

SCHOOL UNION 76

BROOKLIN – DEER ISLE-STONINGTON CSD – SEDGWICK

251 N. DEER ISLE ROAD, UNIT 1, DEER ISLE, ME 04627

Office of the Superintendent

Telephone (207) 348-9100

Fax (207) 348-9103

“It takes a whole community to educate a child.”

Superintendent’s Memo

To: Town of Sedgwick
From: Christian M. Elkington
Re: Superintendent’s Town Report
Date: 1-26-17

It is my honor to be sharing my first Superintendent’s Report with you the citizens of Sedgwick. I started as your interim superintendent this past May, taking over officially on July 1st. Having now been on the job for some 9 months I can tell you that I have grown to appreciate the positive efforts of our students, the dedication of our staff and the concern that our parents, guardians and community members have for education in Sedgwick. Over this time, I have had the pleasure to speak with many of you, collecting feedback, learning concerns and just getting a feel for our school and community. Special thanks goes to each of you for making me feel welcome.

As you know, “Leadership” from the Superintendent’s Office in Union 76 was under a cloud the previous two years. I agreed to take on this position knowing that budgeting, communication and proper support of the Sedgwick School, students and staff was being questioned and that these concerns were driving a wedge into whether or not the Town of Sedgwick might continue within Union 76. Upon joining I was happy to find that the Sedgwick School and the community of Sedgwick did not let these concerns stop you from continuing to support the mission of the Sedgwick School, to make it the best place for kids! This is illustrated in the large increase in the school budget that was approved at last year’s Town Meeting.

Understanding that the Town of Sedgwick was most supportive last year the school board and I have looked at multiple ways to keep this year’s budget increase as small as possible, while still supporting student learning and growth at our school. The school budget being proposed to the voters is asking for a potential 1.9% tax increase, as part of the overall budget increase will come from funds in the Education Maintenance Reserve account along with \$10,000 in balance-forward funds. The “Reserve” funds, already approved by the voters in previous years, will be used to redo the outside gym wall.

In an effort to start to rebuild trust in both the superintendent’s office and in the superintendent I have taken multiple steps to put our house in order. The following are a few of these efforts:

- **State Reporting expectations** have more clearly defined checks & balances at the Union and school level.
- **New Fiscal Controls**, procedures and systems have been developed internally, including new monthly budget reporting and cross training protocols. Replacement of old computer equipment along with new software is allowing for the streamlining of some procedures.

- **Developing coordinated, student interventions** is now a top priority as we must develop a more systemic plan, Union-wide so that teachers and schools within U76 can better support each other and thus better support our students!
- **Professional Development and training** is another top priority so that we support school and Union 76 initiatives with the new Teacher Evaluation System (TEPG), Response To Intervention (RTI), and Literacy (starting in grades pre-k – 2). We are now doing as much of this work together as U76 so we can combine our resources, expertise and reduce costs.

I have joked with people that my #1 goal in Union 76 this year is to re-establish the letters “T” and “R” in the word “trust” with our boards, schools and communities. In order to start this process, I must develop lines of communication by being available and present in our schools and communities. I have had multiple meetings with staff, parents & guardians and will of course continue these. I am regularly in schools visiting classrooms, attend Selectmen Meetings monthly and have started a Union 76 web page, which we hope will become a source of information for all. Much has been started, with still much more to do!

In closing I would be remiss in not thanking the staff of Sedgwick Elementary School for all of their positive efforts in support of our students, parents & guardians. We have great kids who are well supported by you! Special thanks goes to Dr. Donald Buckingham for his three decades of service, dedication and commitment to the community of Sedgwick, its students and our parents and guardians. With Don’s retirement this June we will be welcoming a new leader who will be taking over a wonderful and caring school community at the Sedgwick School. Thanks for all you have done “Dr. B”!