

Core Values

EN ROUTE

STUDENTS
Empower. Challenge. Grow.

MAKING TIME FOR SENIOR CHATS

This fall, as a follow-up to one of the recommendations received from the graduating seniors last spring, Superintendent Jose Carrion and Assistant Superintendent Daren Lolkema met with members of the Student Council Executive Boards from both High Schools. These conversations support our Strategic Plan. The Superintendent values the time he has to meet with students to collaborate and gather their insights and feedback on various topics. During the conversation, the students shared their interest in developing "coursework strands" that would align with a course of study for the students. Similar to a magnet school design, the students were suggesting teachers deliver the content through the lens of a specified strand with the skills embedded. (Examples of coursework strands could include, Architecture/Interior Design, Fashion Design, Entertainment Technology, Industrial Design, and Visual Communications/Web Design.)

Students also shared their experience using the tool, Naviance. This software allows students, counselors and parents to identify students' strengths through interest inventories, explore various pathways to college and take virtual tours to learn more about different professions and college majors. Students work with their counselors to set goals and track their progress. Students shared that the tool provides a good starting point to begin the conversation, but more is needed to help students maximize the benefits it has to offer.

The topic of a 9-period day was also discussed. While there would likely be cons to adding an additional period, students felt it would provide them more opportunities and options for coursework. Students shared it can be frustrating when trying to register for a course and not being able to take it because of the scheduling constraints. (e.g. cycle days, courses that only have one section). In addition, to exploring a new schedule, the

students also mentioned their interest in offering after school extra-curricular options that complement the interest of the students.

Students voiced their interest in building community between the high schools. One suggestion was to coordinate common events in an effort to celebrate them jointly, as a district, rather than in isolation. (e.g. Breast Cancer Awareness). Students felt there was strength in completing these types of challenges in tandem and it would build unity between the schools and community.

As the meeting came to a close, the students were appreciative of Superintendent Carrion's time and the opportunity to give students a voice. These meetings will happen quarterly. The next meeting will be held at Roy C. Ketcham.

WATER TESTING RESULTS

As you may be aware, in September of 2016, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to test drinking water in all New York State schools for lead contamination. In compliance with this process, WCSD tested all of its schools. As results were received, letters to all families and staff were sent home, and the full test reports and letters were posted on the District website. If you would like to read more about this legislation, please visit the [web page](#) designed by New York State for this purpose.

All possible potable water sources were

tested for lead. All schools have been retested, and the District has posted the results on the website. All buildings with affected faucets have been shut-off and/or labeled for hand washing only until they can be replaced. This is the first time that New York State has required school districts to test their indoor plumbing. Lead in the water is a real problem. Lead can be found in older homes and even local restaurants. Age of the facility and plumbing are the deciding factors. Lead in our drinking water extends beyond just schools.

*CV.5:
The collaboration needed for meaningful change is built on honesty, trust and respect.*

*CV.3:
Everyone can realize their potential and when they do, both they and the community thrive.*

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Ron Broas, Director of Facilities and Operations, met with Rhinebeck Architects to discuss the most beneficial way to separate the 2016 Capital Project into two phases. This decision assured the District will obtain maximum state aid. Once separated into two phases, the designs of the 2016 Phase 1 projects were completed and were hand delivered to the State Education Facilities Planning Office in mid-November. Mr. Broas has been working with Rhinebeck Architects on the design of the Phase 2 projects.

The main roofing areas at James S. Evans Elementary have been completed. The District-wide carbon monoxide detector project is almost complete. The Roy C. Ketcham press box construction has started. The boring for the new sewer line near John Jay High School started after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Another area of the Capital Project involves is the art rooms. The steel for the outside overhang at the art room exterior entrance has been completed.

The Board of Education approved the proposal from Town of East Fishkill for the hook up to Town sewer. We are still waiting for approval of Town water. The District is mindful that the work being completed by the town, in addition to the colder temperatures, have caused increased damage to the blacktop at John Jay. Once the work is complete, and the plans for the paving approved, the work will begin. In



CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

the meantime, crews are making small repairs as needed.

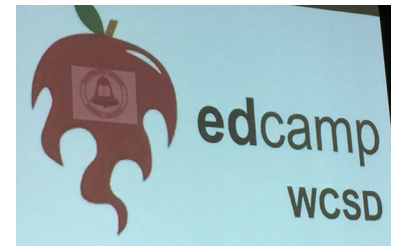
Part of the 2016–2017 budget included improvements to our elementary playgrounds. The new playground equipment arrived and installation began at several of the schools and will continue in the spring when the weather warms up. The new blacktop basketball court at Oak Grove was completed and the resurfacing of James S. Evans Elementary School’s basketball court has also been completed.



ORGANIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EDCAMP WCS D STYLE

Faculty and staff throughout the District participated in professional development aligned to the District goals and objectives. On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, through the EdCamp model, numerous opportunities were available, for teachers and teaching assistants, to learn from colleagues on best



PARENT/COMMUNITY WORKSHOP EVOLVES

In continued support of the Strategic Plan and Core Value #1 (Active and continuous learning is essential for individuals and communities to flourish) the District held its fall Parent/Community Workshop in October. The workshop attendance was low, but those who attend said the workshops were informative and extremely valuable. Parents and community members had the opportunity to attend three different sessions. Session topics ranged from understanding the new diagnostic



MOVING TO TWO-TIER BUS ROUTES What Do You Need to Know?



On Monday, November 7, 2016, the Wappingers CSD Board of Education approved the change in start times of our schools beginning with the 2017–2018 school year. With this change in start times, the District will be able to improve student safety as well as reduce the number of transportation tiers from three to two. In September 2017, our Junior and Senior High Schools will run on the first transportation tier, and our Elementary Schools will all begin at the same time on the second transportation tier. As a result of this change, our Junior and High School students will enter their buildings for the beginning of their school day at 7:25 a.m. and all elementary school students will enter their buildings at 8:25 a.m. The length of our school day will remain the same. The end time for our schools will be adjusted to be the same number of minutes as the morning arrival time. For example, students entering at 8:25 a.m. would dismiss at 3:15 p.m.

CV4: The health and quality of a community are dependent on the responsible contributions of all its members.

The District’s focus to change the start times was to improve student safety. Adjusting the start times reduces the amount of time students will be outside waiting for their bus before daylight. This change will also improve the District’s ability to make weather-related delay and closing decisions, including the possibility of utilizing a three-hour delay when needed. In addition, the District has the potential to realize approximately \$280,000 in cost-savings with this change.

Draft two-tier bus routes were posted on the District website in January and an email alert sent to notify parents that the information was available for review. If you have questions regarding the route, please do not hesitate to email wcsd.transportation@wcsdny.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 6– Superintendent’s Forum: ABC (A Budget Conversation) at Roy C. Ketcham at 5:30 in the Library
- February 16– Chris Herron, Ex–NBA player to speak at AHS on his story of drug abuse & recovery
- February 17– Professional Development Early Release Day
- February 20– President’s Day– No School

practices and instructional strategies resulting in high levels of academic performance.

EdCamp is a non-traditional model of professional development designed specifically to meet the needs of teachers and other education staff members. Unlike traditional conference days in which the agenda and selection of facilitators is organized well in advance by Senior Office Staff members, EdCamp has an agenda that contains the

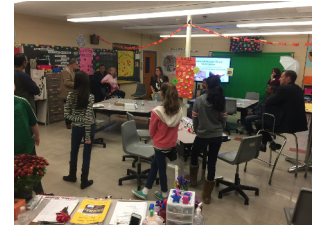
CV2: Embracing diversity in all its forms enriches the human experience.



professional development topics that are generated by the participants. In alignment with the WCS D Strategic Plan, EdCamp provides an opportunity to celebrate and share the talents and resources which exist within our community to foster a culture of collaboration. In addition, EdCamp empowers and motivates our teachers and teaching assistants to learn and share instructional practices that support the District’s Mission and Core Values.

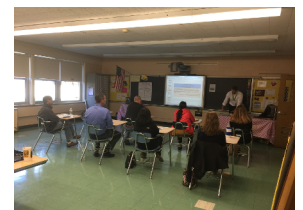
CV1: Active and continuous learning is essential for individuals and communities to flourish.

tool,



iReady, Inquiry–Based Learning, The Not–So–New Math, NYS Graduation Options, Building Equity Through Makerspaces, Instructional Technology Support for Students at Home (Grades K–12), What Does a Level 4 Look Like? and Navigating the District Website. If you were not able to attend, but are interested in reviewing the handouts provided, you can find resources from these sessions on our website.

Seeing the continued low turnout of parents and community members, the District continues to explore alternatives to providing these resources to our families and communities. As a result, the District is moving to a site-based model providing Parent Academies in your child’s home school. Look for details in the coming months.



WHAT IS IN A BRAND? A NEW LOGO for WCSD

The Wappingers Central School District has been speaking to students, staff and community members about our logo. During the 2015-2016 school year, students from John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham High Schools had the opportunity to put the skills they were learning in graphic design to real-world use as they explored what makes a brand successful. Students developed prototypes that were presented to the Core Strategic Planning Team, the Community



Communications Committee and administrators for feedback and revision ideas.

The District's current logo is a bell with the outline of a book. Research was not able to uncover how this logo emerged, but it was adopted over thirty years ago.

