



Principal Report September 2023

The first weeks of school have been an exciting time to roll out some of our new initiatives. Community Meeting for grades k-4 is a highlight of the week. Students engage in an activity, cheer and Husky of the Week celebration. Our high school students returned from a two night retreat experience at the Hulbert Center in which they participated in team building activities. These experiences are designed to build group and are not always easy. We saw relationships deepen with staff members and students step in and step up in new ways. Siskin programming has begun in grades k-8 as another leadership experience that helps students challenge themselves. Our buddy hike is in its third year and our Crew challenges are continuing with Crew names and door/window decorations (check out Mount Olympus in 5/8 and the Oceans in 7/8). Our thematic projects are kicking off and students are excited about what they are studying.

Afterschool has begun and we are fortunate to be able to fund this with a set aside grant that we wrote last year (the same one with which we leased the car). Our ASP is unique in that it draws on enrichment opportunities provided by local community organizations and members. Brandy Goodrich has taken on the onsite director role and Beth Hoffman continues to do the administrative work. Sonia continues to lead this work while also building out other leadership opportunities for older students. We are going to face some big decisions and challenges as this funding comes to an end and the current plan is for the Supervisory Union to engage in the 21C process to secure funding.

While we are a few months away from budget season, I want to keep putting budgetary needs on the radar that go beyond building and are primarily programmatic.

1. Funding for 2-3 positions that are currently grant funding
2. Funding for fieldwork and experts to enrich and expand curriculum; we want students to be able to engage outside of their immediate community in ways that enhance their studies
3. Funding for materials and supplies to create high quality work

This past Thursday we had families visit for Curriculum Night to hear about the work that students are engaging in with their classes. [Attached here](#) is the powerpoint presentation that we showed in the first part of the evening.



Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
Cabot School, Twinfield School,
Danville School District, Peacham School District
Caledonia Cooperative School District (Barnet, Walden & Waterford Schools)

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Mark Tucker, Superintendent of Schools
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Superintendent's Report September 2023

1. Open Positions

Barnet School

- Administrative Assistant (to start immediately)
- Custodian (to start immediately)
- Paraprofessional
- Elementary Teacher (Grade 5)

Cabot School

- Special Education Paraeducators
- Bus Driver

Central Office

- 2 High School Paraeducators at the St. Johnsbury Academy
- Deaf/Blind Intervener (willing to pay for certification)
- Technology Support Technician

Danville School

- High School paraeducator
- Special education paraeducators

Peacham School

- No open positions at this time

Twinfield School

- Bus Driver
- Health Elementary Paraeducator
- Elementary Paraeducators
- High School Paraeducators
- Food Service
- After School Site Director

Walden School

- Special education paraeducator
- Preschool paraeducator
- Custodian school year
- Life skills paraeducator

Waterford School

- Special education paraeducators

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2. **Medical Leave** – As previously announced, I am expecting to be on medical leave through much of September following a scheduled surgery on September 6th. I hope to be able to resume work by the end of the month (from home for an undetermined period).
3. **State of Vermont School Facility Analysis** – All remaining schools in CCSU were reviewed this summer. The final report is supposed to be finished in October, but I have no idea if this deadline will be met or when we will see the report.
4. **PCB Testing** – Still waiting for a Corrective Action Plan in Cabot. Twinfield and Danville are still in the source testing phase. The Legislature included language in the Appropriations bill to fully fund all PCB testing, mitigation and remediation, and it was approved in a veto session after the Governor vetoed to budget bill. We will be able to have all mitigation and remediation work paid for 100%, and previous cost sharing expenses (20% of the charges) will be returned to the Districts that incurred those expenses prior to the approval of 100% funding.
5. **New Statewide Testing** – Individual student reports of test results came out in mid-August and are shareable with families. Comprehensive reporting across Districts – the level of reports of interest to the Boards – will not be available until December.
6. **Required Policy Work following Legislative Session** – S.138 – the School Safety Bill, required us to adopt two policies by August 2023. The SU Board adopted those policies on behalf of the Districts at its June meeting. We are still waiting for guidelines for developing the required Emergency Operation Plans spelled out in the legislation – these have been delayed by the July flooding, which distracted attention by the State Emergency Operations Center.
7. **Family Income Data Collection** – Despite our hopes for an improved data collection using a different form (the Family Income Declaration), the Agency threw us a curveball by requiring all schools to repeat a Food Service Data collection done last year. This forced us, due to federal food service guidelines to revert back to the old Free & Reduced Lunch data collection form that has been problematic in the past since families already receive free breakfast and lunch for their students. We are redoubling our efforts to get maximum response to this data collection, as it impacts our eligibility for Title I. An example of the Agency's left hand not knowing what its right hand is doing, IMHO.
8. **Project AWARE** – We received notice that Vermont received the Project AWARE grant that I first wrote about in May. CCSU is one of three SU/SD's in Vermont approved for participation. AWARE will provide us with access to additional mental health resource support for our students over the next five years. I will have more details forthcoming later this fall.

Mark Tucker, M.A.
Superintendent of Schools

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Student Services Board Report
September 2023

1. CCSU Updates

- a. We filled some vacancies with remote providers, including the school psychologists for the entire SU as well as the speech pathologists for Twinfield and Cabot. While this may pose some challenges, I am relieved that at least we have secured contracts for these positions. We had no candidates apply for these jobs in person.
- b. I welcome Laura Cavarretta to the central office as the case manager for students placed out of district.
- c. The beginning of the year is busy for all. We are busy ensuring special educator caseloads are accurate, ordering supplies and materials, setting up specialized transportation, and preparing for the final phase of rule change implementation.
- d. Allie and I have scheduled zoom check in meetings with all special educators twice monthly, as well as twice monthly full department meetings. This time will be used to provide guidance, support, and training to all special educators. This will enable both of us the opportunity to work with all the schools and school communities, rather than dividing up the SU as we did this past year.

2. AOE Updates

- a. We will work with the AOE as part of Selective Monitoring this year, which will entail submitting reports and verification that we are following mandated timelines for evaluations.

3. Of Note

- a. I look forward to starting my second year here at CCSU. I couldn't ask for a better team of colleagues who always have the best interest of students as priority #1.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Landry
Director of Student Services