

December 16, 2021

Dear Washington Central Community,

We made it through our first inclement weather call this morning! Whew! Although overall things went smoothly, we have conducted an “after action review” to strengthen the decision making and communication processes going forward. If you did not receive the notice this morning via email and phone, please make sure that your information is updated in Infinite Campus, our student information system.

The Vermont Agency of Education informed us of non-credible, social media-based school threats that alluded to the possibility of school violence taking place tomorrow. These TikTok threats have taken place across the country. **At this time there are no credible threats in Vermont.** The Vermont Intelligence Center and Vermont law enforcement are aware of these non-credible threats and will continue to monitor the situation. I checked in with our principals today about this situation. They report that there was little to no mention or talk among students. **We have received no threats.** I wanted to share this information with you to assuage any concerns that you or your children may have and to let you know that we and our Agency of Education take these types of threats seriously.

Regarding COVID-19, this week we have had 6 cases, all of them at U-32. We hosted a vaccination clinic at Doty Memorial School this past Tuesday. Approximately 30 students attended and received their first or second shot. The vaccination rate among our eligible student population is rising! We will hold another vaccine clinic at Doty on Thursday, January 6, and we are exploring the possibility of holding another clinic in early January at a different elementary school.

Our winter sports season opened last weekend and I am pleased to announce that our spectators were respectful and fully adhered to [our guidelines](#) regarding masks and food. Thank you so much! I know that our students appreciate the in person support.

Last night the leadership team shared the current draft of the proposed 2022-2023 budget with the school board. We are working hard to create a budget that addresses our students’ needs and reflects our community’s values. The school board will host another budget forum on Wednesday, January 12. Stay tuned for more information in early January.

Speaking of the budget, American Recovery Plan ESSER federal funds should be available to our schools in the near future. As you may recall, school districts are required to engage in meaningful consultation with the community regarding the use of

the funds. I would like to extend one more invitation to join me to learn more about our plans for these funds and to provide feedback. All are welcome. Especially welcome are community members who represent the interests of students with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and students from other historically underserved groups. Please consider joining me on Monday, December 20 from 12:00-1:00 [via Zoom](#). You may learn more about our plans for utilizing ESSER funds [here](#).

I had a lot to share this week, and some of it was heavy. As always, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at jmillerarsenault@u32.org or 229-0553.

Warmly,
Jen Miller-Arsenault
Interim Superintendent