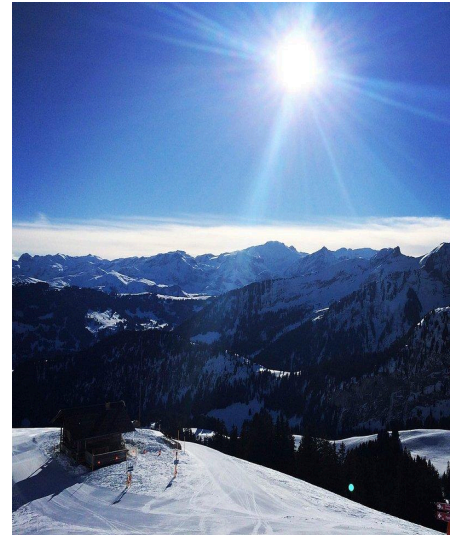


**Superintendent Report to the School Boards  
School Administrative Unit 7  
February 1, 2024**



**School Budget Information**

Community feedback concerning school budgets is sought via public hearings in each of our school communities.

**School District Public Budget Hearings Schedule:**

- January 29: Clarksville School District: 5:00 pm, Clarksville Town Hall
- January 29: Pittsburg School District 6:00 pm, Bremer Pond Auditorium
- February 5: Stewartstown School District 6:00 pm, Emily Haynes Community Room
- February 6: Columbia School District 5:00 pm, Town Offices
- February 6: Colebrook School District 6:00 pm, Cafeteria

Once the feedback is received, school board members vote on their respective budgets which are presented to the voters at our annual district meetings in March per the following schedule:

**School District Annual Meetings Schedule:**

- March 5: Colebrook School District: 6:00 pm Gymnasium
- March 7: Pittsburg 6:00 pm Bremer Pond Auditorium
- March 11: Stewartstown School District: 6:00 pm - Emily Haynes Community Room
- March 12: Clarksville School District 6:00 pm - Town Hall
- March 12: Columbia School District 7:15 pm - Town Hall

**Budget Changes Anticipated in 2024-25**

Our boards work diligently to meet student needs. The proposed budgets fulfill the districts' obligations to local bargaining unit contracts, local guidelines and policy, and state and federal mandates. Additionally, the budgets respond to the learning and social/emotional needs of students most impacted by the pandemic, while advancing forward thinking plans, and accommodating student needs. The work of honoring our budget “drivers” (i.e. those expected

necessary and consequential costs in the budget such as, health insurance costs, salary increases, etc.), and advancing our budget “assumptions” (i.e. programs, efforts, initiatives that strategically advance the work of the school system) are evidenced in our proposed budgets. Inflationary increases affect the cost of operations and our health insurance rates have increased 25% over the prior year. I believe that this year's budget proposals balance the needs of our students and staff with the challenges facing residents.

### **School Board Update**

We held a Board Policy Committee meeting on January 11. Board Member Orientation and Employee Conduct policies were recommended and are now being considered for adoption by the school boards.

We are drafting our school calendar for the coming school year. The calendar will be adopted by the SAU 7 Board at their next meeting on Thursday, April 11. As in the past, we developed our calendar in consultation area school districts and the statewide recommended calendar.

### **Curriculum and Instruction Update**

Our teachers will engage in professional development which continues our focus on curriculum development and instructional improvement during the early release day on Friday, February 9. In keeping with our efforts outlined in the SAU 7 School Board Strategic Plan, we are focusing on implementing competency based education, personalizing teaching and learning, expanding CTE and work study and extended learning opportunities for our students. In short, we need multiple pathways for a common destination.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra Taylor, PhD.

Superintendent