

SCHOOL UNION 76

BROOKLIN – DEER ISLE-STONINGTON CSD – SEDGWICK

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Office of the Superintendent

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“Public Schools not only serve the public, they make the public.”

Superintendent’s Memo

To: Sedgwick Elementary School Parents & Guardians

From: Christian M. Elkington

Re: Upcoming Schedule Changes

Date: 12-11-2020

Over the first three and a half months of our school year the students, staff and you our parents have worked very hard to make this year go as well as we could have hoped. The cooperation on a range of issues between home and school, along with the consideration of individual student needs, continues to be the reasons why we have seen our school’s success in regards to days’ of in-person instruction during the Pandemic. Thanks again go to each and every one of you who have helped make the 2020-2021 school year go as well as I am proud to say it has!

As you are aware, over the last few weeks, cases of COVID-19 have increased around Maine and in Hancock County. The cold weather is now keeping more people inside for longer periods of time. This combined with people participating in indoor gatherings and/or traveling during Thanksgiving, have resulted in the increase in positive cases becoming more dramatic. Upon review of the most up-to-date science and medical information this necessitates an added focus by all of us on reducing community spread and the safety of all in our school. School Union 76’s health and safety practices and procedures will continue to adjust, as needed, for the foreseeable future. Understandably, the recent increased adjustments and concerns have added to the wear and tear on students, staff and families and are starting to show. Because of the need to continue to take extra precautions whenever possible, along with the associated stress that goes with that, at last night’s special school committee meeting I asked the committee members to make two adjustments to our upcoming school calendar in order to further support the safety and well-being of students, staff, our families and community.

The school committee voted 4-0 to approve the following 2020-2021 Calendar changes:

- The week of Jan 4th - 8th will become a full Remote Learning Week with our plan, at this time, to return to in-person learning the week of Jan 11th. This is in anticipation of the continued uptick in COVID-19 cases resulting from large gatherings and travel taking place over the holidays in spite of US CDC and state guidance that neither should happen.
- The last school day for students before our holiday break will now be a week from today Friday, Dec 18th. One of the two days originally on our calendar the following week will now be added to the end of our school year for students and staff. The other day will be

used as a staff professional day so that staff of Sedgwick Elementary School can make preparations for an excellent week of Remote Learning the week of Jan 4th.

Please know that we, I understand that these changes will be difficult for some families and apologize in advance for this. Throughout the Pandemic we have worked hard to balance the in-person learning and Social Emotional needs of our students with the health and safety concerns of our students and staff. We feel that the above changes to our calendar continue down this path as we review the science and what medical experts are sharing in support of all at Sedgwick Elementary School.

As always let me say, *“together we will keep HOPE alive within each of our children, within each of us and within each of our communities!”*