Addendum Board Meeting December 3, 2020 DECEMBER 2020

Barre City School Barre Town School Spaulding High School Central VT Career Center BUUSD CENTRAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER "Doing whatever it takes to ensure success for every child."

# Nice Things Shared

**Barre Town School:** Master Gardener Tribute Video featuring the Crops by Kids Garden at BTMES <u>https://www.tribute.co/uvm-extension-master-gardener-project-leaders/</u>

**Barre City School:** Student Art Downtown - The merchants listed below, have graciously agreed to display our student work in their businesses: Richard J. Wobby, Nelson Ace Hardware, The Barre Partnership, Milne Travel Agency, Women & Children First, Vermont Bicycle Shop, The Times Argus, Exile on Main St, Community National Bank, William J. Raveis, Morse Block Deli, Subway of Barre, Mister Z's.









### Central Vermont Career Center: Digital Media Arts II https://youtu.be/fuUUs15M5HU

**Spaulding High School:** Alicia Keys - Good Job | Cover by One Voice Children's Choir | A Tribute to Covid-19 Heroes <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkDNp4ATCso</u>

#### **Business Office**

Lisa Perreault, Business Manager Ashley Young, Senior Accountant Ann Baker, Accountant - Payroll Michelle Leeman, Accountant -Accounts Payable Kathy Couture, Medicaid Clerk Jennifer Hart, Medicaid Clerk (PT)

#### **Human Resources**

Carol Marold, Director Leslie Babic, Specialist Linda Papineau, Receptionist

# **Central Office Staff**

#### **Superintendents Office**

David Wells, Superintendent Tina Gilbert, Executive Assistant

#### Asst. Superintendent of Instruction

Mary Ellen Simmons, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Jess Adam, Admin Assistant

#### Technology

Emmanuel Ajanma, Director Megan Gonyaw, Admin Assistant

Communications Josh Allen, Specialist

#### **Early Education**

Lauren May, Director Rebecca Webb, Act 166 Coordinator Megan Gonyaw, Admin Assistant

#### **Special Education**

Stacy Anderson, Director Annette Rhoades, Assistant Director Jon Strazza, Assistant Director Jason Derner, SEA Administrator Sue Cioffi, Admin Assistant

Facilities

Jamie Evans, Director

# SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

I am thankful for the hard work of BUUSD employees as we have pivoted to remote instruction. The main focus of my work over this period has been to refine and improve remote instruction while monitoring the safety of our students and staff. Teachers from across our district have been sharing engaging ideas with their colleagues and their administrators.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Mary Ellen Simmons has articulated a framework for this instruction which she will be sharing with the School Board. Our nurses and administrators deserve thanks for their work in supporting staff members, students and families who are facing COVID-19 concerns. I am also thankful for the work of our maintenance staff who have turned their attention to projects that needed their attention in all of our buildings. Last but not least, I am thankful for our food service program and our transportation company who have worked with our Central Office staff to see that meals continue to be delivered to our students during this time.



# **CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT**

Things have been moving steadily along as I have gotten into my first few weeks of the new position. Here are some of the highlights that I have been working on.

- The Equity, Racial Justice and Inclusion Task Force was created; David and I met with two fourth year Vermont Law School students Jameson Davis and Arielle King to start the conversations around creating a district level policy with procedures, followed by professional development for teachers. The first step is to meet with the policy committee to start the process.
- In collaboration with the administrative team, a document outlining what Extended Remote Learning would look like was created with common expectations for all grade levels, PK graduation.
- The curriculum leaders will be starting an Improving Student Learning Team (ISL) to address curriculum and professional development needs. Representation from administration, curriculum leaders, and teachers will be brought together to start this important process.
- The grant work from FY 2020 2021 has been addressed with all of the Continuous Improvement Plans for each building approved by the Agency of Education.
- In collaboration with the curriculum leaders, the data results from the October assessments have been reviewed and compiled. A district wide assessment plan is in the works.

