



Cabot School

Respect.Responsibility.Kindness.Engagement.

June Principal Report

June marked the end of our school year with a number of rituals that we have come to value. Students participated in field day (with rain holding off) and a stepping up ceremony to welcome our 6th graders into 7th grade and 8th graders into 9th as well as an opportunity for each grade to meet their teachers. We took high school students to an incredible three day tour of the Five College area. Students stayed at Smith College, explored Amherst and Northampton, MA and ended their trip at Six Flags. This is the second of a rotation of college tours that aims to give students an experience of what it might be like to stay on a college campus and experience more independence.

Graduation was a beautiful celebration of young people and their learning. We have shifted to having a student planned graduation ceremony in which student voice is central. I was thrilled to hear the reflections of that group on their learning experiences at Cabot School. If you were not able to attend, you can find my opening remarks below as well.

June has continued to be busy. This week, a team of teachers is attending the BEST institute in order to continue our work around building and sustaining positive school culture. Our teachers met to plan curriculum and first semester projects. I continue to hire and we are continuing to look for an ELA and middle grades intervention position as well as a kitchen helper and after school site director.

For the first time we are shutting down the office for the month of July in order to ensure that we can rest and recharge for the coming school year. A team met on Saturday with Shawn McNamara to discuss playground building and we are continuing to work on how to bring that vision to reality this summer.

Opening Graduation Remarks - 2023

Thank you to our wonderful musicians, under the guidance of an exceptional educator, Brian, for welcoming our graduates. Let our celebration this evening begin. Welcome to community members, friends, families, faculty and staff, and finally to our graduates. Communities do not happen accidentally, to weave a strong and lasting web takes time and intention, and an understanding that each thread is essential to the whole.

You, faculty and staff, build the web to nurture their learning and passions. You are dedicated and kind hearted, passionate and humble. Our graduates tonight are held by the web of learning you created with them.

You, families (chosen and not), make up the web of support for our young people. Your belief in the graduates who are sitting here today is infallible. Your love for these

graduates is deeper than anyone else's; you have helped them to journey to this moment. You have built a web that holds when they need it most and lets go when they are ready.

And today, graduates, you are ready. Each of your paths to this place has been complex and deeply unique. Your years of schooling were sometimes abruptly disrupted. Yet your stories were taking shape long before those interruptions. You did not allow those moments to obstruct your unique visions of the world or to envelop you. You stood strong in who you are. You are storytellers, computer programmers, welders, arborists, teachers, emergency professionals, helpers, leaders, role models, and learners. You have been the weavers of this web of community since you entered it (whether when you were three or thirteen). You were enveloped into the work and the world of Cabot, not just the school, but the wider community. Your paths across this web need not be smooth or even linear. You may have stopped to rest along the way, but this web of community here in front of you now was here to hold you and connect you when you needed it.

And, as the weavers of change, you have contributed in more ways than we could possibly imagine. You are poised to hold us up and to support those to come. Your attention to this place and its interconnectedness makes you unique both as individuals and as a class. You have made a place here and made this place better through your work. As you journey beyond this moment, remember you are weavers of community.

We are here to celebrate this moment with you. Thank you for giving so much of yourselves to this place and, I hope, taking the pieces of here that you need most. You have a place here always and I hope that we have a place with you as you continue on your journey.

Tonight, each of you will take time to reflect on your experiences here and we will reflect on your unique contributions to Cabot School. In this moment of pause, I urge you to listen deeply to the words from your friends, family, and mentors - they are our gift to you as you begin to spin new parts of our web, remember always, you are not alone, we will weave the future together.



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 June 2023

1. Open Positions

Barnet School

- Custodian (to start immediately)

Cabot School

- Special Education Paraeducators
- Bus Driver
- Elementary Teacher Grades 5/6 - Full Year Substitute

Central Office

- 2 High School Paraeducators at the St. Johnsbury Academy
- Deaf/Blind Intervener (willing to pay for certification)
- 2 School Psychologists
- Early Education Special Educator
- Speech Language Pathologist

Danville School

- World Languages Teacher
- Special Educator MS

Peacham School

- No Openings

Twinfield School

- Bus Driver
- Health Elementary Paraeducator
- High School Paraeducator
- Varsity Girls Soccer Coach
- Varsity Boys Basketball Coach
- Varsity Girls Basketball Coach
- Behavior Specialist
- Global Citizenship Teacher .5
- Humanities Teacher Middle Grades

Walden School

- Special education paraeducator
- Preschool paraeducator

Waterford School

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- Special education paraeducator
 - Math Intervention Teacher Middle Grades
 - Science Teacher (Anticipated)
2. **State of Vermont School Facility Analysis** – All remaining schools in CCSU are scheduled for summer reviews
 3. **PCB Testing** – Still waiting for 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. At this writing, the Governor has vetoed the Appropriations bill and we will not be certain of this funding until the veto is overridden or revised, passed and signed.
 4. **New Statewide Testing** – At this writing, we are near the end of the VT CAP testing. A more complete reflection of the overall experience is being prepared by our testing coordinator, and will be shared separately.
 5. **VSA Trustee** – I have accepted the nomination of my regional colleagues to represent them as a VSA Trustee for the following year.
 6. **Goddard Institutional Review** – I have agreed to serve on an AOE committee that is tasked with reviewing Goddard College’s Teacher Preparation Program. The AOE regularly reviews all 12 colleges in Vermont that run teacher preparation programs; successful review allows the school to certify to the AOE that a graduate is eligible to be licensed to teach in Vermont. This committee work will occur in late July.
 7. **Required Policy Work following Legislative Session** – S.138 – the School Safety Bill, requires us to adopt two policies by August 2023. VSBA has drafted these model policies in record time, and I will be bringing them to the SU Board for adoption as required policies at the June meeting. They are F3 - Fire and Emergency Preparedness Drills and F4 - Access Control and Visitor Management (this policy will replace F25).
 8. **Family Income Data Collection** – Collection of family income data has traditionally been tied to determining Free & Reduced Lunch eligibility, but with the onset of the Covid pandemic, and the provision of free breakfast and lunch for all students regardless of need, we have found it increasingly difficult to collect this income data. AOE has used the F/RL percentages (e.g., percent of eligible students) as the metric for determining eligibility for Title I funding. That same data is also now being used in determining the poverty factor under the Pupil Weighting changes that take effect in FY25.

