

**SAU # 7**  
**Superintendent Report**  
**December, 2023**



## **WELCOME TO WINTER!**

Our landscapes become sculpted with snow and ice in winter! What a beautiful sight! I would like to review the process we use to determine if school delays, early releases or closures are required due to inclement weather. This information on our website: [School Cancellation Procedure](#).

## **SAU 7 BOARD UPDATE**

Our SAU 7 School Board will hold its next meeting on December 14th at 5:00 pm in the Colebrook School Library. Our SAU 7 Strategic Plan update was presented to the Board in November. Each school provided detailed information concerning how we are progressing toward the SAU 7 plan. The Board approved policies as recommended by the Board Policy Committee.

## **BUDGET DEVELOPMENT**

This month, we are preparing school budgets for presentation to the school boards. We have received our Adequacy Aid estimates for 24-25. We have received preliminary notice of the health premium increase, not to exceed 25%. All boards will review preliminary budgets in early December and provide feedback and direction to the administration. We have completed our schedule of public hearings and town meetings for each school board.

## **IMPORTANT COURT DECISION**

On November 20, a NH Superior Court (Rockingham County) ruled that the current school funding amount of **base adequacy aid** (\$4,100 per student) is unconstitutional because it does not reflect the true cost of obligation imposed on local school districts by the state. The court opined that the true cost of an adequate education is \$7,356.01 per pupil per year, and, according to the court, “likely much higher than that.” The Superior Court also found that the

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Statewide Education Property Tax (**SWEPT**), challenged in the “Rand” case, is unconstitutional. Additional information will be shared when available.

Court **Documents**:

- 11.20.2023 - **ConVal** Decision - click [here](#)
- 11.20.2023 - **Rand** Decision - click [here](#)

**Notable Upcoming School Events:**

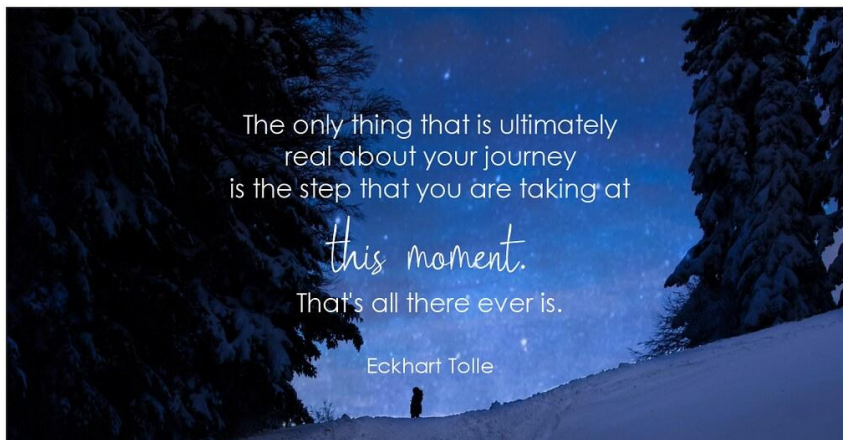
*Winter Holiday Concerts:*

Colebrook: December 14 at 6:00 pm

Pittsburg: December 13 at 5:30 pm

Stewartstown: December 18: 5:30 pm

As you prepare to celebrate the beauty and wonder of the upcoming holiday season, I want to wish you all a peaceful, joy-filled and rejuvenating time with family and friends. I continue to be so grateful for our school community members and the strong relationships we have built together. Thank you again for your collaboration, compassion and dedication to the wellbeing of our students, staff and families.



Be well and take good care.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Taylor, PhD.  
Superintendent