

**Superintendent of Schools
School Union 69
Hope - Appleton - Lincolnville
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Dianne Helprin, Superintendent
Gail Kenney, Bookkeeper

Deborah Bailey, Director of Special Services
Wendy Tricomi, Central Office Secretary

Superintendent's Report for: December 2019

December 5, 2019

Dear Union 69 School Committee,

I would like to inform you that I am resigning from my position as Superintendent effective June 30, 2020.

It has been one of the best educational experiences of my career working with each of you and the school communities of Hope, Appleton and Lincolnville. I have enjoyed my five years here immensely and appreciate the support and confidence I have felt from my first day here.

While I am looking forward to having more time to travel and visit family and friends, I will miss working with all of you.

I wish you all the best in your continuing endeavors to provide the best educational experiences for our children. It is truly one of the most important jobs we can do!

Updates on: (Superintendent goals are underlined)

Budget (ED 279): The Superintendent budget, business office budget and special education budget were passed at the Union 69 meeting on December 5, 2019, with 8 of the Union 69 board members present. The increase to the business office expense was due to the need to hire a half-time accounts payable person beginning July 1, 2020. Gail will do payroll and HR and the new person will do accounts payable and federal grants. This has been a continuous need to increase staffing in the business office. The SAD 40 outsourcing was no longer available as their office had to be restructured due to changes in staffing.

The special education budget increased due to the upcoming retirement of our director for next year and the sick day payout contractually required.

The increase in the superintendent budget was 2.47% (\$4820), business office budget 27.45% (\$23,658), special education budget 8.29% (\$12,131).

The cost sharing percentages for each town remains the same as this year: Appleton 26.5%, Hope 33% and Lincolnville 40.5%.

Snow day count: HES and LCS have used 2 days, AVS has used 1 (they made up the 2 others by changing Professional Days for teachers to student days)

Other: Danielle and I met with the Pre-K Foundation and the staff to discuss the budget, progress of the program and continued plans on 12/6.

The principals and I met on 12/6 to begin looking at calendars for 2020-2021. Labor Day is late in 2020, so all schools will most likely begin before September 7.

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Updates on: (Superintendent goals are underlined)

Better feedback for teachers on their instruction: The principals and I met for the 2nd time on 11/13 to discuss recent evaluations and share feedback on iObservation data. We're working to create meaningful feedback to teachers on their instructional strategies.

Legislative Issues and involvement at the state and national level to voice and address issues for small rural school districts: Met with Commissioner Makin at our regional superintendent meeting on 11/21 and discussed: Pre-K barriers in starting up programs (I mentioned space issues); Concerns around messaging with test scores that schools are failing and her greatest fears are being confirmed that this seems purposefully driven to privatize education (we're the 3rd largest market behind the military and health costs); Moving our assessment from MEA to NWEA seems like a closer possibility; Amount of staff training being required (at federal level) is not realistic; watch closely the legislative session and labor decisions that could impact budgets; moving to increase funding by 1% to get closer to the promised 55% funding by the state.

Curriculum/Assessment/Achievement/Reporting to focus on improving our Response to Intervention support for students: We met as a Fivetown A Team with Camden Rockport on 11/19 to look at our shared curriculum and discuss time to look over math and social studies standards, also discussed positives and challenges of high school transition and plan to meet again in February. We had lunch in the cafeteria with an opportunity to see former students.

Policies: Currently looking at Policy KI Visitors to the School regarding dogs on school grounds.

Transportation: Bus renewals for HES and AVS by Luce for year 4 of extended contract and LCS by Northeast Charter for year 5 of extended contract

Visits to classrooms: Sarah Michaud LCS ELA 11/5, Dawn Emery ELA LCS 11/14 6th, Jimmy Blackman 5th LCS 11/20; HES Resiliency Workshop 11/25; Tammy King 11/26 5th grade AVS;

Snow day count: HES and LCS have currently used 1 of the 5 snow days allotted. AVS now has 5 back available since they have used 2 workshop days instead of student days to make up for their 2 snow days used.

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?
 - Have a feasibility study conducted for options to increase space
 - Look at expanding the facility committee to research options
- 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?
 - Send out newsletters so that they are not an attachment but open immediately with a different platform (Mail Chimp)