



School Union 69
Office of the Superintendent
Hope, Appleton & Lincolville

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Superintendent's Report for: January 2025

Hope School Committee

Superintendent's Goals:

- Collaborate with Business Manager to implement new procedures and reporting structures throughout the three districts to facilitate more accurate and timely communication.
- Collaborate with Director of Student Services to ensure that all students and staff in the three districts are provided appropriate training and services.
- Build the leadership capacity of the new Director of Student Services and new Principal of Appleton Village School.
- Prepare for transition to new Superintendent in 2025.

Ongoing Superintendent Professional Development:

- Ongoing: Midcoast Superintendents
- Breaking Bold: MSSA Professional Development Series with Weston Kieshcnick. December through February.
- Winter Convocation: January 16 and 17 in Portland

General Information:

Maine Paid Family Leave Act: Premiums for the Maine Paid Family Leave Act have begun to be collected at a rate of .05% from staff wages, .05% from the district. Employees can begin to access these benefits in May of 2026.

From the DOE: Nominations are now open for State and County Teachers of the Year. Follow this link to nominate a teacher you would like to nominate:

www.maintoy.org/nominate Nominations close on January 31, 2025.

Superintendent Search: Members of the Lincolville Community are invited to participate in the search for a new superintendent, (see notice that went out last week). The Search Committee will participate in a mandatory training on the evening of January 13th and the application process closes on January 17th. Maine School Management will vet the applicants and help the Search Committee set up interviews throughout the month of February.

Cyberbreach: we got word this week that there was unauthorized access to school data through Powerschool. Powerschool has taken steps to tighten up security and is assessing the impact of the breach. We do not anticipate specific information until on or after January 17. Notice did go out to the school communities and a claim as filed with our insurer. We will keep you informed as we learn more.

School Construction Task Force: As you may or may not be aware, the Governor has created a task force to look at our current practices in school construction and recommend changes. This task force includes three superintendents from across the state as well as some DOE representatives. I participated in an opportunity to hear what the task force is doing, listen to the stories and ideas of others in the state as well as share some of my own thoughts. Maine's current system is slow to help districts, approving major projects in a little over 1 school a year. In addition, Maine's system is a loan and debt system, which causes towns to incur astronomical interest payments, depending on the original loan (one Superintendent quoted \$37 million dollars over the course of the loan). The task force is talking with experts and consultants in the field, comparing practices across all 50 states and looking at the condition of schools across the state. Recommendations (short term and long term) will be presented to the Education Committee in March.

Finance:

During the month of December, we were unable to nail down next steps with Brewer and Brewer about next steps for the '23 audit. Just a reminder, the auditors have had our materials since the summer and in the fall we received a list of questions and items that needed to be addressed. Since then, we have addressed the items we could, but we have also been trying to set up a meeting with the auditors to answer questions or discuss some of the questions they posed. Vacations, holidays and illness reduced our access to the auditors. Our next step, besides continuing to attempt to reach out, is to travel to Bath in the coming weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate