

**Superintendent of Schools  
School Union 69  
Hope - Appleton - Lincolnville  
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**Superintendent's Report for: December 2018**

**Updates on: (Superintendent goals are underlined)**

**Budget (ED 279):** The Central Office budgets (Superintendent's office, Business Office and Special Education Office) for 2019-20 were approved at the Union 69 meeting 12/6:

Cost Sharing	Supt/Business	Special Ed	Net diff from 18-19
Total 2019-2020 Difference 18-19	\$282,624 -\$10,095	\$146,339 +\$10,683	+\$ 588
HES 33%	\$ 93,266 -\$6,258	\$48,292 +\$2169	-\$4,089
AVS 26.5%	\$ 74,895 -\$1,212	\$38,780 +\$3,509	+\$2,297
LCS 40.5%	\$114,463 -\$2,625	\$59,267 +\$5,004	+\$2,379

**Utilization of Community Resources to support students and families:** Put up shelves in Hope School for a food pantry 12/7

**Focus and support on mathematics:** The principals and I met on 12/11 to continue analyzing our math scores from last year's MEA and this fall's NWEA

**Legislative Issues and involvement at state and national level to voice and address issues for small rural school districts:** Met with the Maine Principals' Association as the Maine Superintendent representative for collaboration between the two associations and stressed the importance of our united voice in Augusta with legislation.

Facilitated Mid-Coast Superintendent meeting 12/20 with DOE representative Morgan Dunton with discussion around state report card coming out in January and expressed my concern with the negative PR these report cards create: Only 6% of all schools in Maine met or exceeded the indicator benchmark for chronic absenteeism, 12.7% for academic achievement in ELA, 14% academic achievement in math. This accountability system is supposed to 'provide a broad picture of public education throughout Maine'. Do we really believe this is an accurate assessment of our public schools??! The report card reflects growth for each student group (must have at least 10 students in the group) using the 2016 assessment scores as the baseline. There must be at least a 1.4% increase in each group: Asian, Black, Hispanic, White, Students w/disabilities, economically disadvantaged, migrant students, and English/language

learners, reflecting an ending goal of a 20% increase for all groups. (Sound like No Child Left Behind?) Support with more federal money, coaches and more professional development will be given to schools who do have any groups meeting any growth target in any area (up to 66 schools).

Our report cards:

	Absenteeism	Progress ELA	Progress Math	Achievement ELA	Achievement Math
State 3 or 4	6%	23%	12.4%	12.7%	14%
HES	1	2	2	1	1
AVS	1	3	2	2	2
LCS	2	3	2	2	2
SAD #28	1	2	2	1	1
Yarmouth	2	2	2	2 (#1 MEA)	2
Falmouth	2	2	2	2	2 (#1 MEA)

4=Excelling 3=Meeting 2=Developing 1=Emerging

Also on the report card is per pupil spending compared to the state average

K-8 School	Per Pupil
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>	<b>\$14,192</b>
RSU 28 Camden	\$17,479
Northport	\$16,704
<b>Appleton</b>	<b>\$15,921</b>
<b>Hope</b>	<b>\$15,006</b>
<b>Lincolntonville</b>	<b>\$14,759</b>
RSU 40 Union	\$14,500
RSU 71 Belfast	\$13,854

**MSBA has adopted the following resolutions:**

**CDS Move to Public Schools** (Section 4-22) The Maine School Boards Association supports the eventual move of programs for 3-to-5-year-olds into public schools, but only if it is well planned and continually, fully funded by the state as a separate line item independent from the EPS funding formula. We call on the 129th Legislature to convene a task force to inform that plan. Public school staff must be involved, as well as current staff of Child Development Services, DOE leadership, and other appropriate stakeholders. State funding must be adequate to hire staff and provide appropriate services to all eligible children to avoid the kind of shortages documented under the current system. One of the task force's goals will be to develop a detailed funding plan. The goal must be to take the current program and improve it where necessary so our youngest students receive the services and interventions they need to be successful as they move through the public school system. (Passed 69-16-1)

**Special Education Reform** (Section 4-23) The Maine School Boards Association believes the special education system created by Congress more than 40 years ago needs to be reviewed and amended on the federal and state level to assure all student needs are being met. A task force created as a result of an MSBA resolution in 2016 has made reasonable proposals for change at the state level. Legislation should be introduced in the first session of the 129th Legislature to implement those changes. This resolution also directs the MSBA officers to urge Maine's congressional delegation to support reforms recommended by the National School Boards Association when the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is brought up for reauthorization and to fully fund the promised federal share of costs. (Passed 74-7-1)