We have seen the reporting by families (total response rate) fall off significantly in some of our communities, as families don’t understand why they need to report this data when their children already receive free breakfast and lunch. The free meals program has been funded again for next year by the Legislature.

As part of the enactment of the Pupil Weighting Study changes, AOE was tasked with coming up with a more accurate data collection method to replace the traditional F/RL form. One of the reasons for delaying the implementation of the study changes to FY25 was to give AOE sufficient time to improve the data collection. But in a recent conversation with a staff member at AOE who works with us on Title funding, that person let slip that the Agency does not have that data collection work done, and may not for another year or more. I have written to Emilie Kornheiser, House Appropriations Chair, to ask her to confirm whether this data collection will be ready.

One immediate concern related to family income declaration is that possible under-reporting in all of our schools has skewed the data somewhat. This has been a particular problem for Danville and Waterford, which reported lower than expected F/RL level for these two schools. Both schools had F/RL levels below the 35% threshold for Title I eligibility. Walden also received a lower per pupil allocation due to their percentages. TUS, Walden and Waterford are all on 3 year waivers for School Wide Programming; next

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year is Danville's last year on its 3 year waiver for SWP. The waivers result in all of our schools being technically eligible for Title I, which is a precursor to having eligibility for Title II and Title IV. However, we learned two weeks ago that the AOE just implemented a calculation rule change that they have overlooked for a number of years in their grants management system, and this has impacted how CCSU is allowed to allocate its Title I funds to individual schools. This is a little technical, so bear with me.

What the Agency was supposed to do, and has just started doing, is to rank the schools in the SU based on their F/RL percentage, and give a higher share of the overall SU allocation to the schools with the highest poverty rate (as reflected in their F/RL percentage). Schools with the higher percentages actually receive 125% of their allocation share, and that calculation is applied to each school in successive order until all of the total allocation is distributed. The net result is that by the time they got to Danville and Waterford (the two schools with the lowest reported F/RL percentage) there was no money left in the total; Title I allocation. Barnet, Cabot, Walden, and Twinfield are sharing the total Title I allocation for FY24. (Peacham is not eligible for Title I at all.)

As a result, we have looked at ways to address the funding of positions previously budgeted under Title I in Danville and Waterford. We were able to reallocate funds to make Danville receive a small Title 1 allocation so that we could pool Title 2 and 4 funds to cover positions. They will not need to fund positions locally. There was no way to do this for Waterford, however, and their Title I funded position will have to be covered by local funds.

The solution to all of this is finding a better way to collect the family income data, and that work is already underway. I want to be clear that all of the schools (i.e., the school registrars) worked very hard this past fall, following up with families who had not returned their F/RL forms. This failure to report, such as it is, is not their fault. I don't know yet what new forms and procedures will be in place for the fall, but having seen how this can have such an impact on the some of our districts, I am intent on resolving this once and for all.

In a perfect world, we would get 100% response with accurate data from each reporting family, and then we would know for sure that the Title I eligibility and allocation was accurate, and we would know that the Pupil Weighting correctly reflected the poverty level in each community. Our more-affluent communities (e.g., Peacham) may not qualify for Title I even in this scenario, but the communities would understand why they fall where they do.

Mark Tucker, M.A.
Superintendent of Schools

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Caledonia Central Supervisory Union

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Student Services Board Report June 2023

1. CCSU Updates

- a. Vacancies:
 - i. School Psychologist(s)
 - ii. Middle School Special Educator at Danville
 - iii. Speech Language Pathologist at Twinfield and Cabot
 - iv. Administrative Assistant
- b. Assessment Team: Given the upcoming rule changes related to special education eligibility under Act 173, the structure of the assessment team is changing for next year. Instead of one psychologist, one academic evaluator, and one speech pathologist, the model will (hopefully) be two psychologists and one speech pathologist. The expertise of school psychologists to guide teams in making evaluation plans and eligibility determinations. A second school psychologist can do everything the academic evaluator can do, plus the necessary cognitive and social emotional evaluations.
- c. ESY: We continue to plan for students who need extended school year services. Bethany Hale has done a terrific job getting this organized along with the summer learning program.

2. AOE Updates

- a. The AOE released their final verification report of the December 1, 2022 Child Count Collection. CCSU serves a total of 294 students who are eligible for special education services.

3. Of Note

- a. I would like to thank Chelsea DeWitt, executive assistant, for her support and work in the student services department. Chelsea will be leaving at the end of June and I just want it to be noted how much she has done to help me transition into CCSU and how much she does to support everyone in the office. Best of luck, Chelsea. You will be missed.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Landry
Director of Student Services