



**Superintendent’s Report**

**June, 2021**

**Reflections on the School Year**

It's hard to believe that the 20-21 school year is drawing to a close. It has been, and remains, one of the most daunting years that we have ever seen in education. We have collectively faced many challenges, but have also responded to them in an amazing way. We have so much to be proud of. I have grown as a leader through the year - working with you through all of the ups and downs and have found the position to be challenging, interesting, and different every day. Above all, I have appreciated the support I have received from everyone in our schools and communities.

**Seniors**

Plans for high school graduation are underway. Students are very excited and looking forward to the next steps in their college and career. This year two philanthropic foundations of the NH Charitable Foundation are offering every member of that class of 2021 an early graduation gift: a free class at any of New Hampshire’s seven community colleges in the fall!

## **Commencement Plans**

Congratulations to our students who have received academic honors this year:

### *Valedictorians*

Colebrook - Allison Herres

Pittsburg - Ashley Bolton

### *Salutatorians*

Colebrook - Co-Salutatorians - Jordan Brooks and Bryn Pearson

Pittsburg - Brittany Hicks

### *Graduation Schedule - Reminder:*

Colebrook HS Graduation: Thursday, June 10th at 6:00 pm.

Pittsburg HS Graduation: Saturday, June 12 at 10:00 am.

Stewartstown Eighth Grade Graduation: Wednesday, June 16 at 5:00 pm.

## **Teacher Spotlight**

Congratulations to Tammy Jeralds of Pittsburg School on her selection as runner-up for the 2021 Louise Tillotson Teaching Fellowship. This award was established to honor and celebrate North Country teachers in public education. The selection committee awards fellowships based on the candidates' commitment to public education, breadth of experience, demonstration of innovation in education, creativity in solving problems, communication skills, and ability to inspire educators and students.

As a finalist, Tammy prepared a portfolio and participated in interviews last week. She was informed of her runner-up status and encouraged to apply again in the coming year. Tammy will be awarded \$2500. in recognition of her contributions for improvements in her classroom/educational program. Tammy serves as our Family and Consumer Science and Health Teacher and Assistant Principal.

## **Grant Work**

Our school boards have approved our plans to engage an engineer to recommend improvements to our HVAC system. These expenditures will be covered through our ESSER II grants.

At a recent grant meeting, our leadership team prioritized school improvement strategies and plans for summer and fall 2021 which will be funded through ESSER grants. These plans include professional development for student behavior support, CPI social-emotional training, and teacher and leadership support. We are also exploring reinstatement of afterschool and enrichment programs for students, credit recovery programs for high school students, mentoring programs for new teachers and paraeducators, outdoor fitness stations for students, and more! We will provide further updates as our examinations of additional needs and school improvement needs evolve.

### **Staff Appreciation**

Our staff has expressed their thanks for the school board gifts for staff appreciation week. Each staff member was provided with a tote bag, notebook, and water bottle.

We cannot thank our school staff enough for their hard work during this challenging year. We have weathered the COVID - 19 pandemic well and are all looking forward to returning to “normal” in the fall.

### **Connecticut River Collaborative Committee**

The Connecticut River Collaborative Committee met on Monday, May 17. It was agreed that the full committee will suspend meetings this summer and will reconvene in September. Following a review of the committee ranking survey, the majority of voting members selected a regional HS and CTE in Canaan and PK-8 schools in the local elementary schools. Two subcommittees will convene over the summer. One will review the financial analysis and attorney feedback on the articles of agreement and the second will develop a marketing/communication plan to inform the community of the success of our current collaborative efforts.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Debra Taylor, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

*“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”*

*—John Dewey*