## **BUSINESS OFFICE**

Administrators and Directors continue to work on the FY22 Budget and will be presenting DRAFT 2 to the finance committee on December 15th and to the board on December 17th.

Auditors will be presenting the FY20 Draft Audit at the board meeting on December 17th.



**Payroll**: Due to the upcoming holiday schedule, for pay period December 13th-26th, please submit your timesheets by Tuesday, December 22nd by 12:00 noon to your school's payroll liaison. This will allow for sufficient time to process. Also, note that the timesheet procedure has been updated to include: In the event that work is remote or off campus during a payroll cycle, electronic timesheets will be accepted and authorizing signatures may be obtained at a later date. Reconciliation and adjustments will be processed in the next payroll cycle.

Accounts Payable: Approved invoices need to be sent/delivered to the BUUSD Business Office weekly by 4:00 pm on Friday so that they can be paid the following week. Warrants and invoices are available weekly, at the BUUSD Business Office, Thursday P.M., for review by designated board member.

**Food Service:** Feeding children/students in the Barre School District has been going well! Families have settled into the delivery routines. It is important for staff and families to know that the bus meal delivery routes will not be operating on non-student days like vacation and holidays. Please let us know if this will cause a hardship to your family and we will do our best to locate resources for you. We are also encouraging families to continue to fill out free/reduced meal applications even though all students are currently eating for free. This data can greatly impact some of our federal funding and we want our students to be eligible for any and all resources available through state and federal organizations.

**Medicaid:** Please submit your Medicaid paperwork before you leave for the holiday break.

# **HUMAN RESOURCES**



The holidays are typically a great source of stress. This year, it will be increased and ever more important that you take care of yourself.

Remember that because you are a BUUSD employee, you have the ability to access the Invest EAP information and support. The main Invest EAP site can be reached by visiting their main website. If you have not yet made a personal account, you can do so on this site using. Your school is Barre Unified SD and the password is VSBIT.

In addition, Invest EAP also hosts The Center for Wellness website. You will find Education in the time of COVID that offers a variety of resources including a page for educators and parents. This is a quick access page, and you will not need a password to check out their resources. <u>https://www.investeapcovid19.org/vermontschoolemployees</u>

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Budget Communications:** Work around budget promotion is beginning to ramp up. I have begun writing and gathering content for the BUUSD Annual Report and have been working on getting quotes from vendors to make sure the project falls within budget.



My other main tool of budget promotion is a series of videos that I have collaborated with the Central Vermont Career Center's Digital Media Arts II class on. We had filming dates scheduled for November 23 & 24, but COVID didn't want to be so kind to us so we are going to need to reschedule and adjust our plan.

**COVID Communications:** Speaking of COVID, communication around this topic is still taking up the majority of my time. From sending out community/staff updates or contacting staff and families about potential close-contact exposure, there is a never-ending need for communication around this subject. I am hoping this extended remote period will allow for some of this to slow down so I can begin to focus my energy on greater projects ahead.

**Upcoming Strategic Planning Podcast:** BUUSD School Board member Alice Farrell recently sat down with Winton Goodrich, Leadership Development Consultant from the Vermont School Boards Association to discuss the need for a Mission, Vision, and Strategic Plan in our newly merged district and the large multi-step process that goes into creating such a plan. This will be shared out to the community in the near future, so keep an eye out for that!

## FACILITIES:



Work continues in all buildings to clean and sanitize on an everyday basis. During periods of fully remote learning, maintenance and custodial staff uses the time to clean and maintain areas of the building that aren't accessible when occupied. Cleaning of walls, light fixture lenses, cafeteria equipment, stairwells, painting, servicing of ventilation equipment and other areas are examples of what is being done during these times.

Buildings are prepared for the onset of winter conditions. Snow plows and snow blowers are ready to go, buckets of ice melting salt are stocked up and heating plants are running smoothly. DECEMBER 2020

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

During this period of extended remote learning, special education staff are implementing Contingency Plans for students on IEPs. These plans were agreed to and written in August and September, or have been revisited and written since then by IEP teams. Contingency plans specify the remote services that will be provided to students on IEPs during remote learning periods.



