

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

CALEDONIA CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

Superintendents Report :

November 2017



Promoting Excellence: Left to Right -Barnet Principal Shawn Gonyaw, Guidance Counselor Angel Roy ,PBIS Consultant Jean Haigh, Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe, Peacham Principal Ashley Gray, and Peacham Teacher Kelly Youngberg accept honors for implementing positive interventions and systems of supports for children.

CCSU Goals Moving Forward

- During the August teacher in-service days, the administrative team facilitated an activity with the faculty and staff to assist our system in progressing forward to reach our CCSU math and reading goals. During this process teachers were given the opportunity to share their concerns, ideas and needs moving forward.
- The Administrative team has been working on an action plan to make sure the teachers voices are heard, improve communication, and address professional development needs through out the SU. Each building principal will be reporting in December to the admin team their individual building plan to meet the 90% proficiency reading goal. Each principal was instructed to facilitate discussions with their preK -third grade faculty to assist in this process. The admin team will analyze each plan and look for themes that may be addressed SU wide. This will help us create a 2 to 3 year work plan based on building specific needs and SU themes.
- A survey will be going out to all faculty members regarding our MTSS model. The purpose of the survey will be to gather information on how well our MTSS system is functioning, faculty and staff's understanding of the model, ways to improve and professional development needs. The survey will be going out prior to winter vacation.
- Three committees/groups have been formed, each comprised of teachers and administrators. Committees for math, writing, and reading have been created. Committee members will be acting as liaisons between the faculty, staff, and admin team to assist in improving communication and ensuring that there is a clear understanding of the direction we are headed in as an SU. We want to be sure that faculty feedback is incorporated consistently as we move forward.

“It is important that students bring a certain ragamuffin, barefoot irreverence to their studies; they are not here to worship what is known, but to question it!”

~Jacob Bronowski

In This Issue

- CCSU Goals
- Congratulations Mr. Bogie!
- School Closing
- Special Education
- Featured Teacher
- ALICE Training
- 3x1 merger proposal financial error.



Special Education

I met with all special education case managers and Director ,Cathy Browne on October 26. I'll be sending out a summary of this meeting to all case managers and administrators. The message that I delivered was that case managers need to be the strongest advocates for the children that they serve. If they are aware that students are not receiving the appropriate services as outlined in their students IEP, they should feel confident in voicing their concerns and making sure that the students are the number one priority. Building schedules, and teacher and para duties should never impede on the services provided to a child. The child and the child's academic needs are our top priority. I also wanted the special education team to know that although I'm questioning our practice as a system and special ed delivery, this has nothing to do with them as individuals and I was looking for their partnership in challenging our practices and how we can better serve our students. This was a productive meeting.

Above: Barnet's Eric Bogie, accepts the Physical Education Teacher of the Year award at a ceremony in Killington on Oct 20th. Congratulations Mr. Bogie an honor well deserved!

Its that Time of Year Again School Closing Process

Butler & Danville Bus transportation begins the bus routes at 6 AM. We typically try to determine if school needs to be delayed or canceled by 5:45 AM to avoid buses being placed in unsafe traveling conditions.

CCSU contracts out with precision weather services. This service calls me directly at 4 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.

Typically between 4:00 -4:30 AM I begin contacting road crews, and other regional superintendents 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. We then make the best determination we can on the information we have at the time. Based on feedback from the bus company, regional superintendents, precision whether, and what town crews we have had communication with.

School closings 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. Faculty and Staff will also receive an e-mail notification.

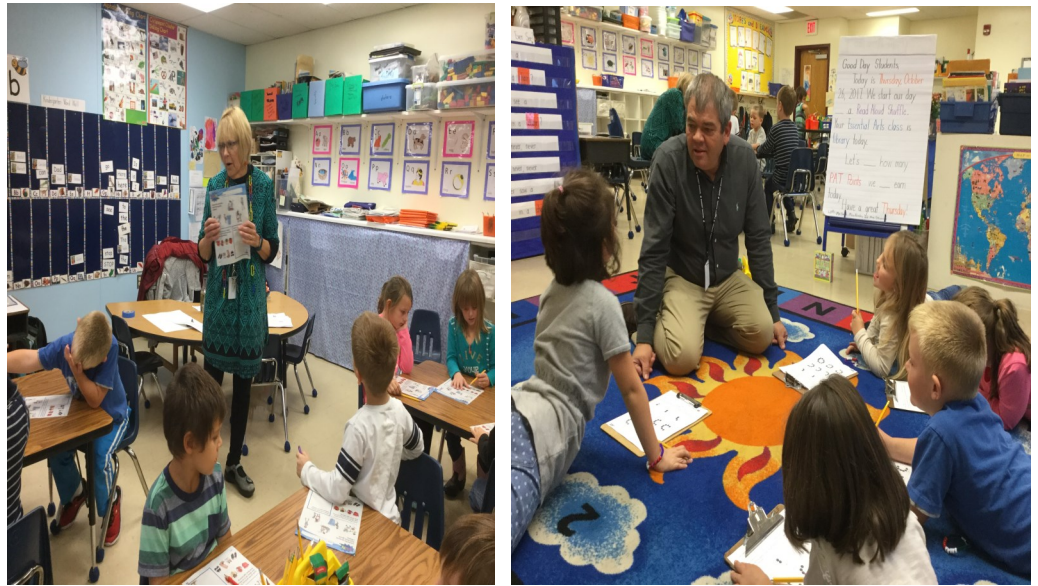
Superintendent Roundtable Discussions:

