cost to the District

Consolidation of purchasing of all District supplies

The Raymond Bus Garage will be closed this summer. (Saving approximately \$10,000)

John A. Andrew School in South Windham was closed in the fall of 2009.

We are saving on snowplowing costs with the purchase of two one-ton plow trucks, using internal labor. These trucks are also being used year-round for cleanup and moving equipment between Towns, saving us monies in contracted services and rentals.

With the changes to the 2009 – 2010 school calendar and closing the schools during the Christmas and February breaks, we reduced energy costs. During the Christmas break alone, we saved \$23,000 in energy costs.

Versa Trans scheduling software maximizes efficiencies of bus routes and helps with fuel savings.

The Student Services and Athletic Departments share transportation with other towns whenever possible.

All-Day Kindergarten has saved \$80,000 in transportation costs.

Toner and ink cartridges are purchased at a volume discount. (\$2,600 saved annually.)

The District competitively shops the Workers Compensation Insurance. (\$46,438 saved annually.)

Bleachers were removed from the small gym at the High School to make room for the increasing size of the climbing wall and moved to the Manchester School cafeteria. (February 2010)

A new student database software program was provided at no charge by the State. It will save us roughly \$15,000 a year over the software previously used. (Summer 2009)

An Internet connection installed at Windham High School expands the bandwidth by 250 percent and quintupled the connection between Manchester School and the rest of the schools. Additionally, the Windham & Raymond schools now have a fiber connection to make the network integrated for efficiency and data sharing. The need for duplicate servers on each end of the District has been eliminated.

The District has consolidated into a single financial system called Advanced Data Systems (ADS) and a single food services program called NutriKids.

Wireless upgrades have been made in Windham Middle School and Jordan Small Middle School. This was a joint effort by the RSU and the State MLTI program. We have also expanded the wireless network at the High School. All of the wireless upgrades have been funded through the MLTI program instead of paying for technology infrastructure upgrades through local taxes.

Ruth's Reusable Resources provides furniture, books, paper, notebooks and other supplies to teachers for a nominal membership fee to the District. Our District saves \$40,000 to \$65,000 every year.

Volunteers provide thousands of hours yearly to enhance our classroom and school programs.

Interns from the University of Southern Maine in Gorham and St. Joseph's College in Standish work with staff and students.

A reciprocal partnership with Bowdoin College is providing the REAL School with free professional training in curriculum development in exchange for our providing a venue for Bowdoin's Education students to observe alternative education and learn from our staff.

Student Services has joined with SAD 52 and Westbrook to access Title III services (\$2,500 saved annually).

Student Services has partnered with the Sebago Educational Alliance to establish a regional day treatment program for students in Grades 6 – 8. This partnership provides high-quality services at a cost that is less than regional tuition programs.

The REAL School campus on Mackworth Island provides an alternative education program for students in Windham and Raymond and surrounding districts. This program is recognized State-wide for its leadership and excellence in meeting students' needs through an alternative setting. (Estimated \$257,150 saved annually in out-of-district tuition costs.)

The Teen Aspirations Program received another year of grant funding through the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group - \$78,000.

With consolidation, there is flexibility of staffing between schools and sharing of expertise.

Special Education and Regular Education Teachers team-teach at JSMS, reducing the need for Ed Techs.

We reduced one bus mechanic for 2009 – 2010.

We reduced the bus fleet by 5 buses – January 2009 – December 2009. (\$50,000)

Stipend positions have been redefined / reduced. The position / stipend for a person to make substitute calls was eliminated.

Late bus runs in Raymond have been reduced to one day only.

We were able to reduce one bus driver position in 2009 - 2010. (\$20,000)

Reduction in bus driver substitutes. (\$30,000)

Eliminated a Transportation Director and Assistant Director and replaced with Coordinators at a reduced cost.

Implemented GPS system to track schedules and idle times.

Through a partnership with the Maine Teachers Association and Concentra Health Insurance Company, RSU employees are involved with a Health Improvement Program which will improve employee health and productivity at work. In addition, it will assist with reducing health care costs.

Adult Education purchased laptops to be shared with the High School, thus increasing options for students in Grades 9 – Adult.

The purchase of Creative Suite 4 (CS4) software by Adult Education has increased course options for students in Grades 9 – Adult.

A State-wide group purchase of PLATO Learning Software through Adult Education and cooperative use with the High School has saved several thousand dollars.

The RSU Board of Directors assisted with planning the new High School Weight Room. The funds for the new Weight Room come from a federal grant. The Board also personally painted the room, saving the cost of hired labor.

We have increased purchasing power and central warehousing, as well as contracted services.

Moodle Server for on-line education shared in all schools.

Stimulus monies and Title monies received funded approximately 600 new computers for grades K – 8. (2009 – 2010 school year)

Communication with parents and the community has improved with the use of ListServes at all schools, along with parent portals so parents have direct access to their student's information. This has saved on paper for the District.

The School Lunch Program is now a member of the York & Cumberland County School Nutrition Cooperative Purchasing Group. Products go out to bid and purchasing power is increased.

All summer programming in Windham held only at the High School and at the Primary School and in Raymond only at Raymond Elementary School. All other schools are closed for the summer, except for the offices.

Go Green for Technology-Dollars to Make Tech Scholars program at the Windham Primary School allowed the school to purchase 3 SMART interactive white boards, 3 portable stands, and 3 LCD projectors for the school.

Manchester School's recycling efforts have reduced their trash by 33%.

Recycling efforts for the 2009 – 2010 school year have saved \$25,000.

Reduction in the schools' electrical capacity use during the summer months by consolidating custodial staff for cleaning, and reducing power to the absolute minimum going forward, will save the District approximately \$60,000 a year.

The Windham Middle School will be using hand dryers in several high-use areas and will save us approximately \$660 for 2010 – 2011.