

MAY



2026

MONTHLY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT



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DEAR SAU #35 COMMUNITY,

Teacher appreciation week is May 4th-May 8th! First off, a huge thank you to our teachers. Thank you for caring about our students. Thank you for working tirelessly to meet their needs and do whatever is needed for their learning. We as an SAU are surrounded by some pretty incredible educators! Families and community members, please give thanks to any teachers you know. Teachers get so focused on the work, these moments of being recognized go a long way!

If you have any feedback on the good happening in our schools or how we can improve, please feel free to reach out at cj.watson@sau35.org and I'd be happy to meet with you. And if you know of any potential sponsors for our scoreboards, please reach out!

Warm regards,

C.J. Watson
Superintendent, SAU #35
cj.watson@sau35.org



SAU #35 UPDATES

01

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:

The committee met a final time on 4/9 to form action steps around the four goals below. Colby Meehan facilitated our final meeting and did great work! The final timeline and plan for 26-27 will be provided in the next report.

- Improved communication and collaboration across schools to leverage strengths, opportunities and the sharing of ideas through various SAU wide teams.
- Strengthen a positive, collaborative culture and climate through more effective communication, engagement, and marketing.
- Establish a coherent, SAU-wide system that ensures clear outcomes of a Profile graduate, leading to backwards design to Kindergarten with aligned essential skills/standards socially, emotionally, and academically.
- Investing in and providing professional development by leveraging strengths in the SAU.

02

PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS:

Below are the reports from Principals in the April board meetings.

[Bethlehem](#) | [Lafayette](#) | [Landaff](#) | [Lisbon](#) | [Profile](#)

03

BENCHMARK PLATFORM COLLABORATION:

This group met again on 4/16. After thoughtful dialogue, we agreed to pivot to Aimsweb+ for K-2 at Bethlehem and Lafayette. Bethlehem, Lafayette, and Profile will pilot iReady and Aimsweb+ in grades 3-10. After another year, we will finalize one platform for grades 3+ for 27-28. We felt it was important to slow the process to ensure confidence in the decision and provide strong data to support staff and students. We've made solid progress, and slowing down is appropriate.

04

GRANT TRAINING:

I attended another grant training in Concord on 4/21. As we pivot into the next school year, I plan to expand my role into being the grant writer for the SAU, so these training sessions have been important to this process. I plan on meeting with our current grant writer throughout May to get trained up before we head into the 26-27 school year.

SAU #35 UPDATES

05

AUDITS:

The SAU is nearing the end of multiple audits. We are waiting on the final report for our federal grant audits. Once we get it, we'll make any corrections as needed starting at the end of June. We have completed the 23-24 financial audits and will be finishing the 24-25 audits officially by the end of May. This means we'll be able to do 25-26 financial audits in August, which means we will be on schedule. It may seem this should have been the case, but the office has been working for years to get these back on track. They have been working incredibly hard, so getting things back on schedule is a huge win for everyone. And lastly, we are completing a food service audit with Landaff, which we are making minor corrections on to get back into compliance.

06

THE 306'S:

I will be providing specifics of where we should be with the 306's to our principals at the beginning of May. If there needs to be summer work around this, the SAU will provide stipends to teachers to allow for that time and work to be done.

07

SAU WEBSITES:

Principals and front office staff have reviewed our new websites. Board members and some parents and staff from each school will be next. We will be rolling these out right after school gets out in June.

08

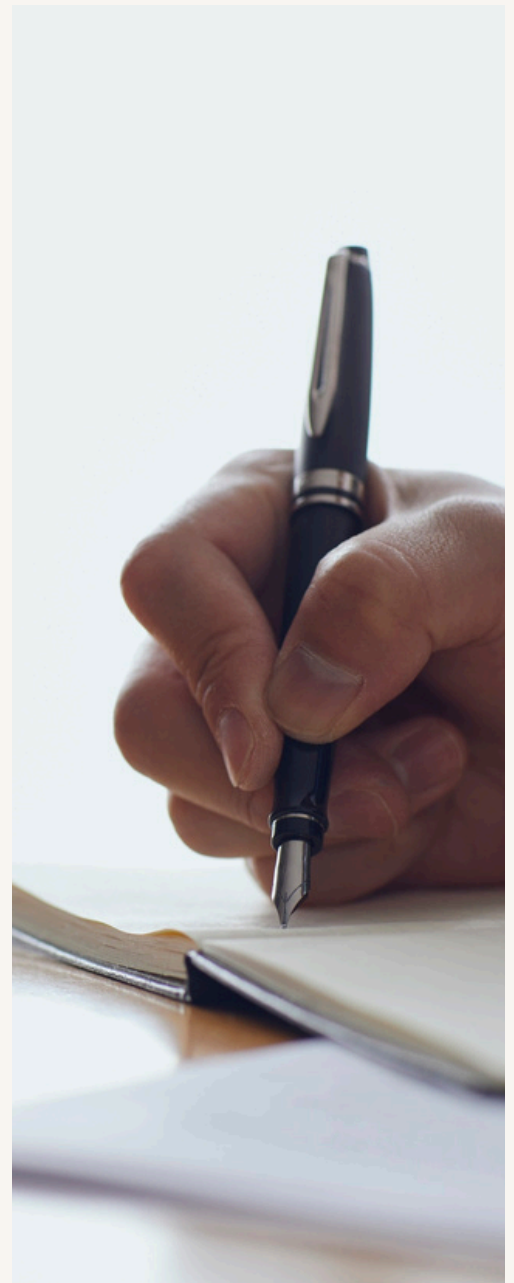
JOINT LOSS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

We met on 4/1 to review some procedures and did a facilities walkthrough with Lisbon before their exit on July 1st.

