

**Superintendent of Schools
School Union 69
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Superintendent's Report for September 2019

Updates on: (Superintendent goals are underlined)

The first day of school went extremely well in all 3 schools this year! Large class sizes are an increasing concern with our lack of space to expand. There is also legislation in the wings for each district to offer Pre-Kindergarten in 2020-2021. I am attending a Drummond Woodsum workshop on Friday, 9/13, regarding updates on all recent legislative issues.

Budget (ED 279): Waiting to hear from the auditors on the final numbers for the balances from 2018-2019.

Support principals with better feedback for teachers on their instruction:

Meeting with the principals and doing a video conference with iObservation (our evaluation system) to improve how the program works and get set up for this year's observations.

Legislative Issues and involvement at the state level to voice and address issues for small rural school districts: Facilitated 8/15 Mid-coast Superintendents' meeting to discuss our upcoming goals and professional development. We will meet with the Commissioner in November to share concerns/challenges and are planning a meeting with our U.S. Representatives to discuss funding, mandates, and concerns.

Attended a conference by Drummond Woodsum on 9/13 regarding all of the new legislation and our requirements and deadlines to follow the mandates.

Staffing: All positions are filled, which is not the case with most districts in the area!

Superintendent's Agreements: LCS 8 in and 5 out; HES 18 in and 11 out; AVS 6 in and 2 out. We had 2 appeals to the Commissioner of Education on my denials. One was overruled and one was upheld.

SPED issues: Continue to be concerned with the number of primary students showing up with extreme needs and our unanticipated special education costs. Last year Hope had \$85,000 in unanticipated costs. We have several young students who enrolled who are looking at possible day treatment placements. There doesn't appear to be room in many schools we have used in the past.

Attended a Department of Education workshop 9/16 in Augusta to get administrative input on local school districts picking up the costs for Child Development Services (special education for children 3-5 years old). There are many concerns with this, which I'll discuss!

Visits to classrooms: Spent time with LCS special education K-2 9/6

Other: We have hired Renee Flanders, who previously did our payroll from SAD 40, to work for us one day a week to support Gail in the central office. Their business manager has announced her retirement in November, so their office is going through major transitions right now and are unable to support us through this time and in the future.

I attended the Mid-Coast School of Technology Ribbon Cutting and Open House on 9/9.

HAL Goals for 2019-2020:

- How can we continue to align our professional development and calendar in our 3 schools, especially for support with our evaluation system and the Marzano instructional model?
- How can we as an administrative team address the challenges and improve on our evaluation model?
- How can we improve our Response to Intervention (RtI) to help support students in the regular instruction programs?

Hope School Committee Goals

- How can we continue to maintain our facility and address our lack of space?
- How can we continue to support our strong and dedicated staff?
- How can we better communicate with parents and increase involvement?
- How can we improve our communication to share school news beyond our parental community, including town leaders?