



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

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Superintendent's Report for: December, 2021

Hope School Committee

District Goals:

- a. improving communication as well as family and community involvement in school board meetings.
Action steps:
 - i. Get links on the town website
 - ii. Research ways to increase access to school board meetings
- b. Ensure that the Board is seeking opportunities to better understand equity, diversity and inclusion at HES.
 - i. Cultural Competency Institute updates from Ms. Fagonde and Kate Clark
 - ii. Update on staff training on LGBTQ from Out Maine
- c. Facilities and capital improvements
Action steps:
 - I. Examine and plan for diverse needs for space
 - ii. plan and budget for multi year facility improvements
- d. Researching ways to maintain a healthy indoor environment for learning
 - i. Collect empirical data on indoor environmental factors
 - ii. Have the facilities subcommittee look at a protocol and possible ways of measuring environmental factors.

The focus this month has been on facilities, the Board is putting together a list of items that need to be repaired or replaced and the Board Chair, Superintendent and Principal will meet with the Selectboard in early January to discuss a bond to be used to cover the cost of repairs and upkeep.

Ongoing Superintendent Professional Development:

- Ongoing: Midcoast Superintendents; Commissioner's briefing; CCI

Classroom visits:

Classroom visits will resume after the winter break, I will be visiting grades 3-5, starting in Hope.

Budget/Finance:

This year's audit is a single audit due to the amount of federal funds the district received last year. A single audit is more complicated than an audit that is school-only and will be more costly than an audit in a typical year. Brewer and Brewer has been working with the Hope Town Office and our office to compile and examine the documents related to the audit. At this point, we anticipate the audit will be completed by the deadline of Dec 31, 2021 .

Coronavirus:

Since Thanksgiving break, we have had a few positive cases pop up in the school. Due to changes in the SOP, our mitigation measures, and vaccinations, very few people have had to miss school due to an exposure. We continue to be grateful for families and students who are working closely with us to keep the mitigation measures in place and make sure that we have as much in person learning time as possible.

The Omicron variant has been identified in Maine and, even before Omicron, case rates were very high. We are still able to prevent spread in school, but only with the help of the community. With the winter break imminent and holiday gatherings on the calendar for many in the community, we ask that families remain proactive and diligent after the break. Please do not send students to school who are not feeling well, have COVID-like symptoms, or are known to have been exposed to the virus. By all accounts, we are going to have to be very careful in the months of January and February in order to continue to keep cases in school to a minimum. As always, our overarching goal is to keep as many students as possible in school for in-person as much as possible. We know this is the best way to make sure our students continue to make academic and social/emotional progress.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate

Kate Clark