

Hampton Falls School Board

We are thankful to the Hampton Falls community for their continued support of Lincoln Akerman and Winnacunnet Schools. We have had a busy and successful season since our last update and are happy to provide this Spring newsletter.

Warmest congratulations to all Hampton Falls graduates and wishing all families a safe and enjoyable summer!

2022 Hampton Falls Election Results

Hampton Falls voters approved all six warrant articles on the March ballot. These represented (1) approval of the School Board's recommended 2022-2023 operating budget, at a decrease from the default budget, (2) to raise and appropriate \$125,000 to re-pave the parking lot to address unsafe conditions and improper drainage, (3) contribute \$50,000 from unreserved fund balance to the Building Maintenance expendable trust, (4) contribute \$25,000 from unreserved fund balance to the Special Education expendable trust, (5) contribute \$25,000 from unreserved fund balance to the Health Insurance expendable trust, and (6) approval of a non-monetary fund balance retention to safeguard the school district from unusual circumstances that may result in potential over-expenditure. We are grateful to the Hampton Falls community for this continued support and investment in the Lincoln Akerman School.

Residents also elected two seats to serve on the School Board. We are pleased to continue working with Barbara Goodman, and welcome Renee Palm to the HFSB. Renee has been a Hampton Falls resident for over 15 years and has three children in SAU 21. She is a senior executive at an enterprise software company, providing content management solutions to Fortune 100 companies. She's also an active volunteer and loves to support youth sports and her children's activities.

SAU21 Welcomes Dr. Mary Toomey

SAU21 will have a new Director of Student Services joining us this July. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Mary Toomey to our community. Dr. Toomey joins us following many years of service in the Lawrence Public Schools. She has served as a teacher, school and district administrator. For the last four years, she has served as Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, overseeing special education, nursing and behavioral health. Dr. Toomey's experience will be an asset to our schools!

HFSB 3-year Goals

In 2021, the HFSB set about designating three-year goals to focus our work. We developed rubrics that define measurable outputs and responsible parties with each goal. These goals focus on Communication, Fiscal Management, Curriculum and Instruction, and Operations and Governance. We commit to monitoring and evaluating our progress against the goals twice per year and post the results of our assessments online. We invite you to view our goals rubric and baseline report and welcome any feedback.

<https://www.sau21.org/school-boards/hampton-falls/index>

For School Board related updates, visit:
www.sau21.org/school-boards

Do you also receive HF town newsletters?
www.hamptonfalls.org/subscribe

Safety in our Schools

Our hearts are very heavy following recent events, and we continue to keep the safety of our students and staff as critical priority. For obvious reasons, we do not make our safety and security plans public, but those plans are developed in conjunction with local emergency responders, submitted to and reviewed at the state level, and reviewed/practiced by our school staff. In addition, the school participates in a safety and security audit process with the NH Department of Homeland Security on a periodic basis and has taken many steps to address recommendations from their reports over the years. The HFSB has had the opportunity to review those plans and recommendations and recently met with the HF Police Chief, as well, to review additional information. We work closely with our local police department and welcome their cooperation and routine visits to LAS. The SB will again be reviewing updates to these plans in a non-public session at our August meeting.

Across SAU21, we devote hours of our professional development time to preparing staff to respond to emergency situations, and we work collaboratively with local law enforcement and first responders (through our Safety and Security Task Force) to both prevent and prepare to respond to such situations. At LAS, we have enacted an emergency management team and practice various types of drills. Numerous and enhanced measures to secure all access to our school are in place, including active cameras for monitoring security.

Just as importantly, we invest heavily in social emotional learning tools and strategies at LAS. Among other things, this programming helps to teach children skills and strategies for relating to others, coping with anger, frustration, and adversity and helps to destigmatize mental health and asking for support. We work hard to help students be part of the school community. We have behavioral intervention and response teams in place for the SAU that are activated when there is a concern about safety on the part of a student. We teach students to "see something, say something," and we have an anonymous tip line available on our web site where anyone can report a concern or request help. These measures continue to evolve as we learn from each of these tragic events and take whatever additional steps we can to protect and support our children, staff, and families.

Best Wishes & Many Thanks

We're saying farewell to two long-time members of our LAS community! Doreen Kelley has been a staple at LAS for as long as many of us can remember. Doreen has managed our school community and our children's comings and goings – she has provided that critical thread that holds so many pieces together. Without her, we would have definitely been lost. We are thankful to Doreen for her 21 years at LAS, she will be missed!

Lisa Woodruff has been challenging the scientific minds of LAS students for 15 years. Lisa has always brought energy and curiosity to her work, creating an environment to be explored, whether through the fossils in her classroom or the natural world around. She held high expectations for her students, which they enthusiastically delivered. We are thankful to Lisa for making LAS her home and encouraging our students to embrace science! Please join us in wishing both Doreen and Lisa best wishes on their next adventures!

Brief Updates

Focus on Competency Based Education

LAS and SAU 21 continue to support the onboarding of Competency Based Learning.

Reach out to learn more, and review information on CBE online: sau21.org/curriculum/professional-development

Best Wishes to Dr. Arakelian

The HFSB would like to thank Dr. Caroline Arakelian for her dedication as Assistant Superintendent and wish her well as the next superintendent at the Governor Wentworth Regional School District.