



**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**

### **Office of Student Services**

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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

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