I have joined a statewide, interagency group working on reform of Vermont's Success Beyond Six (SB6) programming. SB6 services are those that are accessed in partnership with local mental health designated agencies (DAs). The group will meet monthly to work on recommendations for delivery system and payment reform of the SB6 behavior intervention services with targeted timeline for final model submission to CMS of October 2021.

Planning for January Professional Development Day is underway. We anticipate bringing Jennifer Patenaude back to work with our special education staff on Progress Monitoring in Special Education In addition, our special education PLGs continue this work in their weekly and monthly meetings.



## **EARLY EDUCATION/ACT 166**

The Barre City and Barre Town Prekindergarten programs have implemented remote learning plans since the first week of November and have found many families engaging in remote work. Remote learning is new at the PreK level (this year), since the required 10 hours of instruction has previously been met on the two in person days each week. Prior to the transition to remote instruction, teachers had been offering weekly remote "practice" opportunities for families, so that children had exposure to what online learning could look like. Teachers are using See Saw, Google Meets, email, and social media platforms to keep our youngest learners and their families connected while they are apart.

**Progress Monitoring in PreK:** Teachers continue to add documentation and observations into the Teaching Strategies assessment system. Data is collected on 5 developmental domains (cognitive, motor, literacy, language, math and social emotional domains) to monitor student progress over time. Checkpoints are due to the state on December 15th.

Act 166: Our partnering community preschools continue to offer preschool in a variety of formats. Some have moved to remote preschool while others have remained in person.

### DECEMBER 2020

## TECHNOLOGY

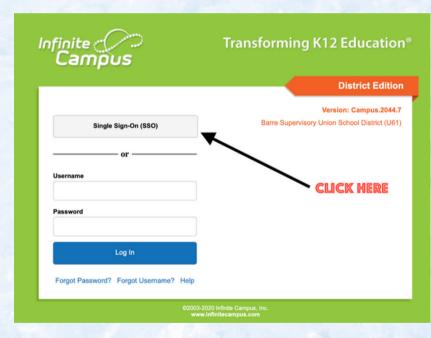
### Computer Science Education Week (December 7-13, 2020)

This is an annual event that aims to inspire K-12 students to learn computer science, advocate for equity in computer science education, and celebrate the contributions of students, teachers, and other stakeholders in the computer science field. Bring Computer Science Education to your students by joining the hour of code. Learn more at <u>http://HourOfCode.com</u>, try an hour yourself, or host an Hour of Code event to introduce your students to the world of computing!



### Using Google Single Sign-On (SSO) for Infinite Campus Login:

Lauren, Mike, and Dan are working to simplify logins for Infinite Campus, which you can get to by clicking <u>here.</u> When completed, staff and students would be able to login to IC with a single click. Instead of having to enter a username and password, click on the button for "Google Single Sign-On (SSO)" shown below. Please Note: This SSO is ready for use for only the High School and Middle School students. We are currently working on setting it up for Staff members and the Elementary School students as well.



### **Edpuzzule Resources**

Whether you are a beginner or an advanced Edpuzzle user, you will find useful resources on this <u>Google Doc</u> <u>created for BUUSD educators</u>.

Technology Resources for Teachers Visit the <u>BUUSD teacher tech resources</u> <u>webpage</u> to find videos, tutorials, and quick tips put together by our very own Technology Integrationists.

## **Phishing Quiz**

Phishing is the fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by disguising as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication. Typically carried out by email spoofing or instant messaging, it often directs users to enter personal information at a fake website, the look and feel of which are identical to the legitimate site. Can you spot when you are being phished? Find out by Phishing following taking the quiz. Click the link to started: get https://phishingquiz.withgoogle.com/

## **UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS**

All Board/Committee meetings start at 5:30 pm via Google Meet. Links to meetings located at <u>buusd.org</u>.