A brand needs to be recognizable without explanation. Similar to the Nike swoosh, the District wants members of our current community, as well as those visiting the area or considering moving to our District, to see our logo as recognize it as a symbol representing the inclusiveness our District represents.

We are currently in the final stages of refining the logo design with a local professional graphic designer. Once finalized, the District will present the final logo to the Board of Education. The District will then

begin to update our letterhead, web page and other identifying areas with the symbol of pride.



On December 15, 2016, the Core Planning Team came together to review where the District is in reaching the goals set forth in our strategic plan. Members of the community, WCSD teachers, administrators and Senior Office Staff gathered to here presentations on our progress. Strategies 4 & 5 have remained a focus and the work is "alive." EdCamp, as mentioned in a previous article, is a key component of Strategy 4 speaks to providing opportunities for our staff to collaborate and learn from one another. The District mission statement is displayed and reviewed at the beginning of all meetings to focus our attention on what we believe in as a District. Each building displays our mission statement for those visiting our buildings to read to better understand the work we do every day. Strategy 5 discussed the District's commitment to developing a brand that represents our District. In addition we continue to make refinements to our web page to increase the ease of navigation for those

*C.V.S.
The collaboration needed for meaningful change is built on honesty, trust and respect.*

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Core Planning Team (CPT) met this past November to check-in on our progress toward meeting the objectives of our Strategic Plan. Members of the team consisting of community members, parents, teachers, and administrators gathered to learn more about how we are addressing these goals.

For Strategy 4, the CPT learned about the success of the third EdCamp the District held in the fall. EdCamps focus on the talent within our District and provide educators time to suggest topics for discussion with their colleagues. This type of home-grown professional development allows professionals to engage in discourse, reflect on their practices share successes and receive support in areas of expertise from their colleagues. The Human Resources Department shared an improvement to the District's antiquated application system. The Human Resources has provided an online application component will streamline the process and provide the District to recruit the most qualified candidates for the position.

For Strategy 5, the District updated the CPT on how we are working to re-brand the District. One aspect of re-branding involves the development of a logo that represents the beliefs shared in our Mission statement. Working through drafts created by our high schools students, vetting the logos with various District committees, we are near a final decision. The final logo will be shared with the Board of Education and rolled out to the community in the coming weeks.

The District established a Community Communications Committee (CCC) comprised of community volunteers and District administration. This committee met in November to share other District Communications Plans. Time was given for members of the committee to share ideas for improving communication in the District. The goal of the CCC will be to develop a communication plan to present to the Board of Education.

Another part of Strategy 5 focuses on the development of community partnerships. To learn more about the work the District is doing to forge these partnerships, read the Building Community: Developing a Partnership with GLOBALFOUNDRIES article to the left.

BUILDING COMMUNITY: DEVELOPING A PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOBALFOUNDRIES

In the Spring of 2016, District administration was invited to attend a planning event with other area school districts including Arlington, Spackenkill and Dutchess Community College to design what a meaningful partnership with GLOBALFOUNDRIES would look like. That June, GlobalFoundries extended an invitation to area school district to attend the National Manufacturing Day (MFG Day) at GLOBALFOUNDRIES in September of 2016. Arlington sent approximately eighty students. Spackenkill brought about twenty, Wappingers was thrilled to have approximately 200 students from both John Jay HS, Roy C. Ketcham and Brinckerhoff's 6th grade. Students participated in various design challenges. These can be reviewed on our website. Feedback was provided from students who were invited to share about the experience with the Board of Education in November. This feedback led to additional conversation between GLOBALFOUNDRIES and our teachers to honor the requests of students to be paired with a mentor in the field of engineering and have the opportunity to tour the cleanroom. We are pleased to share that both of these requests are being honored. Students from John Jay, Roy C. Ketcham and Orchard View AHS have had the opportunity to listening to a panel of engineers share about their diverse backgrounds, the paths they took in college and how they chose their current position at GLOBALFOUNDRIES. Students then engaged in four "speed mentoring" rounds in which groups of 2-3 students rotated to a different engineer to ask them questions about their field of engineering. Students then returned to GLOBALFOUNDRIES in small groups to be paired with a mentor in the field of engineering they selected and tour the Fab10 cleanroom. Students will then engage in monthly Google Hangouts to continue the conversation with their mentor.



Continuing Education Offerings
Available on our website by going to the red Global icon bar and clicking on Continuing Education. [Click here](#) to review the offerings.

As we look forward to hearing from the mentors and the students how this process informed them as they prepare to transition to college, we are currently planning opportunities for our 8th grade students to meet with a panel of engineers and other professionals from GLOBALFOUNDRIES to help them as they begin course selection in the high school.