I will be holding roundtable discussions starting in December in each of the communities'. I'm hoping to assist in building stronger relationships with parents, community members and to gain insight into what families want for their children from our school systems. I will be sending out a format for the discussion after Thanksgiving break.

ALICE Training

Teachers and administrators have a responsibility to anticipate potential dangers and to take precautions to protect their students from those dangers.

ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate), is an active shooter training that the Admin team is reviewing as is the Regional Superintendents Association. It is highly likely that CCSU will be moving forward with this training as well as several other SU's in the region. Please take the time and review the attached documentation for discussion at the December Board meeting. I have sent a link to all board members that allows for a 14 day review of tutorials that the faculty and staff would participate in. I would encourage board members to review this material to gain a further understanding of what this training will entail.



Above : Barnet's Kindergarten teaching team Penny Stevenson (left) and Steve Smith (right), working with their students.

Featured Teachers of the Month

The featured teacher for the month of November goes to a dynamic teaching team at the Barnet School. Mrs. Stevenson and Mr. Smith co-teach kindergarten. It is clear that the students at Barnet have benefited profoundly by the collaborated efforts of these two outstanding teachers and their constant commitment to perfect their practice as professional educators.

Principal Gonyaw states: *"Penny Stevenson and Steve Smith are amazing educators. They have set the bar high for seamless co-teaching, collaboration. Working together they have managed over the past few years to send their kindergarten students to first grade 90% to 95% proficient in mathematics and literacy as measured by our end of year assessments. Their classroom environment is rigorous, focused on academics and a fun place for children to learn. The Barnet Community is fortunate to have Penny and Steve helping our youngest learners succeed!"*

Mrs. Stevenson majored in Elementary Education with a minor in English at Plymouth State College, she earned a Bachelors degree from Keene State College and a Masters of education from Trinity College. Mr. Smith earned his Bachelor's of Arts degree from Johnson State College and Attended the Upper Valley Educators Institute where he earned his Elementary certification. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Stevenson have a wealth of knowledge and expertise that they bring to the classroom.

Mrs. Stevenson and Mr. Smith are a credit to the Barnet staff, their warmth, caring and enthusiasm for their students and their practice is commendable. Thank you for all you have contributed to the Barnet school.

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

Zig Ziglar

Financial Error in 3x1 Merger Predictions **(Merger with Waterford, Walden & Barnet)**

There's been a lot of discussion recently about a financial error in the aggregate data for the tax savings for merging the school districts of Waterford ,Walden and Barnet. As this topic continues to receive press and questions from the public, there are a few pieces I think need to be clarified. First, we could have done a better job of communicating this error to the public. Second, it is important to understand that this error does not impact the homestead tax rate.

Our Act 46 Consultant, Peter Clarke clearly states in his letter to the The Act 46 Project, VSBA, and VSA dated September 12, 2017 (posted on CCSU web site)

“In examining the impact of inputting the wrong grand list figure into the financial model used in these four studies, it is important to note that the core of the financial analysis remains unchanged – the projection of future homestead tax rates/trend lines in merged and unmerged scenarios and the projection of the tax impact on a \$150k home in a merged vs. unmerged scenario were not impacted by this error.”

When the 706b committee discussed this they felt that the most important number was the homestead tax rate and that number was correct in Peter's calculations. Here are some key components to keep in mind as this is discussed in the press.

- 1) Homestead taxes were not affected by the error.
- 2) Projected tax saving on a \$150,000 home were not impacted by this error. If your a home owner and making the decision to merge based on how the merger will impact you as an individual financially based on your property, that data was accurate.
- 3) The overall savings for the towns was less then what was projected but there is still a savings.
- 4) A lot of the committees discussion revolved around educational benefits for children, and who the towns wanted to have as long standing partners moving forward in collaborating on educational opportunities for their communities children.

I hope this information is helpful and lays to rest any concerns the communities may have.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Albert Einstein's Rules of work"

- 1) **Out of clutter, find simplicity.**
- 2) **From discord, find harmony.**
- 3) **In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.**