



WORCESTER CENTRAL SCHOOL

198 Main St., Worcester, NY 12197
Phone (607) 397-8785 • Fax (607) 397-9454
www.worcestercs.org

December 19, 2019

Good afternoon,

I wanted to share the most recent and exciting news. This afternoon we received word that the joint application between Worcester Central School and Schenevus Central School for the merger feasibility study has been approved. The next step for Worcester is to have our Board of Education pass a resolution to move forward with the study.

The merger study process typically takes 1-2 years and relies on your input. Should we decide to move forward, each district will be inviting community members to serve on advisory committees to guide us during the merger study. The committees will be charged with specific tasks of fact finding and making recommendations. This information will help each Board of Education and community determine if whether merging the two districts would be beneficial or not.

In the meantime, Schenevus' situation has changed, and they have an immediate need for tuitioning out their 7-12 grade students. This week the Schenevus Board of Education passed a resolution to enter tuition conversations with us for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. As a result, in the coming months there will be extensive research to see if receiving tuitioned students from Schenevus in September will be feasible. Our team will consider things like academic programs, staffing, the utilization of resources and space, and many other elements.

While the focus of this research will be to determine the capacity of receiving tuitioned students from Schenevus, at the forefront of those considerations will be to preserve all the things that make Worcester the great place it is today. Therefore, we will only enter a tuition situation if it makes sense to do so for all students and staff.

Why would we accept tuition students? Receiving tuitioned students brings the greater possibility of both academic and financial opportunities for the Worcester Central School District as well as Schenevus.

Is Worcester having financial issues? No, we have remained fiscally responsible and maintain a very healthy fund balance. Worcester has made tremendous effort to learn from other districts. As a result, we have made financial decisions to ensure that Worcester is financially sound. However, even though we remain conservative in expenses any increase in revenue helps ensure a sound and enhanced academic future for our students.

As more information becomes available, we will be sure to share it with the great Worcester Community. If you should have any questions, I am happy to assist. I can be reached by email at tgonzales@worcestercs.org or by phone at 607-397-8785.

In closing, if we pursue a merger study or merger we will be counting on you to join in this process and help us reach the best decision not only for our students, but for the entire communities we serve.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Gonzales". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tim Gonzales
Superintendent