

ADEQUACY SITE VISIT



Sunapee School District
Sunapee Central School
Sunapee Middle/High School
December 9, 2015

Sunapee School District Adequate Public Education Site Visit Report

Introduction:

In accordance with RSA 193-E, the responses to the Adequate Public Education Input Based Accountability System (IBAS) Surveys submitted by Sunapee Central School and Sunapee Middle/High Schools were reviewed.

Prior to the visit we:

- Reviewed the current status of any areas in the IBAS that required additional information;
- Noted any areas the principal or superintendent would like to have specifically reviewed;
- Identified key contacts at the school;
- Established a schedule of activities/interviews with school personnel;
- Distributed any preliminary forms or information including a list of visiting committee members.

The reviews, as well as an on-site visit to Sunapee Central School and Sunapee Middle/High School, were completed on December 9, 2015. In the conduct of the review, we examined the following documents:

- District/School Policy Manual
- Staff Handbook
- Student/ Parent Handbook
- Program of Studies
- Curriculum Documents
- Teacher Schedules (or a list of times teachers are unassigned)
- School Schedule
- Master Schedule
- School Map
- Staff Roster – showing Names and Positions
- Fire Inspection
- Safety Inspection
- Examples of Report Cards

We conducted interviews with school administrators, school board members, teachers, parents and students. The committee was warmly welcomed by all groups and the documents for the visit were professionally presented and thoughtfully prepared.

The Adequate Public Education Input Based Accountability System (IBAS) Surveys submitted by Sunapee Central and Sunapee Middle/High Schools present fairly, in all material respects, the respective position of the schools in all areas for which they are accountable.

Commendations:

Sunapee Central School

- There appears to be a purposeful inclusion of coding in the curriculum. We observed elements of coding at all grade levels including Kindergarten (grids) and robots (grade 5). Parents cite coding as one of the strengths of the school
- The “maker-space” in the media center is equipped with a 3-D printer and many materials to foster creative thought and product development.
- In grade 5 “Design Fridays” are a mindful effort to develop STYEM Integration in an interdisciplinary manner.
- Parents value the “Go” Binder initiative that is utilized from grades K-5 is a valued communication tool with families.
- The displays of students works and achievement including, but not limited to: Reading Month “Lightbulbs” strung in the hallways as a visual celebration of the reading time spent by students that month; “Capitol Hill” display of students names when, as 5th graders they successfully identify correctly all of the state capitals.

- Much community pride is generated from the activities that honor area Senior Citizens, Veterans, Green-up Day, efforts to support those in need (food and shoe drives) and others.
- Teachers value intergrade collaboration, Professional Development opportunities, an environment that encourages growth through risk taking, weekly meetings, and opportunities for flexible re- grouping every six weeks.
- Teachers individualize to meet students' needs, and WIN (What I Need) time affords an opportunity to provide targeted and personalized instruction.
- The family and community members speak of a "family "environment throughout each child's learning experience.

Sunapee Middle /High School

- Students appreciate that they "can't hide here", and that their teachers go the "extra mile" to help them out. They report teachers to be approachable and helpful.
- Teachers, students, parents and Board members view the administration as approachable, responsive and caring. They know "everyone" and hold high standards for academic and behavioral expectations.
- An annual schoolwide theme lends focus to the start of the year and carries throughout the year through communications, activities and practices.
- There is a pervasive atmosphere of a caring community that takes pride in athletic, academic and social accomplishments. The message from the home-school is consistent- education is to be valued, and preparedness at this level is critical for future success.
- Students are involved in the Co-curricular program, the school culture is one of politeness and students appear to be focused and have a strong sense of direction. The administration reports that @ 80% of the students are engaged in the co-curricular program.

- Technology is present throughout the school with appropriate bandwidth to support demand, and students can enroll in Virtual Learning coursework that is not available on site.

Both Schools/District

- A strong sense of a caring community with high expectations for its students is present in both schools
- Staff members are valued by parents, administrators, and board members, as well as acknowledging the strong network of collegial support in each building.
- The very positive manner in which the community view the schools.
- The belief by parents that teachers and staff are always looking out for their children.
- The utilization of a curriculum software tool that allows for the posting of exemplars, curriculum maps, course descriptions, shared resources from other users, standards alignment, essential questions, and content.

Recommendations:

- Continue to keep current and utilize the curriculum software tool that appears to offer significant opportunity for sharing, capacity building and instructional support.
- Work with local fire and safety officials to set a plan to address the few deficiencies that were cited in the December 2015 report.
- The most recent health inspection report on file is 10-15-12 for Sunapee Middle/High School. We suggest having a more recent report on file.
- Keep up the good work!



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May 3, 2016

Russell Holden
 Superintendent of Schools
 SAU 85 – Sunapee School District
 70 Lower Main St
 Sunapee NH 03782


Dear Superintendent Holden:

Attached please find the report of the NH DOE visiting team. In accordance with RSA 193-E, (6) Beginning September 1, 2012, the department shall annually conduct site visits of schools statewide to assess the validity of the input-based school accountability system and to determine whether those schools demonstrate the opportunity for an adequate education by meeting the school standards identified in this paragraph. To the extent feasible, the commissioner shall conduct these site visits together with other site visits conducted by the department for other purposes and programs. The commissioner may require more frequent site visits at schools which have been unable to demonstrate that they provide the opportunity for an adequate education. To the extent that the department conducts school site visits for other state and/or federal programs after the commencement of the 2009-2010 school year, but prior to September 1, 2012, the department shall, to the maximum extent practicable, endeavor to audit the input-based school accountability self-reporting completed by the visited school.

Please know that I commend your School Board and the Sunapee School District for the cooperation and support they have shown and, in particular, for the strong sense of a caring community with high expectations for its students that is present in both schools

Thank you for the thorough and welcoming visit that you hosted for the visiting team.

Sincerely,


 Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
 Commissioner of Education

