



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

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**Superintendent's Report for: June, 2021**

**Hope School Committee**

**District Goals:**

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- 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

Looking back at this year, we have learned many lessons and are in the process of determining what new practices implemented this year make sense for us to continue, and which might be set aside. Hope teachers enthusiastically embraced opportunities to take learning outside! I suspect these practices will continue at HES. We learned a great deal about communication and collaboration this year and will certainly continue such practices as regular, informative communication and including diverse stakeholders in decision making. As the summer goes on, Danielle and I will look more deeply into what we have learned this year and what we need to do going forward.

Recent guidance from the DOE has lifted all social distancing requirements, so Danielle is in the process of reassigning classrooms and spaces to best meet the needs of the students in the Fall.

SU #69 will be participating in the MSMA's Cultural Competency Institute. We will be sending a team of 5, with representatives from every school. Two teachers, a principal, the superintendent and a Board member are among the team members this year. This will also be the core of the district's Cultural Competency Learning Group. As we explore the strengths and needs of our district, this group will help to devise a plan going forward. In August, teachers and staff will participate in professional development led by Superintendent Kate Clark and Special Education Director Deb Bailey designed to begin the conversation and establish basic understandings around diversity and inclusion.

- 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.
  - Academic growth was certainly strong, as evidenced by the NWEA results. Students learning remotely did not make the same consistent growth, the remote model appeared to work well for some students, but not for the majority. The data does not support continuing with remote learning in the Fall, student outcomes do not support the expense of the program.
- Support school administration in maintaining a safe and supportive environment during the pandemic for all students and staff.

The School Safety Team will meet in August to update/create a back-to-school plan based on the latest guidance regarding Coronavirus safety, this plan will be completed in mid- to late August.

### **Ongoing Professional Development:**

Summer Law classes in July: Maine School Law and Maine Special Education Law  
Ongoing work with regional superintendents

### **Coronavirus Update: County Designations, as of June 4, 2021:**

**Knox:** Green

Cases and hospitalizations are continuing to steadily go down, and the positivity rate across the state is below 5%, even lower in Knox and Waldo counties. In schools, the likelihood of contracting COVID continues to be lower than the community, at 30 per 10,000 people, which is approximately 21% lower than the community. In accordance with the Maine DOE's guidance of May 15, teachers and students have the option to remove masks outside and do not need to maintain social distancing while outdoors. Inside, distancing will not be required in the Fall, but currently masks are still required (6' distancing when eating and unmasked indoors is still recommended). Some students and staff choose to take masks off, some leave them on, this shift does not appear to have caused much of an issue at the school.

Pooled testing: In the Governor's letter and the MDOE's update of May 14 and 15, Pooled Testing for schools was cited as a possible mitigation measure. DHHS, the CDC and DOE recommend this method of ensuring safety in the building as we reduce other restrictions. The School Safety Team will consider the use of Pooled Testing as a mitigation measure when developing the return to school plan for the 21-22 school year. If we did choose to offer pooled testing, the school will develop educational materials for staff and families to better understand how the Pooled Testing works. This is an opt in program. There will be no requirement to have students or staff agree to the testing. All of that will be determined later in the summer.

**Classroom Visits:** Recently, I visited K-2 classrooms in Appleton and Lincolnville. Despite the heat, students and staff are maintaining safety protocols and actively engaging in learning! I was able to read with a group in 2nd grade, play a math game in 1st and even help out a bit at recess. This time of year is so magical in this particular age group because they seem to suddenly become independent, grown up students ready to move on to the next challenge. Unfortunately, I ran out of time this year to visit PreK-2 at HES, but with fewer restrictions next year, I will certainly be able to spend more time in all classrooms next year.