**Funding to support rebuilding infrastructure of local schools** (Section 4-24) The Maine School Boards Association supports action by the Legislature that would provide \$30 million from the state's Rainy Day fund to begin the process of rebuilding the infrastructure of our local public schools. This money would support small maintenance and construction projects with a fund separate from the major construction fund. Funding for small projects has been cut in recent years and it is estimated there are \$1 billion in deferred maintenance and facility improvements in Maine schools – a situation that will continue to affect the quality of education if not addressed. (Passed 56-5-2)

**School Attendance at Age 5** (Section 4-25) The Maine School Boards Association understands how critical early education is to the success of students and believes Maine's current compulsory attendance age of 7 is too high and out-of-step with the rest of the country. MSBA supports a recommended age of 5, which is the typical age of kindergartners in the state, and compulsory attendance at age 6 and will advocate for a law change in the first session of the next Legislature. (Passed 58-6-1)

**School Safety** (Section 2.A.2.j) To support a public school's responsibility to keep children safe, the Maine School Boards Association advocates the following comprehensive approach: Ongoing risk assessments not only for active shooter attacks but other disruptors that could put students or staff at risk; Increased focus on social and emotional support; Training on early warning signs around student perpetrators of violence and programs like "Say Something", which encourage students to go to an adult with their concerns about a potentially violent peer; Increased funding in the Revolving School Renovation Fund that includes school safety projects as priorities; and, Support for state and federal funding for School Resource Officers where appropriate. We also support tasking the Department's Facilities Office to advise, collect and disseminate best practices on keeping children safe. (Passed 83- 2-1)

**Gun-Free Schools** (Section 2.A.2.k) The Maine School Boards Association supports the current state ban on guns, loaded or unloaded, on school property and opposes any legislative attempts to amend that prohibition. The ban is both symbolic and practical. It affirms ours and the nation's belief that schools should be safe havens and does not invite intended or unintended tragedy by allowing loaded guns on school grounds. Suggestions that schools can somehow monitor whether guns in cars are safely locked and unloaded are unworkable. (68-12-5)

**Cost sharing among schools and with outside districts:** Gail and Mary Tolles (Hope town bookkeeper) and I met with Karla Miller (business manager in SAD 40) on 12/4 to check on how the payroll and deductions were going for them. Everything is still going really well and Karla reiterated how challenging the job is for Unions with 3 different contracts and the municipal versus district structure for finances.

**Curriculum/Assessment/Achievement/Reporting:** Met with Pre-K staff and foundation reps for our semi-annual check in on academic progress and general reporting out 12/7

**SPED issues:** We are hearing now from CDS regarding incoming kindergarten students with special needs

**Policies:** 1st readings for Policy ADC and ADC-R for Tobacco Use and Possession

**Communication with stakeholders/visits:** Worked with Tammy King AVS 5th 12/7; Buffy Ludwick AVS 12/11; Lindsey Spearing LCS 12/12; Jared Todd AVS 12/18;

**Other:** Snow days #4 AVS; #3 HES and LCS

### **HAL Goals for 2018-2019:**

- Math: piloting new ELO's and continue looking at assessment data in PLC's
- Strengthen PLC's and sharing successes (specific) and challenges in each school, including special education & RTI
- Teacher Effectiveness: Manageable and Meaningful, working to provide more meaningful feedback on performance, adopt new Marzano model (condensed)
- Develop stronger leadership teams in each school and administratively
- Continue to work on developing strong instructional knowledge and skills through the Marzano platform (new model)

### **Hope School Committee Goals**

- **How can we continue to maintain our facility and address our lack of space with a minimal facility reserve fund?**
  - Use the assessment from Criterium to guide work
  
- **How can we continue to improve academically, especially in the math content area?**
  - Promote money in the budget for Math PD for teachers
  
- **How do we continue to build on our strength of individualized education and attention?**
  
  
- **How can we better advocate for the school's needs financially and better inform the community of the issues and challenges with rising budget costs?**
  - Communication Sub-Committee was formed (Jacob Eichenlaub and Tim Lock)