



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

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Superintendent's Report for: February 2021

Hope School Committee

District Goals:

- Identify the lessons we can carry forward from the pandemic. What are the new practices and structures that are working well and could be expanded?
 - staff allocation
 - delivery of instruction
 - space allocation
- Support the school in their effort to partner, communicate with and engage the parents and the larger Hope community in maintaining academic growth during the pandemic
- Support school administration in maintaining a safe and supportive environment during the pandemic for all students and staff.

In the next family update, another family coffee will be offered via Zoom, instead of a survey. At this time, things are so unpredictable, it is hard to say that we would be able to respond to suggestions from families right now. Danielle has had 1:1 discussions with families of remote students and remote learning continues to improve as we learn. Sarah Schrader has received a grant to support outdoor learning and will be interviewed by WABI at the end of this week! Paula Emerson and Jodi Davis were invited by Samantha Mank to participate in the hiring process for new staff at the Town Offices. We are thankful the chance to have our voices heard in that process! Once the new staff at the Town Office is in place, we will meet via Zoom to talk about our financial processes and try to streamline that process to ensure more timely communication. I will be meeting the Select Board tomorrow night via Zoom and we will continue to build that partnership. At the Central Office, we have looked closely at the reasons for the disconnect between our offices that apparently has been an issue for some years. We have found that our current timeline of timecards and payroll creates a very quick turnaround for the Central Office to complete payroll and get it to Board members before the Select Board meeting. We are going to begin with moving the date timecards are due back one day and see if that helps Central Office. At this point, Paula is working weekends to get payroll done on time and that is not a sustainable practice. Finally, HES has been checking in on student academic growth with some summative assessments. Danielle and I will pull together a presentation of a few data points to provide the Board with a picture of how things are going in the school right now.

Ongoing Superintendent Professional Development:

MSSA: New Superintendent's Workshops (Budgets and state subsidies)
Drummond-Woodsum: Negotiations

MSSA Winter Convocation: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; School Finance and Operations.
Midcoast Regional Superintendents' Group: Vaccine rollout; Q&A with Commissioner Makin

Coronavirus Update:

County Designations, as of January 29, 2021:

Knox: Green (next update February 12, 2021)

Numbers of cases have gone down across the state, and according to ABC news, have decreased 30%. However, we are only a few weeks away from larger case numbers and still need to maintain our vigilance and adhere closely to safety measures. Vaccinations continue in the state, but school staff are not scheduled to be vaccinated for a few months. We anticipate new recommendations from the Federal CDC related to schools later this week.

Budgets: Hope's Selectboard has decided to hold traditional town meetings to discuss and vote on the budget, which means that we need to have our final budget sometime in May. We will meet with town officials to share our budget as close to final as we can in early April. Extra tasks imposed by the pandemic, combined with new staff coming on in mid-October has led to the need for an extension of our audit deadline. We are anticipating the audit will be completed by April 30th.

Negotiations: Tim, Jude and I participated in a training from Drummond Woodsum on the 22nd and the Hope Association has the information requested to begin negotiations. The next steps will be for Kate, Jude, Tim and Danieille to meet to discuss the Board's positions. In addition, Drummond Woodsum is pulling together a salary comparison chart to include local district as well as districts the same size as Hope across the state.