



*Superintendent Report to the  
School Boards*

*School Administrative Unit 7*

*January 1, 2023*

**Superintendent's New Year Message**

Let me begin by wishing you a very *Happy New Year* filled with many successes and continued progress! At School Administrative Unit # 7 (SAU 7) we place great value on our students' continued *success* and academic *progress* as they move through their learning journey.

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.

The new year stands before us, like a book, waiting to be written. Today is the first blank page of the 365-page book. Write a good one. As you begin your journey into 2023, take this advice from Helen Keller to heart: *Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.*

As we approach the midpoint of the school year, it is our responsibility to ensure that our students are academically strong and that our instructional and support teams remain energized. We have made strides this year. At the elementary level, our students are engaged in their learning and developing foundational knowledge academically, musically, and artistically in our competency aligned curricula. Growth has been evident in English, Math, World Languages, Art, Music, Social Studies, Sciences and College credit courses.

This year, across the SAU we are offering 51 college credits in our high schools. What an accomplishment and great opportunity for our students! We have been energized by the new North Point Career and Technical Education Center where students throughout SAU and the surrounding region thrive as they participate in the new programs - Automotive Technology, Education, Health Sciences, Information Technology, and Culinary and Hospitality. Our students continue to grow as our staff capably support our students. Together our great students, families and staff are working together to reach the milestones necessary for a bright future.

After three years of enactment, we have taken stock in our SAU 7 Strategic Plan. With our SAU 7 Board squarely behind our efforts, the plan implementation was extended through 2025 in order to ensure that our instructional program remains strong, and that student achievement is at the forefront. To this end, we will refine and expand our professional learning experiences, resources, and support for all staff, for we know that through transformative adult learning, we elevate student learning.

Finally, student and staff safety continue to be a top priority for us. We have implemented part time School Safety Officers at each of our schools through grant funds. Our officers have been instrumental in addressing security concerns, providing training to staff, and interacting with students. During this time of national school security concerns, we are thankful for the presence and ongoing support of the school safety officers as well as our partnership with local, state and border security personnel.

Thank you for your commitment to making sure that ALL students at SAU 7 are provided with all the tools, resources, opportunities and choices to support their individual paths to be successful – something our communities have come to expect. Be well and take good care. Happy New Year, 2023!

**School District Budget Information**

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

Community school budget information sharing will ensue after proposed budgets are approved by our school boards. We are also in the process of preparing school district publications of our Annual School Reports. We have finalized our schedule of public hearings and annual school meetings in February and March. Here is the final list for your information:

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Clarksville</b>	<b>Columbia</b>	<b>Colebrook</b>	<b>Pittsburg</b>	<b>Stewartstown</b>
<b>Public Hearing</b>	February 13, 2023	February 8, 2023	February 7, 2023	February 13, 2023	February 6, 2023
<b>Annual School Meeting</b>	March 14, 2023	March 14, 2023	March 7, 2023	March 9, 2023	March 6, 2023

## School Board Elections

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

<b>Town</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Future Term</b>
Clarksville	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2026
Colebrook	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2026
	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2026
Columbia	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2026
	One School Board Member (Appointed)	1 Year Term - Expires 2024
Pittsburg	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2026
Stewartstown	One School Board Member	3 Year Term - Expires 2026

The following board members' terms will expire in March 2023:

Michael Dionne, Clarksville  
John Falconer, Colebrook  
Craig Hamelin, Colebrook  
Carrie Klebe, Columbia  
Kristen Brooks, Columbia (Appointed in 2022)  
Toby Owen, Pittsburg  
Betsy Gray, Stewartstown

Filings begin on January 25th and end on February 2nd, 2023. Filing declarations are available at each Town Clerk's office, except for Stewartstown. The declarations can be filed in Stewartstown with Patricia Grover, School District Clerk, 10 White Birch Drive, Stewartstown.

The following announcement 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, good will, 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 25<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 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](mailto:dtaylor@sau7.org)) or your school board chair. (School board information is located on the SAU 7 website ([www.sau7.org](http://www.sau7.org)))*

***“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year’s Day.”***

***By: Edith Lovejoy Pierce***

**The following message will be sent to school staff and parents on January 1, 2023.**



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603-237-5571 / 603-237-4961 / fax: 603-237-5126

**Debra J. Taylor, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
[dtaylor@sau7.org](mailto:dtaylor@sau7.org)

January 1, 2023

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 2023 will be 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 2023, 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 few years 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. I am honored to serve as your 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 leadership team, we wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to continuing to support our students as they learn and grow in 2023.

Happy New Year!

Yours in Education,

*Debra Taylor*

Debra Taylor, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Connect via Email: [dtaylor@sau7.org](mailto:dtaylor@sau7.org)

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