



# Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

May 1, 2004

To the Residents of the Wachusett Regional School District:

The Superintendent dedicates the Annual Report and FY05 Budget Appropriation to the memory of long-time principal, Louis Giantris, whose death saddened the Wachusett community. Principal Giantris' fourteen years of dedicated and committed service to the students of this District in the Princeton and Paxton communities was exemplary. His relationship with staff, including his principal colleagues, was always intelligent, supportive, and creative. He has been sorely missed.

In Memoriam

The Superintendent is pleased to report that, despite staff and instructional support budget reductions, staff and students continue to focus on learning, as the information contained in this report affirms and reflects the benefits of a highly trained, capable and committed staff. Section II, *District Student Achievement/Assessment*, provides the support data on the successful student performance on MCAS English/Language Arts and Mathematics and the Massachusetts Department of Education 2003 Mid-Cycle Annual Yearly Progress along with Metropolitan Achievement Tests, SAT and Advanced Placement results.



1937-2003

Section III, *A Glimpse of Our School*, shares a summary of the excitement that accompanies the learning process in each of our schools. The highlight of the non-academic year was the accomplishment of the Wachusett Regional High School athletic program culminating in a Super Bowl victory, for the first time in its fifty-year history. In addition, the music program at the high school continues to achieve the highest standards, now having been joined in partnership with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Our art students continue to win State competitions and our theater productions are second to none.

The high school renovation/addition project is finally underway, with ground clearing in preparation for school closing, when the main addition will begin to rise from the north parking lot. The District has recently learned that the State is planning on paying off its share of the cost of the project (estimated at 66.8%) which will reduce the overall cost of the project to the Member Towns by over \$8 million. Plans are well underway for the construction of the new Rutland elementary school, which should begin construction some time in the summer.

Financially, this was a trying year for the District. The District's budget was the last in the Commonwealth to be approved, December 2003. Staff was dramatically reduced, which resulted in programmatic changes at the elementary schools in art, music, and physical education, and at the high school due to reduction in staffing. For students who reside a mile and one-half of their schools, a "pay-to-ride" program was instituted. Athletic fees were increased at the high school and added at the middle schools. Instructional support, which includes textbooks and supplies, was reduced substantially.

You are invited to review the District's website, [www.wrsd.net](http://www.wrsd.net), which contains the Annual Report and FY05 Budget Appropriation, along with School Committee information, school data, curriculum information for parents, and other pertinent information which may be of use to you.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred D. Tutela, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools