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## Bombogenesis... an update! WPS 2-1-26

Bombogenesis...an update!

February 1, 2026

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Approx Reading Time: 2 minutes and 50 seconds

I learned a new word last week while reading Terry Eliassen's Westford Weather Forecast. Even though I have grown up here and lived through nine of the now recorded top ten storms in the Boston area, I had never before seen the word "bombogenesis". Now that I know how powerful a storm that can be, I am glad to know that the updated forecast indicates it is going further offshore, minimizing the impact for us around here.

So, thankfully, tomorrow's Groundhog Day weather is not to be a repeat of last Monday.

As we continue to build discussion around the development of our next Strategic District Improvement Plan (SDIP), we are going to hold this month's Community Coffee event again during an evening timeframe to provide additional opportunities for folks to participate. The event that took place in January led to some really interesting conversations and we look forward to doing something like that again. We shared an initial survey with the participants with the plan of pushing it out to the wider community following that evening. The initial feedback regarding the survey platform was great but most participants expressed the need to provide more context and background information or develop a broader range of questions if shared with a larger audience. Themes emerging from the survey conducted that evening included:

- **Mental Health and Wellness:** Participants overwhelmingly supported the prioritization of mental health and wellness for students and staff, recognizing its critical importance in the current educational climate. There was a call for more support staff and resources to address mental health needs, with suggestions for integrating social-emotional learning and wellness practices into the curriculum. The perception was that while strides have been made, there is still significant work to be done to fully support the mental health of the school community.
- **Equitable Learning Environments:** Ensuring equitable learning environments was a key focus, with participants advocating for a reassessment of organizational structures to better support all students. There was a strong desire for smaller class sizes and more inclusive practices, with some participants expressing concerns about the current staffing levels and the impact on

learning. The perception was that while the district has made progress, there is a need for continued efforts to ensure equity and inclusivity.

- **Technology and Education:** The role of technology in education was a contentious topic, with some participants advocating for reduced technology use in favor of more traditional learning methods. Concerns were raised about the over-reliance on technology, particularly in elementary schools, and the need to focus on critical thinking and resilience. The perception was mixed, with some seeing technology as a valuable tool, while others worry about its impact on learning and development.
- **Curriculum and Learning Objectives:** Participants expressed a desire for curriculum changes that emphasize critical thinking, resilience, and real-world skills. There was a call for more hands-on learning experiences, such as field trips and community service projects, to enhance student engagement. The perception was that the current curriculum needs to evolve to better prepare students for future challenges, with a focus on both academic rigor and life skills.

We would love to hear from more people and have plans to create another survey to gather feedback from the wider community soon. Until then, If you are available and would like to engage in old-fashioned face to face conversation, please join us in Room 13 in the Millenium building on **Monday, February 9th at 6:00 pm**. We will focus that conversation around initiatives we should be considering to help guide the district through to FY30. We will wrap up the discussion in time for the School Committee meeting which is scheduled for 7:00 that evening. Again, ROUTES Roasters won't be open at that time, unfortunately, so feel free to bring your own coffee, cocoa or hot cider to sip and enjoy while we consider what the future of WPS can look like.

Cheers!

Chris

Christopher Chew

Superintendent of Schools

Westford

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