



*Superintendent Report
to the School Boards
School Administrative Unit 7
January 1, 2022*

Superintendent’s New Year Message

As we return to school from a well-deserved Winter Break for our students and many of our staff, I wanted to personally reach out to wish everyone a Happy New Year. The new year is a time to reflect on the past year, commit to our goals for the remainder of the school year.

At the start of the 2022 New Year, let us remember to be patient and understanding as our schools continue to respond to the COVID -19 pandemic, update our curriculum, enhance instruction and assessment for students and support the social-emotional needs of staff and students. As you begin the new year, begin it with kindness and gratitude. Offer support to those who are struggling around you. Together, we are stronger. Happy New Year!

School Budget Information

School budget development is well underway in our communities. The SAU 7 budget was approved by the school board at the Board hearing on December 8. Much time was devoted to budget preparation and discussion with each school board. School district budgets have been presented to school boards and will be finalized later this month. We are scheduling public hearings and annual school meetings in February and March.

Community school budget information sharing will ensue after budgets are approved. This year, I have invited our principals to provide a school update during the Annual Meetings. We are also in the process of preparing school district publications of our Annual Reports.

School Board Elections

Ten of our twenty-one collective school board positions are up for election this spring. Below is our list of open positions and terms:

Town	Position	Future Term
Clarksville	One School Board Member	2 Year Term - Expires 2024
	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2025

Colebrook	One School Board Member	2 Year Term – Expires 2024
	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2025
	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2025
	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2025
Columbia	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2025
Pittsburg	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2025
	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2025
Stewartstown	One School Board Member	2 Year Term - Expires 2024
	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2025

The following board members' terms will expire in March 2022:

Heather Mitchell, Clarksville
 Erin Blanchard, Clarksville
 Brian LaPerle, Colebrook
 Nathan Lebel, Colebrook
 Michael Pearson, Colebrook
 Tanya Young, Colebrook
 Stacey Campbell, Columbia
 Jamie Gray, Pittsburg
 Lindsey Gray, Pittsburg
 Philip Pariseau, Stewartstown
 Christina Brochu, Stewartstown

Filings begin on January 19, 2022. January 28, 2022 is the last day for candidates to file a declaration to appear on the ballot as school board candidates for Town Meeting. Filing declarations are available at each Town Clerk's office, with the exception of Stewartstown. The declarations can be filed for Stewartstown with Patricia Grover, School District Clerk, at 10 White Birch Drive, Stewartstown.

The following statement will be included in our school newsletters:

Join the School Board!

YOU have an opportunity to make a difference in our schools and in our community. You do not have to be a teacher, a parent, or an expert to join a school board. All you need is an open mind, goodwill, and an interest in supporting the education and development of our children and students, who are the most important resource any community has.

If you have the desire to make a positive impact on the lives of the next generation, visit your Town Clerk's office between January 20 and 29 and complete the required paperwork. That will place your name on the Town Meeting Day ballot as a candidate for the School Board. If you have any questions, please contact Superintendent Dr. Debra Taylor (dtaylor@sau7.org) or your school board chair. (School board information is located on the SAU 7 website (www.sau7.org))

School Board Fall Review

We held Board Policy Committee meetings in November and December. Each board will review procurement policies for subsequent adoption by our school boards.

During the November SAU 7 School Board meeting, The board endorsed the updated [SAU 7 Strategic Plan](#). Our mission is to “prepare every SAU # 7 student for success in whatever path they choose. Our Vision continues, “We believe in a future where our entire school community - in commitment to the success of every student - will leverage the power of collaborative relationships to advance our education system and will serve as vital and supportive advocates for educational equity and opportunity.”

Goal 1: All students reach maximum potential.

- a. Continue school improvement
- b. Broaden student voice
- c. Expand vocational offerings

Goal 2: Employ, retain, support a highly effective staff.

- a. Strengthen recruitment, retention of staff
- b. Challenge all learners
- c. Experiences are engaging and motivating

Goal 3: Establish community relationships and partnerships

- a. Collaborate with community partners to expand vocational course offerings
- b. Provide more school to work
- c. Increase parent involvement
- d. Expand communication with the community

The additional adequacy aid from the legislature provided an opportunity for school boards to request permission from the voting citizens to allocate the additional funds to invest in school projects. Stewartstown Community School received approval to allocate \$84,270.00 to complete buildings and grounds projects. Colebrook received approval to implement a building expendable trust fund and allocate the additional adequacy funds of \$255,628.00 for the purpose of building expansion, including architectural and engineering services for a new addition.

As stated in the newly revised SAU 7 strategic plan, the need for more career and technical education in our region will be sought this year. The Colebrook School Board is seeking designation as a Career Technical Education Center and planning to implement 6 new CTE programs. An application is being submitted and we anticipate a response from the Commissioner of Education in January 2022. Many organizations and businesses have agreed to partner with us in this endeavor.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Taylor

Debra Taylor, Ph.D.

Superintendent



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Debra J. Taylor, Ph.D.
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January 1, 2022

Dear SAU 7 School Community,

Let me begin by wishing you a very **Happy New Year** filled with many successes and continued progress! A new year means a new chapter. I hope that 2022 is an incredible part of your story.

I trust that you had a wonderful winter break spending time with family and friends and getting some well-deserved rest. I am excited to welcome you back as we continue our work for the second half of the year to ensure that student growth and learning continues.

As we welcome 2022, I want to offer my sincerest gratitude to our educators, staff members, and families. Your ability to elevate the importance of learning while balancing the safety and social-emotional needs of our students has not gone unnoticed. The challenges of the last several weeks have tested our resolve. However, our school community's resilience has been nothing short of amazing. I am extremely proud of your hard work, compassion, and determination.

Our students have been asked to do things differently, this difference created new learning pathways and prepared our students for a bright future. It is my belief that the academic acquisition gaps that may have occurred during this time will be recovered quite quickly. Young people are resilient and will overcome this challenge.

I love the new year and the opportunity that January provides each of us to take some time and reflect on our lives and recommit to making changes and being better versions of ourselves. As the Superintendent of SAU 7 I am committed to continuous improvement and to always work on being the best version of myself. Thank you for allowing me to serve as Superintendent. I continue to tell everyone across New Hampshire and beyond that I have the best job in the state.

As we return from a well-deserved winter break, continue to support one another. Your kindness, guidance, and encouragement have created an invaluable foundation upon which our students continue to thrive and grow.

Thank you for your commitment to making sure that ALL students are provided with all of the tools, resources, opportunities, and choices to support their individual paths to be successful – something our communities have come to expect. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

On behalf of the School Board, and our entire leadership team, we wish you a happy new year and a year. Please have a safe and relaxing New Year and we look forward to continuing the learning and growing in January 2022.

Happy New Year!

Yours in Education,

Debra Taylor

Debra Taylor, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Connect via Email: dtaylor@sau7.org

Visit Our Website: www.sau7.org

Follow Us on Twitter: @SAU7Super



“Enter this new year with gratitude for this new chance to create your dreams.”

—by Avina Celeste