09

FACILITIES AND IT SWITCH:

Next year, the SAU was going to hire these positions. We have pivoted to building up our facilities and IT people from within. This model is currently being reworked, but I felt it was the right move. As I have learned more, our SAU is built to support and build up people within the schools, not to lead from the central office. I think this will be a good move that will support our building and networks while using the expertise of our current staffing.





SAU #35 UPDATES

10

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:

EMC did walkthroughs at Profile and Bethlehem on 4/20. We should be receiving specific bids in the next couple of weeks, allowing us a construction schedule for the summer for all projects to be completed. We will have the schedule in the next week for Lafayette for their planning and preparation.

11

LISBON TRANSITION TO SAU 110:

The office has been working hard around this. They have spent multiple hours training SAU 110 staff around finances, HR, payroll, and more for next year to help support their success.

12

MOVING FILES:

We have been clearing out old files and separating them for Lisbon and for our move as well. By the time this is done, we will have collectively spent around 15 hours on this file process for the move. Including shredding a very large amount and organizing and consolidating boxes. It's a huge lift by the SAU staff this spring.

13

SCHOOL VISITS:

I visited our schools around 26 times in April. I am leaning in more on getting current work done and preparing for next year by spending more time in our office.

14

TEACHER EVALUATIONS:

This group met again on 4/20. It was also a very productive and thoughtful session. We have roughly finalized an evaluation plan and model for 26-27. The primary focus is to lean more on observations and coaching of teachers, whether by administrators or colleagues, over the final evaluation itself. The final evaluation will occur, but we all felt quality feedback and observations were more important.



OPEN POSITIONS

SAU Office

- Substitutes

Bethlehem

- Paraprofessional

Lisbon

- 26-27 HS Math Teacher
- School Receptionist

Profile

- 26-27 French Teacher

For more information and to apply, please visit sau35.org/employment

APRIL BOARD MEETINGS

MAY
05 **Full Board Meeting**
5:30pm @ Profile School Library

MAY
13 **Lisbon Board Meeting**
5:30pm @ Lisbon School Library

MAY
07 **Landaff Board Meeting**
5:30pm @ Landaff Blue School

MAY
14 **Lafayette Board Meeting**
5:30pm @ Lafayette Cafeteria

MAY
12 **Bethlehem Board Meeting**
5:30pm @ BES Cafeteria

MAY
19 **Profile Board Meeting**
5:30pm @ Profile School Library

STATE-LEVEL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS UPDATES

01

LEGISLATION BEING MONITORED

Open Enrollment (SB101) got tabled on 4/23. There is a lot out there saying it's dead. It might be, but tabled doesn't mean dead. So I'm keeping a close eye to see if it pops up again. And HB751 is still out there, which is also open enrollment, so I'm watching that too. Beyond that, any other concerning bills haven't seemed to come through just yet.

02

NORTH COUNTRY SUPERINTENDENT'S MEETING

I attended on 4/16 and we discussed some DOE updates and the superintendent association resolutions and vision for 26-27. It was a great discussion. I was also very kindly elected as the chair of North Country superintendents for next year.

03

NHASBO

The New Hampshire Association of Business Officials met on 4/10. Toni and business managers from around the state had a great and informative meeting. While the content was good, the most important part was the networking and collaboration. The more we as leaders can collaborate with others in our field, the better we all get.

03

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT GROUP

Rhienna Miscio and Bryan Smith attended this meeting in April, and Amy Kopp is likely to join in May. [Here](#) is the summary. A lot is happening in collaborating around curriculum in the North Country!





NATIONAL UPDATES AND EDUCATIONAL TRENDS

THE MIRACLE UNFOLDING IN MISSISSIPPI SCHOOLS

“The Daily” Podcast did an episode talking further about “The Mississippi Miracle” that’s being discussed at a policy level in education. This provides some more nuance. For me, the biggest takeaway is training. The state prioritized training and coaching to teachers in schools to ensure students are successful readers by 3rd grade. One, this is a policy focused on education, which feels rare these days. And two, it actually saves money in the long term. It makes the overall system less reactionary toward students over time, which in turn saves on time and resources. That is further supported by [this article](#), showing growth in math scores. Staff attribute the growth not to a new curriculum, but coaching and support to teachers. This is essential, and the more we can build up our teachers in the classroom, the more our students grow. And from a taxpayer perspective, the more money that is saved.

“TEACHERS WARNS FAMILIES ‘AREN’T PARENTING’ ANYMORE”

This article highlights a prominent topic popping up amongst educators in this SAU and throughout the state. I am a parent of a kindergartener and preschooler, and it is no doubt difficult. But teachers are experiencing real classroom management struggles, and teaching content alone is challenging enough. The final sentence explains how a teacher can clearly identify who goes home and sits on a tablet, and who doesn’t, based on their engagement and behavior.

- While I believe there is a large portion of this article that is true, I also put on my parent hat and see how challenging it can be. I think parents are doing their best, and they are parenting. And I do think too much screen time outside of and in school is a clear problem for students who need to learn grit and how to stay engaged. However, I wonder if the core problem is not the teacher or the parent, but the lack of collaboration between the two. We as parents should trust our teachers and do whatever we can at home to support them by growing respectful students who are ready to learn. On the other side, we as educators should continue communicating with our families and trust they are doing what they can. I think there is a clear divide happening between the schools and the home, especially since Covid, and I wonder if we focus on closing that gap if things will improve.

SEE YOU IN THE HALLS,

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

White Mountains School
Administrative Unit #35

