

Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District

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Middle School Task Force Update November 21, 2014

The HWRSD Middle School Task Force had another productive meeting on Thursday, November 20. The meeting had two focal points. First, Assistant Superintendent Tim Connor, Wilbraham Middle School Principal Noel Pixley and Thornton Burgess Principal Pete Dufresne led the group in a discussion of the "Middle School Model" with an emphasis on how exemplary practices relating to teaming, common planning time and a strong related arts program can meet the academic and social/emotional needs of adolescents. Next, the Task Force was provided with an "educational snapshot" of TWB and WMS. Mr. Dufresne and Mr. Pixley reviewed their schools' educational programs and described staffing and scheduling arrangements. All in all, it was a productive two hour meeting. The 15-person group asked great questions, exchanged great ideas and expanded their understanding of TWB and WMS. At this stage, before any recommendations are made, the Committee is building its knowledge base. So far, the Task Force has toured each facility, reviewed the buildings' capital needs, familiarized themselves with the characteristics of an exemplary middle school and learned about the current educational programs provided at TWB and WMS. In future meetings, before any recommendations are made to the HWRSD School Committee, the Task Force will review operational costs and enrollment patterns. Information, meeting agendas and meeting minutes are regularly posted to

http://www.hwrzd.org/pages/Hampden-Wilbraham_RSD/District_Info/Middle_School_Task_Force