

## **Superintendent Report - March, 2021**

**Dr. Debra Taylor, Superintendent  
School Administrative Unit # 7**

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### **COVID Update**

Our COVID -19 protocols have contributed greatly to the low number of COVID -19 positive cases that are school related. Thanks to the School Board support and hard work of our school faculty and staff we have been able to remain open for full time in person instruction since January 4. During February break we encouraged our school staff and community to enjoy the great outdoors and avoid unnecessary travel to mitigate spread of the virus.

On Thursday, February 18, we held a vaccine town hall for all SAU 7 staff which was co-sponsored by UCVH and led by Dr. Tom Cochran. The session was well attended and we received positive feedback from our staff as they learned about current research concerning the pandemic, health effects, safety protocols as well as research on the vaccine. We understand that the vaccines for educators will be available at the start of Phase 2 and we intend to work with UCVH to facilitate administration of the vaccine to staff who choose to take it. The timeline is uncertain at this time - due to supply issues.

### **Annual School Budget Communication and Meetings**

Public hearings were held in person during the month of February. Participation was predictably low. The school boards continued to review information materials in preparation for annual school meetings.

Here is our updated list of annual school budget meetings.

March 2: Colebrook School District: 7:00 pm Gymnasium

March 4: Pittsburg School District: 6:00 pm Gymnasium

March: 8: Stewartstown School District: 6:00 pm Multipurpose Room

March 9: Clarksville School District 6:00 pm - Town Hall

March 17: Columbia School District 6:00 pm - Colebrook Cafeteria

Annual reports are complete and printed copies are being distributed. We have implemented health and safety protocols at each annual meeting site including required mask wearing, social distancing and sanitization.

### **Legislative Update**

As you know, we have received notification of a second CARES Act allocation from the federal government known as ESSER II. This bill provides additional aid for COVID- 19 related expenses in schools such as testing, vaccine distribution and COVID mitigation programs. We anticipate the application for these materials to be provided by the DOE in March.

ESSER III legislation is currently under consideration in Congress. It is expected to be voted on in mid-March. Following ESSER II processes, there are some additions including allocation of funds for summer and extended day programs to address learning loss and ensure interventions for social and emotional needs. Federal E-rate funding is also slated to be increased to address connectivity including Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, devices that combine a modem and router, and connected devices.

### **Professional Development**

On March 18 and 19 we will continue professional development around our regional curriculum work. New research in teaching indicates that personalized learning tailored to competency based education both in classrooms and via targeted interventions results in student growth. As school has interrupted and affected delivery of instruction, we are turning our attention to maximizing teaching quality now and in the coming school years.

## **Connecticut River Collaborative Planning Committee**

The committee will meet in the second week of March and receive a report from RHR which links each proposed model to a financial analysis. The website has been updated to provide a more realistic timeframe.

### **COVID Leave**

Additional COVID leave has been approved by the Colebrook School Board. This leave option will be proposed to the Pittsburg and Stewartstown Boards this month. CARES act funds are available to reimburse the additional costs.

Stay Well!

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Taylor, Ph.D.  
Superintendent