December 3 - BUUSD Board Meeting December 10 - BUUSD Communications Committee Meeting December 14 - BUUSD Facilities/Transportation Committee Meeting December 15 - BUUSD Finance Committee Meeting December 17 - BUUSD Board Meeting December 21 - BUUSD Policy Committee Meeting December 22 - MEETING CANCELLED - BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting December 23-January 1 - Christmas Break

### Meeting Changes for January:

BUUSD Board - Special meeting January 7, 2020 (FY22 Budget/Warning Approval) BUUSD Communications Committee meeting January 21, 2020

## PATH NEWS:



### Reduce your stress and feel refreshed!

You have an opportunity to **earn 10 points in Path** and try the **first class for free**! Christie Mainart, our Health teacher at Barre City, is a certified yoga teacher and is offering this yoga class on **Wednesdays from 4-5pm beginning December 2nd** via Google Meet.

It is a beginner friendly yoga class. This class will provide the opportunity to integrate the foundations of yoga: breathing techniques, postural alignment and how to be more present in your whole being. She will also offer modifications that can allow anyone practicing to move into something more advanced so that no matter where you are at, you can work on improving your strength and balance that supports a solid foundation.

All that is required is that you have a yoga mat to practice on, and a reasonably quiet space to settle into.

It is recommended to give a \$5 donation for each class that you attend after the first class.

To receive 10 path points, you must attend one of the classes offered. If you're interested or have any questions, please let Christie Mainart know at cmainbce@buusd.org! She will then add you to her yogi email list and invite into her virtual classroom.

DID YOU KNOW BASED ON 2019-2020 HEALTHY LIFE SURVEY THE TOP 3 GOALS PEOPLE WANT TO CHANGE IN OUR DISTRICT ARE:

93% -189 USERS SAID "I WOULD LIKE TO REDUCE MY HEALTH RISKS"
91% - 185 USERS SAID "LOWER MY STRESS SCORE"
90% - 184 USERS SAID "BE MORE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE"

**REMINDER TO SIGN UP FOR VEHI's 2021 PATH ADVENTURE:** TIDAL WAVE Registration Closes at 11 pm EST on Friday, December 4th! Late registrations will incur a \$15 late fee so PLEASE register BEFORE the deadline!

### **Spaulding High School Newsletter**

November 30, 2020

#### Message from the Principal

We will be continuing our fully remote schedule, due to the current number of COVID cases within our school district and community. We do hope that we do not experience another spike in cases and that we will be able to resume in-person instruction on January 4th. In the meantime, we will be doing our best to provide learning experiences that continue student progress towards meeting standards. Below is the Fully Remote schedule:

	м	т	W	т	F		
	All students: Remote	All students: Remote	All students: Remote	All students: Remote	All students: Remote		
7:35-9:00	Independent Work Time	Independent Work Time	<b>7:35-8:45</b> Independent Work Time	Independent Work Time	Independent Work Time		
9:00-9:15	Advisory Check In (attendance required)	Advisory Check In (attendance required)	9:00-9:30: Advisory via Google Meet	Advisory Check In (attendance required)	Advisory Check In (attendance required		
9:20-10:20	Block 1	Block 1	(attendance required)	Block 1	Block1		
10:25-11:25	Block 2	Block 2	9:30-11:30 Independent Work Time AND Office Hours by teacher invite or student request	Block 2	Block 2		
11:25-12:00	Lunch	Lunch	11:30-12:00 Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
12:05-1:05	Block 3	Block3	12:00-3:00	Block 3	Block 3		
1:10-2:10	Block 4	Block 4	Independent Work Time	Block 4	Block 4		
2:25-3:05	AM Block	AM Block	AND/OR Flexible Pathways Meetings	AM Block	AM Block		

