

Superintendent Report to the School Boards

April 2022

Welcome Board Members!

Newly* elected and re-elected board members!

- o **Erin Blanchard – Clarksville**
- o **Heather Mitchell – Clarksville**
- o **Nathan Lebel -- Colebrook**
- o **Robert Murphy*– Colebrook**
- o **Tim Stevens* – Colebrook**
- o **Tanya Young – Colebrook**
- o **Stacey Campbell – Columbia**
- o **Jamie Gray – Pittsburg**
- o **Lindsey Gray – Pittsburg**
- o **Philip Pariseau – Stewartstown**
- o **Courtney Sierad *- Stewartstown**

Thank you to our departing board members for their leadership and service!

- o **Brian LaPerle, Colebrook**
- o **Michael Pearson – Colebrook**
- o **Christina Brochu – Stewartstown**

School Year End Plans

We are planning in-person graduation ceremonies at all of our schools this spring. While we will be following all health and safety protocols, we are looking forward to celebrating with our students and families. The following dates have been finalized:

Colebrook HS Graduation: Thursday, June 9th at 6:00 pm.

Pittsburg HS Graduation: Friday, June 10th at 6:00 pm.

Stewartstown Eighth Grade Graduation: Wednesday, June 14th at 5:00 pm.

Mark your calendars!



North Point CTE Center Update

We have successfully completed the required documentation concerning program requirements for the North Point CTE Center as required by the Commissioner of Education. The one remaining requirement is the letter of support from the Canaan School District. We will keep you posted.

Educational and Academic Outcomes

Our schools continue to monitor our student's progress in reading and mathematics through local assessments. In addition, we are preparing to administer NH SAS assessments this Spring. Once the strengths and challenges of student needs are identified, professional development, resources, and coaching support will be planned and implemented.

We are fortunate to have been able to provide in-person instruction for the entire school year. In addition, our teachers have participated in numerous professional development sessions throughout the year to support our students. These have included: social-emotional learning, student engagement, health and safety, ViewBoard training, collaborative and interactive skills, outdoor education, formative assessment, personalized learning, competency education, and more!

This summer we have several professional development events planned for our teachers and support staff. Our regional curriculum committee includes teachers and administrators from all schools. This team has provided direction and guidance as we plan our professional development with an eye toward school improvement. What follows is a list of development opportunities and a brief description. All of these events will be funded through our grants.

1. Crisis Prevention and Intervention Response - June 16-17 (proposed)

At times the behavior of our students is out of the ordinary and requires a more structured and collaborative response. Crisis Intervention training is perfect for educators who directly intervene in crisis situations, teaching staff de-escalation techniques as well as restrictive and nonrestrictive interventions. With more than 40 years of evidence-based de-escalation and crisis prevention training, CPI programs are the gold standard for schools.

2. CPR Training - June 16-17 (proposed)

This basic course in safety is required of all administrators, teachers, and paras in SAU 7.

3. Reading Series - June 16-17 (proposed)

Our teachers and administrators selected new reading series for grades K-8. Training will be provided and materials distributed during this in-service session.

4. Education Design Institute - June 20-23

Over 60 educators will participate in this interactive session. This session, led by award-winning facilitators, Brain Stack and Jon Vander Els of Sanborn, NH., will continue the work underway and assist instructors in our schools in deepening learning practices to improve education. We are excited to continue on this pathway in the region where we have a strong mission: to move our schools forward through meaningful educational change and provide pathways to success in college, career, and life for all students. For more information about this education design work, please see this [LINK](#).

5. Self Paced Curriculum Work - July 1- August 31

Teachers who participate in this endeavor will apply their learnings to the development of curriculum units in their respective schools and classrooms. We will continue to encourage collaborative work, provide structure for the curriculum development process, guide the work with feedback and expect a high-quality product that will be shared across the region.

6. Solving Student Behavior Problems August 8 (paras), August 9-10 (teachers)

This workshop will provide the general education teacher with a concrete way to change a student's disruptive behavior in their classroom. The steps are practical, research-based, classroom-friendly, trauma-sensitive strategies that any educator can use. Emphasis is on improving a specific student's disruptive classroom behavior and building a relationship with them. This will be an interactive, lively workshop. Participants will learn how to use the following 5 Steps to improve the behavior of a student who is disruptive in their classroom: Step 1: Identify a specific behavior you want to change; Step 2: Figure out what is motivating the behavior (using a quick assessment to see what needs are being met). Step 3: Plan how you will react to the behavior the next time. Step 4: Use a logical consequence. Step 5: Reduce and eliminate the behavior over time by teaching the student a better way to meet their needs.

7. Responsive Classroom - Advanced - August 15-18

A Responsive Classroom is a student-centered, social and emotional learning approach to teaching and discipline. It consists of a set of research, and evidence-based practices designed to create safe, joyful, and engaging classrooms and school communities for both students and teachers.



8. Mentor Teacher Training August 23, 2022

This session will prepare mentors for their support role for new teachers and those new to the school district. Mentoring improves teacher retention and effectiveness.

8. New Teacher Orientation - August 24, 2022.

This session will provide new teachers with a system and school-based orientation.

9. Administrative Professional Development Days - August 25 and 26, 2022

We will kick off the 2022-23 school year with a welcome full SAU meeting and then continue with in-service sessions in our schools. The fun begins!

SAU 7 Strategic Plan and Portrait of a Graduate

At the April 7 SAU 7 School Board meeting, (Pittsburg at 6:00 pm) we will also report on our progress toward the strategic plan and portrait of a graduate work that our school staff and students have been engaging in to help us visualize the future. We are excited about our growth and progress!

Be well and take good care, everyone!

Debra Taylor, PhD

SAU 7 Superintendent



SAU 7 SPRING SCHOOL BOARD MEETING COVID 19 REPORT: TIME OF OPTIMISM April 7, 2022

As the prevalence of COVID-19 continues to decline, other illnesses such as Influenza, RSV, and Strep are on the rise in the community. Traditionally basic mitigation measures, such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, vaccination, and staying home when sick remain ever-important, even as incidences of COVID-19 remain low.

Statewide and community data can be viewed in detail at <https://www.covid19.nh.gov/>. While the interactive dashboards are largely no longer maintained by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), various resources and general data remain available. The most recent data, referencing the 7-day statistical average from March 22-March 28, 2022, reveals a 5% increase in cases (126 cases/day average) in NH. There were 76 new positive cases announced on March 28.

Year to date (August 30- March 29, 2022) and current (as of March 29, 2022) active positive COVID-19 cases per School District are as follows:

- Colebrook Academy & Elementary School YTD 129, Active 0
- Stewartstown Community School YTD 26, Active 0
- Pittsburg School YTD 23, Active 1

As evidenced by the above data, it has been an incredibly challenging fall and winter for our community; especially for our healthcare partners who bore primary witness to the gradual growth in local COVID-19 cases from the Delta variant, closely followed by the rapid onslaught of Omicron just weeks later. We remain grateful for the partnerships we strengthened with our dedicated local healthcare organizations to provide exceptional care to our students and staff during this unprecedented time.

Testing to rule out COVID-19 infection in the presence of illness is still required by the NH DHHS for school attendance. Free COVID-19 test kits are available to order for a second time (8 total per household) from USPS. A second round of free home tests can be ordered by visiting: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>. In the presence of other illnesses, routine return to school policies remain in effect.

As national and local community data begin to suggest stable, lowered COVID trends, we will continue to monitor the pandemic and adjust our responses accordingly in SAU #7. With the warm glow of spring and summer approaching, we hold hope for the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic to begin: a time of recovery and healing.