

Peacham Elementary School
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Sam McLeod, Principal: sam.mcleod@ccsuvt.net

***Principal's Report
To The School Board
September, 2023***

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome the Peacham School Board back for another exciting school year, and also to thank each and every one of you for supporting our students, staff, and community. We could not ask for a more thoughtful and supportive board, and it is an honor to serve all of you, our community, and our school.

Progress made over the last month on action plan steps reflective of our CCSU goals, curriculum work, MTSS/MTSSB-instructional framework

As we begin the 2023-24 school year, as a staff, we are focusing on **Universal Design for Learning** best practices and learning environmental design. Universal Design best practices go beyond simple methods of teaching and learning, addressing the holistic needs of each and every student in the classroom. I am a fervent advocate for Universal Design and have practiced its principles as an educator for my entire career. I believe so strongly in UDL because it provides equity of opportunity for all of our kids through inclusive practices, equitable learning environments, and student agency/voice. I am personally working with our staff to enhance specific, explicitly taught, and modeled elements of UDL through our Peacham staff meeting and In-service training. I am also co-leading our district wide UDL systems implementation with our Director of Student Services, Anne Landry. In the true spirit of UDL, we have a team of teachers representing the different schools in our district refining and driving this initiative to provide inclusive instruction and classroom environments to each and every student in our district.

What is UDL? [UDL at a glance](#)

In support of our collaborative effort to implement UDL in our classrooms, we are also working with Margaret MacLean as a year long consultant and facilitator to enhance the collaborative staff teams within our school. The first and primary focus of this collaborative training effort is to develop and implement peer observation and best practices sharing/modeling systems within our school. It is my strong desire to bridge our work with Margaret into peer led support and modeling observations systems throughout the district in support of our UDL implementation and other systems work.

Building Maintenance and Security Updates

We will be working this year with Mark Mooney, retired Principal of Twinfield school to revise all Peacham school emergency and safety protocols. This work is being done district wide.

Door Replacements
Basketball Court
Boiler monitoring system

Staffing Updates

MaryLynn Walder has assumed the role of 1st and 2nd grade teacher. She has jumped right in and is doing an amazing job connecting with students and contributing to our learning community!

Robert Ferry has joined our team as a .5 custodian. We are thankful to Robby for his hard work and dedication.

Open positions:

None

Whenever I think about our staff here at Peacham, I am overwhelmed with a powerful feeling of gratitude. In short, we have incredibly talented, passionate, and committed individuals who go far above and beyond in support of our students. I am most proud and grateful for the continual environment of kindness our staff cultivate for our kids and each other. I am so thrilled to work collaboratively every day with the most amazing group of educators I have ever known. We are profoundly lucky to have each and every one of them, and I am thankful for the constant support and appreciation demonstrated to them by our School Board, our PTF group, and our community as a whole. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank our Superintendent, Mark Tucker, for his unwavering support and thoughtful guidance.

Respectfully submitted by Sam McLeod



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

“It is the mission of the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union and its seven member schools to create a learning community in which each individual can achieve the highest standards of excellence in intellectual growth and citizenship.”

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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Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
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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