

Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District
Office of the Superintendent

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Ralph Hicks, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Sherry Kersey
Business Administrator

January 28, 2015

Superintendent David Hastings
P.O. Box 339
Sheffield, MA 01257

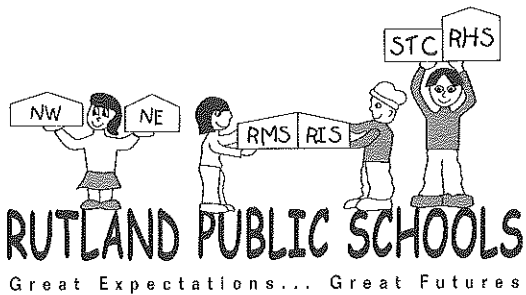
Dear Superintendent Hastings:

As per your request, I am writing regarding our use of a Veissmann pellet boiler. Our new John R. Briggs Elementary School which opened in August of 2013 is heated primarily with a Veissmann Pyrot 540 pellet boiler with a propane boiler used for a backup. The new building is slightly more than twice the size of the building it replaced, yet first year heating costs were almost identical. In addition, there is the priceless reduction of more than twice the greenhouse gas pollutants which helps to improve local air quality.

We had no problem supplying the silo with pellets and no complaints have been registered regarding pellet deliveries. Our own custodial staff has been trained, and they perform the routine 600 hour maintenance on the boiler. We are so pleased with our pellet boiler's performance that we recently applied for and were awarded a MDOER Grant to convert our middle school from heating with oil to pellets. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Hicks, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools



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Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
Robert S. Bliss, Assistant Superintendent
Peter P. Amons, Chief Financial Officer
Eloise S. McGarry, Director of Support Services
Patricia W. Aigner, Director of Technology

January 30, 2015

Mr. David Hastings, Superintendent
Southern Berkshire Regional School District
PO Box 339
491 Berkshire School Road
Sheffield, MA 01257

Dear Mr. Hastings:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you information about Rutland City Public Schools' new wood pellet burning boilers installed in our six school buildings here. We are in the middle of the first heating season with them. You may know that wood pellet burning boilers have been used in Europe for years and in New England wood pellet boilers have pretty much replaced wood chip boilers for new installations because the fuel is easier to handle and more climate temperature controllable.

We are very pleased with their performance. We have only used the existing oil system at our high school for peak heating during a few of the coldest days of the year. Our wood pellet systems were sized to provide most of the heating capacity needed except for peak heating. Being in a small city we were concerned there might be a smoke odor but the vendor, Johnson Controls, claimed to us that the pellet boilers put less particulate into the air than the oil burners and we do not notice any new odors.

The mechanics of the total system work well. Pellet delivery trucks arrive less often than oil trucks as there are bulk storage hoppers outside each school that automatically feed the system. Electronic controls handle all of the operations. We have a three year, fixed price contract for the supply of pellets to assure ourselves of both price and supply. At this instant we are not saving money because the price of oil for us at \$1.75 per gallon is lower than the breakeven equivalent BTU cost of pellets of \$1.94 per gallon. We all agree the low price of oil is great but we don't assume it will last.

Maintenance of the system is straightforward. Ashes, useful for school gardens, are emptied as needed and that is variable depending on burning rate and types of pellets. The system is cleaned and checked similar to the oil system initially by Froelick, the manufacturer of the units. No new staff were hired or are expected to be hired as a result of the new systems.

Received

FEB 10 2015


Northeast Primary School Northwest Primary School Rutland Intermediate School
Rutland High School Rutland Middle School Stafford Technical Center

Administration

Our new systems were accompanied by new controls which staff are still learning and by improved HVAC systems as well. As a result, hot and cold spots in buildings are being eliminated and classrooms have fresher air. In addition, because wood pellets save so much money over the long term compared to \$3.50 oil (assumed in the original analysis) some of the savings freed up were applied to non-energy capital expenditures that otherwise would have to be paid through the annual budget.

Overall, we are very pleased with the systems.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E. Moran". The signature is written in black ink and includes a horizontal line at the end.

Mary E. Moran, Superintendent