



**SAU 7
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

10-1-23

HVAC Project Planning Continues

We have set aside ESSER III funds in each school district to improve heating and ventilation systems. Engineering studies have been completed and bids will be prepared and distributed later this fall in preparation for summer 2024 construction. This work is progressing and on target.

Budget Process

This month, we will initiate the budget process. The school budget involves many different individuals and entities across several levels. At the local/district level, budget discussions and work will involve school administrators, school boards, school employees and community members. Budgeting is the process of using information to allocate finite resources to prioritize organizational needs. In school districts, budgeting requires using information about school staff, students, and facilities to meet student learning needs and goals.

School districts must work within their capacity to produce budgets that support the needs of their students and community. Common problems district leaders face are typically related to budgeting around the following areas: targeting achievement gaps; alignment of resources to support learning improvement agendas; prioritizing learning-focused leadership; and, developing the human capital of the school or district.

Continuing to strive to better serve our communities, I continue to expand my knowledge of essential aspects of the budget development process, evolving state adequacy aid and facility management and improvement.

Teachers submit requests to principals by the end of October. Principals draft their initial budget. The SAU and School Administrators will finalize their draft budget proposals in November. The SAU Board will review and approve the SAU 7 budget in November and the SAU 7 Public Hearing will be held in December. District budgets will be approved by their respective School Boards in January and District Public Hearings will be held in February. Our school communities vote on the school budget and other articles at their annual school meetings in March, 2024.

Adequacy Aid

Four of our five school districts received additional adequacy aid from the NH DOE that was allocated by the legislature this year. This year, the school boards will retain some funds and have an option to return some to taxpayers or hold a special meeting to apportion the funds for a specific purpose. The amounts are as follows:

District	23-24 Adequacy Aid Increase	Amount that will be an additional appropriation on the FY 24 Budget	Total Amount to be used to offset tax rate
Clarksville	\$793.00		\$793.00
Colebrook	\$79,468.00		\$79,468.00
Columbia	\$13,028.00		\$13,028.00
Stewartstown	\$85,614.00	\$83,422.00	\$2,191.79

Retention Funds Report

Along with additional adequacy aid, four of our five districts have received permission from the voters to retain additional surplus through retention funds. The maximum amount available to districts is calculated by the Department of Revenue and dependent upon additional surplus available in each school district. These funds can be used to offset unanticipated expenses or be returned to the taxpayers at the end of the conclusion of the 23-24 school year.

District	22-23 Total Surplus	Amount Retained (Maximum Allowable)	<u>Decreases</u> in tax rate compared to tax estimate at annual school meeting
Clarksville	\$171,604.00	\$32,366.00	- \$1.39
Colebrook	\$796,486.00	\$122,681.00	- \$1.77
Columbia	\$225,627.00	does not retain	- \$1.50
Pittsburg	\$367,367.00	\$55,508.00	- \$.22
Stewartstown	\$217,233.00	\$91,523.00	- \$.17

Leadership

The Superintendent visits schools and classrooms at least weekly and the leadership team meets monthly for a half day to address progress toward the strategic plan and a variety of instructional and school operations issues. Most recently our leadership team met and discussed plans for open house, parent conferences, professional learning communities, and staffing shortages. This month we are working with School and Central office administrators on budget development.

Fall Back to School Report

Since my September Report, we have filled two additional teaching positions. Please join me in welcoming Molly Boire, Special Education Teacher in Colebrook and Brianna Cass, Mathematics Teacher in Pittsburg.

Thanks to Nick Hurley, Colebrook Mathematics Teacher, for providing online synchronous instruction to Pittsburg students during the first month of school in Algebra I and Geometry and to our teacher colleagues and administrators who made this possible for our students. Teamwork!

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Jenn Mathieu, our Curriculum Director has initiated Professional Learning Community meetings this fall to support teachers as they collaboratively work to refine competency based instruction and assessment. Teachers are working together on rubric development and implementing part 1 of grading with competencies. Parent forums are being planned for November.

On October 6, teachers will be at Colebrook for the administration inservice day. Teachers will train other teachers and work in their Professional Learning Committees on Competency Based Education. Having a whole day together to collaborate and work together on projects, and CBE work is so important for our students and each other.

Information Technology

Kudos to Shane Cloutier, IT Director and Chris Paquette, IT Technician for a great start to the school year. Equipment was ready, chromebooks were distributed, licenses were combined and our new student information system - ALMA - was installed - all before the start of the school year. Wonderful work!

Colebrook Building Project Update

The Building Committee membership was expanded to include four new members last month. The committee met on September 21 and has planned a two pronged strategy - Community Engagement and Fundraising.

Board Updates

The SAU Policy committee will meet on October 18 at 5:00 pm in Stewartstown School. The next SAU 7 Board Meeting will be held on November 9 at 6:00 pm in Clarksville.

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather!

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Taylor, Ph.D.
Superintendent