



## **SAU 7 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**10-1-20**

**Dr. Debra Taylor,  
Superintendent**

### **Budget Process**

Leadership team has initiated budget preparations this week. The school budget involves many different individuals and entities across several levels of government. At the local/district level, budget discussions and work will involve school administrators, school boards, school employees and community members. Budgeting is the process of using information to allocate finite resources to prioritize organizational needs. In school districts, budgeting requires using information about school staff, students, and facilities to meet student learning needs and goals.

School districts must work within their capacity to produce budgets that support the needs of their students and community. Common problems district leaders face are typically related to budgeting around the following areas: targeting achievement gaps; alignment of resources to support learning improvement agendas; prioritizing learning-focused leadership; and, developing the human capital of the school or district. Many education finance researchers agree the following practices should guide resource allocation decisions: +Decentralize spending authority to schools, in keeping with good managerial practice and school-based accountability for student learning; +Calculate school budgets based on individual students and their educational needs; and +Develop strong information systems and use them to support planning, monitoring, and evaluation of resource use.

Teachers will submit requests to principals by the end of October. Principals will draft their initial budget. The SAU and School Administrators will finalize their draft budget proposals in November. The SAU Board will review and approve the SAU 7 budget on November 12 and the SAU 7 Public Hearing will be held on December 10. District budgets will be approved by their respective School Boards in January and District Public Hearings will be held in February.

### **School Funding**

The NH School Funding Fairness Project (NHSFFP) is planning to host a set of regional public forums in early October. The forums will seek to foster a greater understanding of the way in which public schools are funded in New Hampshire, as well as a dialogue among concerned citizens and their prospective elected officials on this vitally important topic. Each forum will be held remotely via Zoom Webinar and will take place in the evening from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Register in advance via the Events page of the NHSFFP website:  
[www.fairfundingnh.org/events](http://www.fairfundingnh.org/events).

## **Leadership**

The leadership team continues to meet weekly to address a variety school operations and planning issues. Most recently we discussed updated pandemic procedures, website development, professional development, curriculum, instruction and assessment plans. Next week we will begin to work with School and Central office administrators on budget development.

## **Fall Back to School Report**

Teachers and administrators are growing accustomed to the new routines. As of today, There are no new cases of COVID 19 in the district or region. Additional donations of masks have been received from the Kiwanis Club and the State of New Hampshire. However, some other items are on backorder with significant delays due to COVID 19. Hand Hygiene, Social Distancing, Face Covering and Environmental Decontamination continue to be the primary focus of our school staff. Our school nursing team is working with administrators and NH Public Health. Recommendations for Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in K-12 Schools in the event of a positive case in the school community can be found here:  
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-response-k12.pdf>

## **SAU 7 Website**

The new website for SAU 7 will be live by mid October. Features of the new website include many student photos, a new SAU 7 logo, accessible policy and board meeting information.

## **Local and State Assessments**

This fall the SAS interim assessments for Math and ELA are required for all 4th thru 8th-grade students. These assessments will be administered in October. Our teachers are also administering reading and math local assessments to our students this fall. Using the results from these assessments will help educators determine how much review will be needed and what their students are ready to learn.

## **Fall Sports**

Vermont cleared schools to start fall sports. Our first joint soccer team match was held on Saturday. Additional games are scheduled this week.

## **Teacher Professional Development**

Teachers will participate in professional development during the early release on Oct 8 and a full day inservice on Oct. 9. Topics include suicide prevention, curriculum and technology tools.

## **Board Updates**

The SAU Policy committee will meet on October 15 at 6:00 pm at SAU 7.

The next meeting of the CRCC was held on Thursday, October 1 at 6:00 pm. The new website is now live: [connecticutrivervalley.org](http://connecticutrivervalley.org).

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather!