

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Frequently Asked Questions Concerning the Consolidation of West Vine/West Broad Street Schools</b></p>
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**Q: What does the WV/WB leadership consolidation entail?**

**A:** This consolidation begins with the establishment of West Vine/West Broad as one K-4 school, rather than as two discrete organizations. A leadership team consisting of a 1.0 principal, a .5 elementary program facilitator, and lead teachers will oversee both campuses.

**Q: What is the motivation for this consolidation?**

**A:** There is no doubt that the budget precipitated the discussion of consolidation several years ago. The WV/WB leadership consolidation is part of a larger administrative reorganization which strives to provide greater administrative coverage district-wide, while allowing the Board to realize some financial savings. The reduction of 2.0 Central Office administrators, in combination with the reassignment of West Vine's principal to the Director of Special Services position, will allow for the middle schools to receive a shared Dean of Students who will address student management concerns; all elementary schools to receive a shared program facilitator, and for lead teachers to be assigned to WV/WB. The change to the leadership configuration of WV/WB will allow the schools to maintain a safe and effective learning environment, while keeping the impact of financial cuts as far removed from the children in classrooms as possible.

**Q: Beyond budget, what benefits might be associated with such consolidation?**

- Consistent leadership practice, K-4
- Increased curricular and instructional alignment, K-4
- Smoother student transition, 2-3
- Administrative relationships with children and families, K-4
- Consistent expectations for students, K-4
- One school, One Community
- Increased opportunities for staff collaboration
- Increased potential for looping, 2-3

**Q: What are the drawbacks?**

- The loss of current structure
- A sense of discomfort on the part of families and staff
- The principal will not be on each campus all day, and transition time between schools will be necessary
- Unease resulting from a potential change of routines

**Q: Does the consolidation put student and staff safety at risk?**

**A:** No. In order to provide the necessary coverage in this consolidated model, the WV/WB campuses will have an administrator, or specially trained lead teacher assigned throughout the day. Lead teachers will be called to respond to emergency situations, and will remain “in charge” only for the period of time it takes for an administrator to arrive on site. Members of the Central Office administrative staff will provide an additional layer of oversight, as calendars permit. Calendars of coverage will be made available to the community.

**Q: Who will be in charge of the schools?**

**A:** The principal will continue to be the administrative leader for the consolidated school and will remain the primary contact for parents.

**Q: What role will the Elementary Programming Facilitator play?**

**A:** The programming facilitator will be a certified administrator and will take direction from the principal. This individual may work to facilitate issues related to building management, instructional oversight and program refinement, and has the administrative authority to handle all issues in the principal’s absence.

**Q: What is a “Lead Teacher”?**

**A:** A Lead Teacher is a member of the school staff who may be called upon to take control of a building during a crisis. This person will receive specialized training from the principal and Superintendent of Schools, and is compensated through a stipend. A Lead Teacher will oversee emergency situations until such time that an administrator arrives on the scene.

**Q: Who do I contact if I have an issue or concern?**

**A:** Parents should continue to contact the school as they have in the past. Classroom teachers, support staff, and others including the principal will continue to address parent questions, as always.

**Q: Will all members of the leadership team share a consistent philosophy in terms of student discipline?**

**A:** Yes! This will be a priority. The principal and programming facilitator will have occasion to see children for issues related to behavior. They will both use the “It’s Up to Me” program and philosophy that has become an integral part of our elementary culture. Both individuals may contact parents as a result of meeting with children. The Lead Teacher will not be involved with student management.

**Q: What does this consolidation mean for my child?**

**A:** All children in Stonington will have a K-4 school experience. Children will know that they have the same principal, K-4, and elementary teachers on two campuses who all work together. The administrative reorganization will also give children the opportunity to become acquainted with a new part time administrator who helps to run their schools.

**Q: What does this consolidation mean for my family?**

**A:** Families will feel part of one K-4 school. We will be able to have one SBIT and one PTO for the consolidated WV/WB Elementary School. Parents will develop a long-term relationship with the principal and have the added benefit of a program facilitator who helps to run the school. The Lead Teacher will provide parents with additional piece of mind, knowing that there is someone on-site and trained to deal with emergencies for the few minutes it might take for an administrator to arrive on site.

Families with children who are involved in the PPT, 504 or SAT process can expect to develop a relationship with one administrator who will oversee their child’s case.

**Q: What is the cost savings associated with this consolidation?**

**A:** The total savings associated with the DISTRICT administrative reorganization is \$20,461, which calculated using the following dollar amounts:

Reduction of 2.0 Central Office administrators	(\$200,611) savings
Consolidation of WVSS/WBSS Principal position	(\$109,061) savings
WVSS Principal to Special Services	\$109,211
Elementary Program Facilitator Pawcatuck/Mystic	\$ 87,000
Lead Teachers at WVSS/WBSS	\$ 6,000
1.0 Shared Dean of Students at PMS/MMS	<u>\$ 87,000</u>
	(\$20,461) savings

It is critical to keep in mind that this reorganization reduces one principal, but provides the system with more administrative building coverage than currently exists.

**Q: Is this the sign of one of these schools closing?**

**A:** Having one elementary school building in Pawcatuck would be wonderful. The district's K-12 Building Committee has tentative plans, but is waiting for the economy to improve before moving forward with them.

**Q: How will the administrative structure be different from that at Deans Mill?**

**A:** Deans Mill will have a similar administrative structure, minus the Lead Teacher.

***Do you have additional questions? Please send them to Leanne Masterjoseph via email at [lmasterjoseph@stoningtonschools.org](mailto:lmasterjoseph@stoningtonschools.org) or call 860.572.0506, ext 2.***

***We will host opportunities for parents to meet with the Superintendent, Board of Education Members and Terry Jordan in the coming weeks. We hope you will choose to attend one of these meetings. Details to come....***