

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

CALEDONIA CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

Superintendent's Report : Issue 4

December 2016

Act 46 Up Date: 706b Committee Meetings

K-12 706b

Danville, Twinfield, and Cabot continue to collaborate through the 706b committee meeting process. The committee is working to narrow down the options. The administrative teams from each school will be assisting the committee and looking more in-depth at these options and possible educational opportunities for students within all three systems. The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, at 6:00PM at the Cabot School Library. The public is strongly encouraged to attend these meetings.

Danville/Academy: The Danville and CCSU administrative teams, along with selected board members, will be meeting with the St. Johnsbury Academy administrative team to discuss a possible partnership with the Academy. This conversation is fluid and is in the exploratory phase of the discussion. The meeting will take place within the two weeks, prior to the holiday vacation. The discussions will revolve around Danville exploring the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, as well as a fluid relationship between the Academy and Danville High School so students can access courses and programs.

Blue Mountain: Blue Mountain has recently reached out to the Danville board to express an interest in opening up conversations between the boards about possible opportunities moving forward with Act 46. The Danville board will need to determine if this is an avenue for further exploration.

Danville 2020 Committee: The Danville 2020 committee will be reconvening on December 14th at 4:00 PM. This committee consists of teachers, administrators, and board members. The committee will be exploring the IB program, particularly the viability of a dual track option that offers both a general and an IB curriculum. Ms. Hoffman will be facilitating this process.

K-8 706b

Waterford, Walden, and Barnet continue to have productive discussions moving forward in merging the three systems into one consolidated union district. The 706b committee is focusing on developing the articles of agreement for the new union district.

Peacham: Peacham continues to be open to discussions with Greensboro and Stannard, while waiting to see what develops on the K-8 side of the merger with Walden, Barnet, and Waterford. Peacham remains in a difficult position, being the only K-6 school within the CCSU that offers middle school choice. Subsequently, there are no other schools of a similar structure within our system for Peacham to merge with. Should Peacham merge with the K-8 side of the regional education district, middle school choice will be limited to Walden, Barnet, and Waterford. This has been a concern for the Peacham community.

"Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change. Education is essential to change, for education creates both new wants and the ability to satisfy them."
Henry Steele Commager

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Proficient Readers

I continue to work with literacy specialists, interventionists, and the administrative teams to define the characteristics of a proficient reader for the SU. The initial discussion with literacy specialists was productive and informative. I value the insight of these professionals and look forward to continued discussions and collaboration as we move forward. This group will be working with teachers and their building teams to assist in further developing the definition to ensure that all have offered their insight and given feedback in the discussion. I feel this is an important step in moving forward with our 90% proficient reading goal.

School Closing Process

JPI Transportation begins their bus routes at 6:00 AM. We typically try to determine if school needs to be delayed or canceled by 5:45 AM to avoid placing buses in unsafe traveling conditions.

CCSU contracts out with Precision Weather Services. This service calls me directly at 4:00 AM to notify me of any potential road hazards or anticipated storms. They also provide updates the day before for potential storms or hazards that may be coming in our geographical area.

I typically begin contacting road crews and other regional superintendents between 4:00-4:30 AM in order to get a firm grasp on what is transpiring in those particular geographical regions as the weather can be very different from Walden to Barnet. At times I may or may not be able to reach individuals on the road crew because they are out plowing and out of reach of cell phone service. Based on feedback from the bus company, regional superintendents, Precision Weather, and town crews we have had communication with, we then make the best determination we can with the information we have at the time.

School closing and delays will be communicated through the all-call system. It will be posted on the schools' websites and Facebook pages as well as on WCAX.



Above: Sarah Parker working with her preschool students during Peacham Administrative rounds on Nov 9.

Administrative Rounds: Taking time to connect with students during Administrative Rounds in Peacham on Nov 9, 2016. The next Administrative Rounds will be hosted at the Danville School on Dec 12. Pictured above: Left, Principal Shawn Gonyaw of Barnet; Right, After School Program Coordinator Donna Gaston.



