



From the Superintendent

Franklin Central Supervisory Union

June 2017

Final FSCU Newsletter

Jam-packed Year of Transition Ends

It's no surprise to board members or administrators how busy this past year has been. The amount of work that has been accomplished to ensure preparedness for July 1st is, quite frankly, mind boggling! This simply underscores the commitment the board and administrators have.

The board meetings twice a month have allowed rotation between schools, providing board members and administrators a clearer understanding of the schools and their cultures. Accomplishments to date are many, including adopting a name for the new district; policy work; adopting a mission statement, a budget, a chain of command, and a logo; moving forward with a transportation plan, and much more. On top of all this, the board has successfully negotiated a

unified Professional Staff master agreement!

Administrators have been meeting weekly to do detail work to ensure all schools are operating on the same page. They are combing through procedures, best practices, curriculum, technology and more. This has been very detailed work that is looked at from all vantage points before crafting the resulting outcome. This work will continue as the guiding document is a five-year plan. I have been pleased with the level of cooperation that has been established, and that it is becoming automatic for administrators to seek a unified result for tasks.

On a separate note, I was elected Vt. Superintendent Association treasurer for the 2-year term running from May 2017 to May 2018. In addition to the work, it will provide opportunities

June Meetings

Title	Date/Time
MRUSD Board Meeting	June 5
SATEC Board Meeting	June 5
SACS Board Meeting	June 5
BFA Board Meeting	June 5
FCSU Board Meeting	June 5
Fairfield Board Meeting	June 12
MRUSD Board Meeting	June 21

to meet with Secretary Holcomb and other key education leaders.

Arts in our Schools

Each spring, a nationwide arts competition for high school students is sponsored by the U.S. House of Representatives. The Congressional Art Competition is an opportunity for artistic talent to be recognized and encouraged nationwide, as well as in Vermont. Monday May 8, four BFA students went to the Vermont College of Fine Arts for the award ceremony and reception of this prestigious juried exhibition. BFA Student Desiree Dutkiewicz

received the Congressmen Choice Award.

Vermont has a special connection to the competition. It was created in 1981 by Senator Jim Jeffords when he served in the House. It is the largest annual gathering of art teachers and students in Vermont, and more than 650,000 high school

students across the country have participated.

It is open to all high school students in Vermont. The winning artwork of our district's competition will



Shown Here: Desiree Dutkiewicz*, Briar Rosales, Kayla Bailey, and McKenna Spaulding. Missing: Mariah Stanley

be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol.

Students and our Communities

Project Sweet Talk is a sugaring unit that the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students participate in at Fairfield Center School. Each year the sixth-graders

gather, and boiling. The seventh-graders learn about the maple tree, caring for the sugarbush, and the economics of sugaring. The eighth-graders do the tapping, gathering, and the boiling. Throughout, community members are called upon for their expertise, and it culminates with a day of celebration.

Franklin County Mountain Bike Club (FCMTBC) sent a glowing letter of thanks to students of BFA/Rotary Interact Club who volunteered to help clear trash, clean water bars, rehab trails, and clear blow down at Hard'Ack. Steven

Bernard of FCMTBC remarked that it was an encouraging sign to have students acting as stewards of the community's recreational trail system. Pictures of the work shown below.



My tour guide at Project Sweet Talk

go out and interview local sugarers about history, marketing, tapping,



Thank-You to All Board Members

It is with bitter-sweet emotions that we celebrate this new beginning, as to have a new beginning we must first have an ending. In my relatively short tenure here, I have witnessed firsthand the total dedication and pride that our school board members bring to their positions. More often than not, it is a thankless job. Yet through divisions, differences of opinion and even some nay-saying, our Franklin Central board members have endured, and always united towards what was best for the students of our communities.

This pride and endurance has allowed our district to take this next step into unification. Without the dedication, professionalism, and hard-fought battles, we would not stand on the solid ground that is beneath us now.

To all the past directors of each of the school boards of Franklin Central Supervisory Union, I thank you for your diligence and dedication, and most importantly for always keeping the needs of the students in the forefront of decisions.

It is important that we always celebrate our roots, even while change brings us into new dimensions. It is apparent through work already accomplished by the new Maple Run Unified School District that they are embracing the change of unification. It is also crystal clear that the passing of the torch includes the same professionalism, dedication and pride in our schools as school board members before them.

As a community member, an education employee and Superintendent of the new district, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Devitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'K'.