



Regional School Unit 63 Clifton, Eddington, and Holden

RSU 63 is a community of learners dedicated to providing a safe, supportive, and challenging academic environment. Our students are respectful citizens and responsible stewards of our world. They are well prepared for high school with skills and a work ethic that enables them to succeed.

TO: RSU 63 BOARD of DIRECTORS

FROM: SUSAN SMITH, SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR of CURRICULUM & INSTR.

RE: MONTHLY REPORT

DATE: MAY 2021

FY22 Budget Process

Monday, May 17th at 6:30pm at Holbrook - RSU 63 Board Vote on Proposed FY22 Budget (Board Members: Please plan on remaining after the meeting to sign the Warrant Articles and other documents that need to be posted. Warrants Articles are being finalized and will be emailed this week.)

Wednesday, May 19th at 6:30pm - Community Conversation regarding the 2021-2022 Budget
Link: <https://meet.google.com/die-wfxt-vcg> or Dial: 1-518-655-1845 PIN: 554 462 365#

Wednesday, May 26th at 7:00pm at Holbrook – RSU 63 Budget Meeting (Public Vote)
Also – **Special Board Meeting at 6:30pm** to honor our retirees. Congratulations Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Jellison, Mrs. Lovejoy, and Mr. Slowikowski!

Tuesday, June 8th – Referendum Vote at Town Offices

Monday, June 14th at 6:30pm at Holbrook – RSU 63 Board validates FY22 Budget results

No Servers at the Holbrook School June 22nd - 29th

Due to the asbestos abatement project, the servers at the Holbrook School need to be taken off-line after payroll is finalized on Monday, June 21st. We anticipate the servers being back in place on Tuesday, June 29th or Wednesday, June 30th. The RSU 63 Central Office, Special Services Office, and Holbrook School Office will be closed during this time period. I would like to thank Jake Morgan, George Cummings, and Kelly Theriault for coordinating the timing of this project to best meet the needs of the district.

Assessments

Our Kindergarten through Grade 8 students will be taking NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) starting the week of May 17th. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will be taking Primary MAP Reading Skills and Math Skills. Students in Grades 2 through 8 will be taking MAP for Reading, Math, and Language Usage. The MAP tests replace the Maine Educational Assessments (MEAs) for Reading, Writing, and Math for our students in Grades 3 – 8. It is very nice to have fewer tests for our kids and we welcome this change by the Maine Department of Education!

The required Science test for Maine students in Grade 5 and Grade 8 is now the "New Meridian." The shift to three one-hour on-line sessions for these students has surprised us (and others) a bit. However, we are ready to begin administering those tests to our students in Grades 5 and 8 beginning May 24th.

I would like to thank Ashley Allen, George Cummings, Mike Revel, and Gayle Middleton as well as our teachers and ed techs for figuring out how to give these assessments to our students who are here in-person as well as our students who are remote.



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Summer School and Outdoor Education

Summer school is being coordinated by Michele Archambault and will include STEM Camp and ESY (Extended School Year services). Nikki Goss, Mike Revel, Stephanie Chelsey, Jen Hancock, and Amy Chandler will be helping with STEM Camp. Kasha Robertson, Linda Thompson, Inez Laverdiere, Dani Eichenlaub, and Sonja Salley will be providing ESY services. STEM Camp and ESY will be held at Holbrook from July 13th through July 29th.

Kelly Davis has been appointed our Outdoor Education Coordinator. This spring, she will be surveying teachers to find out what is already in place and what they feel is needed. Mrs. Davis is also organizing three back-to-school outdoor activities (one at each school) for the middle of August. We are excited to have her lead this effort to fulfill our Mission (“Our students are respectful citizens and responsible stewards of our world”) and work towards our Vision (“RSU 63 will be known for its distinctive outdoor education focus and programs that provide all students with opportunities for learning about and gaining skills in the natural world, linking their experiences to core academic curriculum”).

COVID Testing and Vaccinations

BinaxNOW Testing – Our application has been submitted to the state and the state has acknowledged receipt. We will receive additional information and training and then be able to order BinaxNOW tests. We hope to be able to use this quick COVID test with staff members before school gets out. We may also use BinaxNOW with students in the fall (with parent permission) for screening before events or as follow-up to Pooled Testing.

Pooled PCR Testing - We are currently working through Maine’s “Checklist” to be prepared to start pooled testing in the fall. Every student would need to be tested every week (with parents able to “opt out”). A positive “pool” would need BinaxNOW follow-up. The Maine DOE states *“Pooled PCR testing is an efficient way to test large groups of students and staff in schools on a weekly basis. Pooled testing involves collecting swabs from small groups of students, usually students in a class cohort or homeroom, placing the swabs in a common test tube, mixing several test samples together in a “batch” or “pool” and then testing the pooled sample with a PCR test for detection of SARS-CoV-2. If a pool results are positive, the individuals in that pool will then be tested using BinaxNOW or PCR testing. The positive individual(s) would then be sent home in order to begin their isolation period. It could dramatically reduce the number of students who need to quarantine.”*

COVID-19 Vaccinations – Over half of our staff are now fully vaccinated. This definitely reduced the number of adults who needed to quarantine after being identified as close contacts. COVID-19 vaccinations for children aged 12 – 15 are anticipated to be approved soon. The Maine DOE and CDC recently announced that Maine schools will be allowed to partner with health care providers to offer school-based vaccination clinics. PCHC (Penobscot Community Health Care) has reached out to see if we would be interested in holding a clinic at the Holbrook School.