It is important to note that this past spring, when we were thrust into teaching and learning remotely, was not the same as what is currently being offered. The experience in the spring was one where we were having to react to the situation, guidance recommended a few hours a day of learning and we had to rely upon students doing most work independently. Our remote learning now expects students to be engaged in at least 27.5 hours of learning per week, which means students should expect to be engaged in their learning for five to six hours per day. Learning will vary and may be through direct instruction via google meets, watching instructional videos, participating in discussion groups or completing learning tasks. The fully remote schedule is structured to help students organize their day around each of their classes. Teachers have flexibility to schedule individual and small group meetings during their blocks, first thing in the morning and/or during AM Block (for those not already scheduled). However, it is most important that students virtually attend their classes, where instructions are given. Students are expected to be available for learning during regular school hours (7:35 - 3:05).

Please be safe, be well, and stay strong!

#### **Student & Parent Supports**

Students and adults need structure and consistency. It is strongly recommended that a regular schedule be maintained, a clear work place established and routines be formed. Routines might include exercise, recreational activities (from reading to shooting hoops) and/or family time. With so much time spent on electronic devices for educational purposes, it is important to incorporate activities that are not on devices and allow for physical movement.

Remote learning poses challenges for students, both academically and emotionally. Below are some helpful suggestions and resources:

Parent Tips and Tricks for Distance Learning Parents, Here's a Printable List of Virtual Learning Tips 7 Tips for Parents Supporting Remote Learning (Video) Supporting Teenagers and Young Adults During the Coronavirus Crisis

Teachers are the best resources when asking about particular classes and/or learning tasks. School counselors are the best resources for questions related to schedules (next semester is just around the corner!) or for support with struggles with stress, anxiety and/or well-being. Do not hesitate to reach out to administration if there are questions about school in general. We are all here to help our students be successful.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

The SHS **main office** is "open" from 9-2 Monday - Friday. During these times, we are managing phone inquiries, distributing materials and collecting materials that are dropped off by students and/or parents. There is also a materials space in the entry way for pick up and drop off when students and/or parents can not get to the office between 9 AM and 2 PM. Please call in advance to make sure the materials are left out for you. The office number is 476-4811 ext. 1125.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

The **SHS library** continues to be a support for all students by not only providing access to books (including ebooks and audiobooks) but also providing research and writing support virtually. The SHS Library <u>website</u> has up-to-date digital resources that include databases, e-reference books, portals to current statistics, and even an area for creativity and mindfulness called the <u>Library Lagoon</u>. Christine Smith, our librarian, encourages students and parents to reach out to her on the website through "Ask the Librarian" or contact her at <u>csmitshs@buusd.org</u> for a session on Google Meets for hands-on support.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

**Infinite Campus (IC) Assistance, Chromebooks & Technical Assistance**: IC is our student information system and where progress report information and course grades can be found (assignments and standards may also be found here or in course Google Classroom). Parents and students can access <u>IC through the Campus Edition</u>.

For assistance, questions, concerns or support with chromebooks or IC, please contact Jan Trepanier via the following means: 802-479-6901, <u>helpdesk@buusd.org</u> or jtrepshs@buusd.org. In your message, please include student name, grade and a detailed description of the issues.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

Teachers are the first resource for academic support. However, additional academic support is available through **Tide Pool**, our **academic support center**. Please contact Jim Willis at <u>jiwilshs@buusd.org</u> to arrange a time to get extra help in math. To access literacy support, fill out the <u>SHS Literacy Support</u> <u>Request Form</u>.

Additional academic support for class work can be accessed by filling out the <u>SHS Academic Support</u> <u>Request Form</u>. Students will be contacted directly. Please note that appointments should not be scheduled during times that classes are meeting.

