

**Superintendent Report to the School Boards
School Administrative Unit 7
February 1, 2021**



Schools Continue in Person as Semester Concludes

Our focus continues to be on health and safety as well as to provide high-quality instruction for our students. We continue to meet weekly with our regional COVID 19 Task Force to review area data and collaborative efforts to address cases, communication, and future vaccination distribution. As of January 26 citizens 65 and older or anyone with two or more comorbid conditions, is eligible for the COVID 19 vaccine. I continue to advocate for earlier availability of the vaccine for PK-12 educators. We have learned that once vaccinated, individuals are not required to quarantine after travel or after exposure to individuals with COVID 19. Vaccinations for teachers will contribute to our ability to maintain in-person instruction. We continue to recruit substitute teachers and appreciate any referrals.

We believe that partnering with our community will mitigate the spread of the virus. We are continuing to monitor active cases and staffing levels to maintain in-person instruction. If you have any questions, please contact me or Nurse and SAU Health Coordinator Devon Phillips (dphillips@sau7.org).

School Budget Information

Community feedback concerning school budgets will be sought via public hearings in each of our school communities.

School District Public Budget Hearings Schedule:

February 1: Stewartstown Community School District 6:00 pm

Pittsburg School District 7:15 pm

February 2: Colebrook School District: 6:00 pm

February 3: Columbia School District 6:00 pm Town Hall

February 10: Clarksville School District 6:00 pm Town Hall

School District Annual Meetings Schedule:

March 2: Colebrook School District: 6:00 pm Gymnasium

March 4: Pittsburg 6:00 pm Gymnasium

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

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

Columbia School District 7:15 pm - Town Hall (tentative)

Comparison - Appropriation Budget Proposals

District	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Budget	Proposed 2021-22 Budget	Variance (current to proposed)	Percentage Increase
Clarksville	\$518,423.	\$486,188.	\$632,817.	\$146,629.	23.14%
Colebrook	\$6,835,950.	\$6,909,825.	\$7,156,292.	\$246,467.	3.5%
Columbia	\$1,580,380.	\$1,465,459.	\$1,390,937.	(\$74,522.)	(5%)
Pittsburg	\$3,080,040.	\$3,263,108.	\$3,322,450.	\$59,342.	1.8%
Stewartstown	\$2,624,904.	\$2,759,031.	\$2,749,849.	(\$9,162,000.)	(.0033%)

State Revenue Decrease Anticipated in 2021-22

The anticipated loss of revenue from one time free and reduced differential and fiscal capacity disparity aid in 2021-22, combined with the reduced average daily membership (ADM) due to COVID 19 aid will result in a reduction in revenue for the coming year. This will have the effect of disproportionately increasing school tax rates. There are some legislative proposals that aim to address this revenue shortfall, however, bills will not likely be passed until later in the spring, after our school district annual meetings.

School Board Update

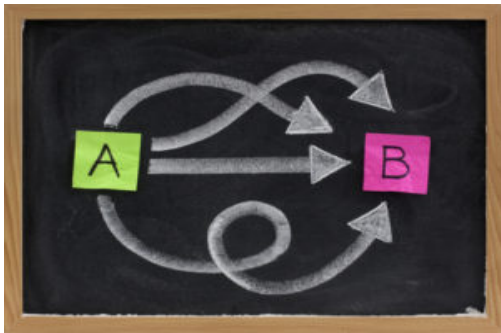
We held a Board Policy Committee meeting on January 14. Several policies have been recommended by our committee and will be brought to the school boards in February.

We are drafting our school calendar for the coming school year. The calendar will be shared with our school boards at individual board meetings in February and will be subsequently adopted by the SAU 7 Board in April. As in the past, we develop our calendar in consultation with Canaan due to our shared collaborative students and the CTE schedule. Our new semester begins on February 1. Another new beginning for our high school students!

Our teachers will engage in professional development which continues our focus on curriculum development and instructional improvement during the early release day on Wednesday, February 3. In keeping with our efforts outlined in the "Reimagining Education," we are focusing on personalizing education, implementing competency-based education, align our

instruction to state assessments, expand work-study, and extended learning opportunities for our students. In short, we need multiple pathways for a common destination.

We need a clear vision for where students and teachers need to go to advance student-centered and personalized competency-based education. This vision is built from decades of experience in classrooms and schools, a deep understanding of the practice, and constant conversation with education leaders.



Personalized professional learning at the individual teacher and district level is key. This means learning is not bounded, but rather expansive. We need to create a system that leverages both individual motivation and interest while creating an interconnected system that helps scale those interests broadly.

Change at any time is often challenging. We have begun our work but must have deep empathy for the lived realities of leaders and classroom educators, particularly during the pandemic. This is coupled with an awareness of contextual constraints and political forces at play. It also allows the staff to know when the right time is to move, position an ask or push change.

Teacher- and student-centeredness – Our approach is to place teacher and student needs and perspectives first. Under the leadership of our 20 educator regional Curriculum Team, we aim to actively bring in teachers to deliver and design key professional learning and encourage teachers to vet materials with their students. Teacher leaders have been instrumental in both translating the work and championing it.