



School Union 69
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Superintendent's Report for: September 2020

School Reopening:

Discussion Topics with regional superintendents and DOE representatives: The midcoast superintendent's group has been meeting almost weekly since July. At each meeting, a member of the DOE is present to answer any questions. Topics have been wide ranging, given all that is involved in reopening schools to in-person learning. This group, and the interaction with the DOE, has proven to be invaluable as many superintendents in the area are managing some of the same issues as we are and the DOE has been as concrete and clear in their guidance as possible, which is very helpful when making decisions. Topics discussed have included:

- procuring materials, supplies and PPE
- HR concerns
- equity and educational excellence
- logistics of reopening
- remote learning options
- sharing resources

School Reopening Plans and Collaborative Planning Teams: All plans were approved by mid-August. The teams continue to meet to revisit the plan, hone protocols and procedures and make changes as new information comes out from the DOE.

New communications from the DOE:

CDC Standard Operating Procedure regarding what to do in the case of a positive case of COVID 19 in school

MPA guidelines on sports, this does not affect us directly, but these guidelines have been developed in consultation with the DOE and CDC, and are the most up to date guidance on sports activities.

While each plan is individualized and specific to its school community, it is based very closely on the DOE's Framework for Return to School, elements of which are now in the Governor's order.

Coronavirus Relief Funding: All schools have submitted their applications and been approved for this first round of funding. Funds spent on Covid related items that were not originally in the budget may be applied to this funding, starting in March 2020. All funds must be liquidated by December 30, 2020. In the Central Office, Jodi Davis has worked with the superintendent and principals to develop a system to document the purpose, time and effort of each purchase now in order to streamline potential reporting that will be required in order to account for the spending.

Ongoing Professional Development:

New Superintendent's Workshops (monthly)

Harvard Kennedy School: Closing the Achievement Gap: Strategies and Challenges

US Department of Education: Vetting Apps and Technology

DOE: Child Nutrition and Homeschooling updates

Principals and Deb Bailey participated in a 4-day training from Drummond Woodsum on Title IX updates and protocols.

Communication:

Third Superintendent Update went home on September 11, 2020, all are posted on the district website. Updates will go home monthly. Surveyed all teachers and staff after the first week of school to check in. Findings are largely positive, I have made the principals aware of any outstanding concerns. None of the concerns raised were new to the principals, the CPT teams have been meeting to continually address concerns that come up. LCS school committee started a YouTube channel, where all meetings are now posted.

Community Outreach:

Made connections with leadership at the YMCA; editor and reporter from the PenBay Pilot and Village Soup;

Visited and toured Atlantic Academy, Midcoast School of Technology and Sweetlands School.

Visited area businesses, introduced myself to owners when possible

Visiting town offices when possible, meeting town clerks and select board members. Will need to follow up with more in depth meetings now that schools are open.

Going Forward: family surveys and virtual focus groups; ongoing check ins with staff and teachers.

Other:

Gail Kenney, the district bookkeeper, has submitted her resignation, effective September 18th. We wish her the best of luck in her new position. A new bookkeeper, Paula Emerson, has been hired and will start on September 28th. Paula comes to us with over 20 years of experience in school finance, and strong recommendations from superintendents that have worked with her. We will miss Gail, but feel that Paula would be a good fit for the office and that this transition has gone as smoothly as can be expected.

Gail's leaving has brought to light an ongoing issue that Central Office, full year staff are not salaried employees, but hourly. I have pulled together the costs associated with making all three staff salaried and what the insurance costs would be and shared that with the boards and principals for their input. All feedback has been positive with regards to remedying this oversight for Central Office staff. Paula has been hired as a salaried worker, the next step is to rectify the other two contracts, which is in the works.