

May 19, 2022

Dear Washington Central Community,

Washington County's CDC community level remains high which means we will continue to keep our masks on until at least May 26. The Vermont Department of Health has created a new report entitled the *Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report*. The most recent weekly surveillance report, dated May 18, indicates that the statewide community level is high.

Next Wednesday, May 25, is a half day for our students. Teachers and paraeducators will be engaged in work related to our local comprehensive assessment plan, data analysis, continuous improvement planning, and other professional learning. In an effort to build on the work of our Moving Forward/ARP ESSER Plan, I will share an overview of the continuous improvement planning process, key data points, and draft goals related to Safe and Healthy Schools and Academic Achievement with our faculty and staff. I will ask for their feedback. I plan to record the presentation, share it with you all in next week's community letter, and ask for your feedback as well.

Last night members of the Humanity and Justice Coalition and the school board attended a presentation about diversifying the educator workforce led by Alyssa Chen, the coordinator of the Education Justice Coalition of Vermont. The objectives of the presentation included: learning about the experience of educators of color in Vermont through exploring the results of a Vermont based research project; exploring how individuals and organizations can move from defensiveness to vulnerability and from shutting down conflict to working through it; and exploring how schools can sustain educators of color in Vermont. The presentation was informative, thought provoking and timely, and the work of the Humanity and Justice Coalition feels particularly relevant and vital to me this week as we take in the news of the mass shootings in Buffalo and California.

As always, I can be reached at jmillerarsenault@u32.org or 229-0553 if you have any questions or concerns.

Warmly,

Jen Miller-Arsenault

Interim Superintendent