MTSS Update

Building administrators have established Data Teams within each school. The system is designed to monitor individual student progress as well as monitoring grade-level aggregate data. This looks different within each building, but each team exists with the purpose of ensuring progress in student outcomes. As we move forward, we will need to adapt to students' needs and resources available within each system. I will begin having discussions with the administrative teams regarding establishing what is expected annual growth and catchup growth for students. This will be an important discussion as we move forward toward reaching our goals.

Custom Assessments

Selected teachers have been trained in how to create custom STAR Assessments to reduce test taking time for students. We're trying to work out some of the glitches within these assessments prior to having all teachers try to create them. A follow-up training will likely be necessary.

Below: Janice Brisco prepares for her leap group during Administrative Rounds on Nov 9, 2016.



Above : Mr. DeCaro provides instruction to his class at the Danville School

Featured Teacher Of The Month

The featured teacher for the month of December is Danville's Nick DeCaro. Mr. DeCaro teaches 6th grade and has worked at the Danville School since 2011. He earned his degree in Elementary Education and Minor in History from the University of Vermont in 2010. Mr. DeCaro has created a classroom environment that is engaging, stimulating, and welcoming, where students feel encouraged to share ideas and engage in discussion. Regardless of the topic he teaches, from discussing presidential candidates, the electoral college system, the colonies, or writing a narrative essay, students are engaged in meaningful learning and having fun while doing it! Principal Hoffman states, "*Mr. DeCaro is an outstanding educator who goes above and beyond to ensure that every child's individual needs are met in his classroom.*" Dean of Students Patrick Pennock states, "*Mr. DeCaro is beloved by his students for his warm sense of humor and his engaging teaching style.*" In addition to teaching, Mr. DeCaro coaches soccer, basketball, and baseball. He is also the 7th grade class advisor and organizes monthly assemblies for the school. It's very clear that from the classroom to the basketball court to the athletic fields, Mr. DeCaro is making a positive difference in students' lives!

Mr. DeCaro, thank you for all that you have contributed to the Danville School!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mathew G. Forest
Superintendent

"Our children are our only hope for the future, but we are their only hope for their present and their future."

Reciprocity Agreement

On November 29, 2016, the CCSU board adopted reciprocity agreement seen below. This agreement will allow for some fluidity of students to move from district to district within Caledonia Central Supervisory Union. The agreement is between Danville, Walden, Barnet, and Peacham. The agreement will now move forward to each district board for adoption. Each board will vote on the agreement during the January board meetings.

Reciprocity Agreement (Legal Language)

The School District members of the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union and parties to this Agreement (participating districts) desire that there be an ability for their residents to engage in limited school choice for kindergarten through eighth grade. To that end, the Districts agree as follows:

1. Residents of the participating districts may choose to enroll students in kindergarten through eighth grade in any other participating district school without payment of tuition up to the amount of the average per pupil cost for the receiving participating district.
2. Any special education costs, costs pursuant to Section 504 or under an IEP, shall be the sole responsibility of the sending participating district and shall be borne by and administered by the sending participating district as the LEA.
3. School choice under this Agreement shall be limited to a maximum of five non-resident students per receiving participating district. Sending participating districts may exceed five students sent to other participating districts. Sending participating districts may not limit the number of students seeking limited school choice.
4. Students shall be accepted by receiving participating districts based on the date and time of receipt of an application to attend the receiving participating district. Participating districts may not select students based on any other criteria and must use a first come/first served basis for acceptance.
5. Students participating in limited school choice under this Agreement shall be responsible for their own transportation to and from school, unless the sending participating district in its sole discretion decides to provide or pay for transportation costs. In no event, shall the receiving participating district be obligated to provide transportation to students coming to or from school.
6. This Agreement shall be valid and binding from July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2018. The Agreement may only by majority vote of each and every school board in each and every participating district.
7. School choice students under this Agreement shall be subject to discipline by the receiving participating district and shall be subject to that school's student policies and procedures.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Mathew G. Forest

Dr. Mathew G. Forest
Superintendent

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"Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us, hovering, averting our eyes, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted."

Garrison Keillor