

**Superintendent of Schools  
School Union 69  
Hope - Appleton - Lincolnville  
444 Camden Road, Hope, Maine 04847**

(207)763-3818•FAX (207)763-4262

Dianne Helprin, Superintendent  
Gail Kenney, Bookkeeper

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

**Superintendent's Report for: April 2020**

We have hired Jodi Davis from Lincolnville Central School to be our part-time accounts payable clerk. Jodi is already working here during the time she would be an ed tech at Lincolnville to be trained to be ready to start July 1, 2020. She will also be cross trained to learn payroll so that both Gail and Jodi will be able to cover each other for vacations (or illnesses). We are thrilled to have someone knowledgeable of accounts payable (she works half-time at Lincolnville doing their accounts payable), knowledgeable of our school system and a quick learner!

**April Discussion topics with regional superintendents, Commissioner Makin and the DOE (updated 5/1):**

- CARES funding: Spending needs to be focused on COVID19. Money is coming within 60 days. Should amount to 80% of Title 1 funds. Can be retroactive to March 13.
- Opening of school: Will most likely be a phase in approach, but there will need to be a decline in cases, hospitalizations and CDC will *not* make the decision. There will be guidance in tandem with the Governor and the DOE will provide clear direction. There is planning for PD for school staff over the summer to problem solve how to safely navigate the return to school. Determinations will be made, but situations will be managed individually. Bus transportation will have to be addressed as well. Currently, the 50 person limit will be in effect through August 31, which impacts opening of schools before that. Looking at possibly starting remotely with waiver on attendance again.

There was a big meeting last week with many representatives to start discussing options for the reopening. May require a special satellite health office. They want to let us know soon as it may impact school budgets! How do you socially distance younger children?

Summer School: Will most likely be recommended by DOE to be remote.

Graduation/Promotion criteria: A task force has been put together with school nurses under the leadership of Emily Poland to create by Tuesday (5/5) a list of criteria that must be met for any activities. They will then focus on summer school criteria.

8th grade class trips are cancelled.

- Devices and Connectivity: The DOE realizes that the biggest impact has been the lack of connectivity and they are committed to addressing this issue. They are looking at using the CARES Act pool of money to states to financially support this. The DOE is considering funding technology for 3-6 months then

have districts pick up the costs. Some chromebooks have become available. (Appleton, Hope and Lincolnville are receiving some of those). Hot spots don't work where there is no cell coverage though.

- Learning plans range statewide from packets sent out every two weeks (with no technology) to daily zooming with classes. The plans need to be individualized for each family based on needs and available connectivity. The Commissioner is asking that we focus on food services and physical, social and emotional well being for our students. We also need to be very careful about equity for all students and not widening a learning gap. Very challenging! Surveys coming back to administrators statewide are seeing a majority of parents who are overwhelmed with the workload for students.

- End of year date: This is up to individual school committees to decide. The Commissioner is recommending that districts stick to their current end-of-year calendar date. There was discussion in some districts for ending at the end of May and using June for professional development (or wrap up days or preparation days) for addressing the gaps in learning in the fall and improving online instruction delivery in the future (if needed). This needs to be negotiated with the teachers' association if the school year is ending before the original calendar date. If staff remains working with districts (PD days), schools are not 'closed' and therefore school nutrition programs may continue until they are officially 'closed'. Some districts want to survey parents for input on this decision.

- Grading: The Commissioner is strongly recommending a 'do no harm' approach to assessment during this time, meaning no consequences for work not completed. Although we strongly encourage students to complete the activities to the best of their abilities and for teachers to provide appropriate feedback, we will not be 'grading' the work for report cards.

- Town elections and budget process: The Governor has many options on her desk right now and will get back with us on the process once there is more information. Right now, July 14 is the date for the primary elections, pushing back all other current deadlines.