

Superintendent's Report
Lorraine Tacconi-Moore, Ed.D
September 1, 2017

Note: Items in blue refer to the goals set forth in the SAU 24 Strategic Plan: Phase II: Vision 20/20 and Beyond.

Opening Day

The gymnasium at John Stark was the scene for our opening day session on Monday, August 28th. In what has become a SAU 24 tradition, Mrs. Marge Burke, Chair of the SAU and Weare School Boards, welcomed the staff by asking all of us, "What did you do on your summer vacation?" Deb Urbaitis, chair of the Henniker School Board and member of the John Stark School Board and Marilyn Paul, member of the Henniker School Board joined us as well.

In my opening address, I underscored the importance of our work with students; our ability to leave a positive mark on them and their future. I noted that a kind word, our belief in our students, the message, "I will not give up on you" lasts a life time and emphasized that all of our kids ARE ALL of our kids.

"Each one of us is responsible for every student who enters our schools. We must live SAU 24's mission statement: Ensuring learning at high levels for ALL students. These are powerful words and we owe it to our students to make this happen every day in every classroom. We have good schools but we must continue to strive to personalize what we do to reach each student. For our students, our mission is more than just words; each one of us has a role to play".

I shared a YouTube clip entitled, The Dot, which showed an art teacher's ability (yes, an art teacher!) to encourage a student to begin drawing, to make her mark, while recognizing the smallest of accomplishments. I invited the staff to symbolize this by leaving their mark on a small blank piece of paper that will be mounted on a board, creating a mural that illustrates our motto: Five Schools, Four Districts, One Community. This will serve as a reminder to us all that we have the ability to make a mark on our students' lives. (*"Create a staff of passionate educators dedicated to high expectations for all students across the SAU." Personnel, Vision 20/20 and Beyond*)

Staffing

This summer, we hired 20 teachers to fill vacancies across the SAU. Our latest count includes five at John Stark, five at Weare Middle School, three at CWES/CWUES, five at Henniker, and two at Stoddard. Openings still exist as we continue to seek highly qualified candidates for the math interventionist position at CWUES/WMS, an interim social studies teacher for multiple leaves of absence at WMS, the tech coordinator at CWES, a part-time art position at JFES, and the K-8 math coach at the SAU level. (*"Recruit and retain professional, innovative, and dynamic staff dedicated to the success of all students." Personnel, Vision 20/20 and Beyond*)

We are ready for another exciting school year!

From the Assistant Superintendent's Desk – Dr. Jacqueline Coe



I am thrilled to be going into my second year in SAU 24. Last year, we did work at all grade levels and in all curriculum areas around assessment. Teachers considered how they assess student learning and worked to deepen their instruction. These will continue to be the areas of focus for 2017-2018 at the building level and in the SAU committee work.

Over the summer, teachers continued to engage in professional development in Lucy Calkins writing and reading (see photo from workshop). Additionally, many teachers collaborated in curriculum development in all discipline areas. I would like to specifically recognize the leadership in our competency work shown by

Elizabeth Bartolotti
Tim Beale
Wilhemina Bodine

Bethany Chapman
Suellen Fulbright
Nadine Murphy
Brittany Philibert

Sara Baroody
Nicole Richardson
Mark VanDenBerg

These teachers not only helped to define the perimeters of competency-based learning at the middle schools, they planned and facilitated a two-day workshop for their colleagues. The workshops were well-received and well-attended.

In addition to a tremendous amount of professional development that occurred in district, we have a number of people who are collaborating at the state, national, and international level on a variety of topics.

- Lindsay Nye was accepted and attended the Lucy Calkins Summer Reading Institute through Columbia University
- Randy Brooker co-facilitated the National Writing Project Summer Institute at Plymouth State College
- Suzanne Carmichael and Jill Pinard were National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholars. Suzanne participated in a program called Women Making Change and Jill studied Emily Dickinson.
- Patricia Chiquelin attended the Copenhagen International Educators' Conference.
- Melissa White, Alexis Garcia, Jill Zaffers, Phil Matzke all went through Lead Teacher Training for Next Generation Science through a Math Science Partnership Grant.

(“Provide opportunities to staff for continuous growth.” Professional Development, Vision 20/20 and Beyond)

We also had a group of teachers and administrators attend the Competency Studio hosted by the Sanborn School District and we are exploring how SAU 24 might benefit from getting involved in the PACE program run through the DOE. The PACE program allows districts to replace Smarter Balanced testing at certain grade levels with common performance assessments developed by New Hampshire educators.

(“Promote instructional practices for all students that are engaging, connect disciplines, and allow students to apply knowledge and develop higher order thinking skills” Instruction, Vision 20/20 and Beyond)