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There are many ways in which our students help each other. I am regularly inspired when I get the opportunity to visit any of our wonderful schools and see the students collaborating with each other. Encouraging each other to persevere through challenges as well as celebrating successes for and with each other. In addition to the way in which peers help each other, I am always proud to hear how our older students go above and beyond to support our youngest learners. Recently, Mandarin students at Westford Academy took on the real world challenge of translating read-aloud books from the Kindergarten curriculum at the Miller School to help support some of the students that have enrolled with limited English. This allows the students to still be part of the whole group read-alouds in English but they put a QR code inside the book where the student can scan it with their iPad and listen to the translated version to help their understanding and vocabulary. The project exceeded expectations and will benefit other students for years to come.

On top of that, the WA Robotics club is starting to use their skills to assist students in the medically fragile COMPASS classroom. Students supported in this program access a lot of switch adapted toys. The staff at Miller had been doing their best with the soldering tool, however, the Robotics club, will now be assisting them. According to Miller Principal Melissa Boylan, "They are much faster and more efficient (and enjoy it)."

With the recent help from voters at the Annual Town Meeting, funding for the Robinson School Feasibility Study was approved. The Robinson School Building Committee (RSBC) will now be able to proceed in preparing for that process. The actual study will most likely be taking place in the fall of next year with opportunities for community engagement. Throughout the summer the RSBC will be working to establish the Project Team which will include selecting an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and Design Firm both of which will need to be approved by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). We will continue to provide regular updates throughout this process in order to keep everyone informed as well as posting all of the supporting information on the [RSBC website](#).

Looking for additional ways to help? At the moment, registering early for bus passes for next year would be a tremendous help as we prepare for the new School Start times this fall. This past week's WPS Billboard included information regarding Bus Registration for next school year. The window is now open to register. During the meetings that took place this year about the new School Start times, questions frequently arose regarding the impact on the bus schedules. We are urging everyone to register early this year so that the bus company has as much information as possible to finalize the routes and schedules; the goal is to be able to communicate them to everyone earlier than in the past.

As we continue in Year 2 of our Strategic District Improvement Plan (SDIP), the progress update along with the Action Plan for Year 3 has been shared with the School Committee. The current SDIP was developed to help guide WPS from 2023-2026 and next year will include steps to develop the next plan for 2027-2030. The SDIP informs the work that we are doing collaboratively as a district and the development of all of our individual School Improvement Plans (SIP). Each building principal will be presenting the FY26 SIPs to the School Committee in May.

I considered titling this update, "With a little help from my friends" but I thought it would be too long; so, instead, I will float that familiar refrain here and let you choose whether it's the Joe Cocker cover or the Beatles original recording you hear stuck in your ear.

Cheers!

Chris

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Superintendent

Westford Public Schools

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