## BUUSD FY21 EXPENSE REPORT SUMMARY - December 3, 2020

	Ado	opted Budget		Y-T-D Expenses	En	cumbrances	Y	-T-D Total	Balance
	7/1	1/20-6/30/21	7/:	1/20-12/1/20	7/	1/20-12/1/10	7/	1/20-12/1/20	12/1/2020
1020 BTMES TOTAL	\$	8,537,379	\$	2,705,563	\$	4,523,953	\$	7,229,515	\$ 1,307,864
1276 SHS TOTAL	\$	9,155,151	\$	3,207,157	\$	3,732,868	\$	6,940,025	\$ 2,215,126
1381 BCEMS TOTAL	\$	8,999,636	\$	2,776,001	\$	4,546,114	\$	7,322,115	\$ 1,677,521
3097 CENTRAL SERV.	\$	3,931,501	\$	1,864,184	\$	1,253,065	\$	3,117,249	\$ 814,252
3097 TRANSPORTATION	\$	1,380,876	\$	235,096	\$	732,693	\$	967,789	\$ 413,087
3097 SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$	13,025,421	\$	3,526,505	\$	8,761,121	\$	12,287,626	\$ 737,795
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$	45,029,968	\$	14,314,506	\$	23,549,814	\$	37,864,319	\$ 7,165,645
5002 CVCC	\$	3,130,404	\$	1,002,017	\$	1,466,267	\$	2,468,284	\$ 662,120

### FY22 BUUSD BUDGET DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS – December 3, 2020

- Administrators/Directors continue to review and work on their budgets. Draft 2 will be presented to the finance committee on December 15th and to the Board on December 17th. At this point draft 2 is showing a favorable decrease as a result of reductions in salary increases and health insurance premium costs based on the recent open enrollment data. With more important information expected soon, we will be able to share a more accurate estimate of tax rate implications at the finance and board meetings later this month.
- The Board proposed target of no more than 2%-5% increase or not more than \$2,251,498 (5%)
- **DRAFT 1** \$47,988,828,830 which is an increase of \$2,958,862 or 6.57% increase over the current budget
- Projected salary/wages and benefits including the new state-wide health benefit plans in effect on Jan. 1, 2021, results in an increase of \$2,342,173 or 5.2%
- Remaining 1.37% increase is primarily special education

### CVCC:

- Draft 2 A slight decrease due to elimination of anticipated loan payment and salary decreases.
- Draft 1 \$3,377,415 which is an increase of \$246,978 or 7.89%

FY22-Draft	1			FY21					
Location	Budget	Enroll	Per Pupil	Location	Budget	Enroll	Per Pupil		
BTMES	9,139,745	741	12,334	BTMES	8,532,900	848	10,062		
SHS	9,347,410	690	13,547	SHS	9,155,182	733	12,490		
BCEMS	9,711,476	878	11,061	BCEMS	8,999,636	884	10,180		
CVCC	3,377,415	171	17,786*	CVCC	3,130,436	176	17,786		
Central Office	5,674,269	2480	2,296	Central Office	5,312,413	2641	2,011		
Special Ed.	14,115,927	542	26,111	Special Ed.	13,029,837	533	24,446		
*CVCC-Estimat	ed tuition								

### Unaudited FY20 Fund Balances

- General: \$120,000
- CVCC: \$178,000
- Capital: \$317,573
- Food: \$125,000

### Tax Calculation Information-Not available at time of addendum submission

- Tax Commissioner Announced Yield Shall not be impacted by ed fund deficit-will likely decrease
- ADM-Equalized Pupils H. 969 ADM Status Quo
- CLA BC ? / BT 100% Reappraisal on target to impact FY22 tax rate in Spring 2021

Agency of Administration



**State of Vermont Department of Taxes** 133 State Street Montpelier, VT 05633-1401

For Immediate Release Contact: Kate Strousse Executive Assistant Vermont Department of Taxes (802) 828-3763 or <u>Kate.Strousse@vermont.gov</u>

### **Commissioner of Taxes Releases FY2022 Education Yield Letter**

Montpelier, Vt.,— Commissioner of Taxes Craig Bolio has released his December 1 education tax rate letter which forecasts the education tax yields for resident homeowners and the non-homestead tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year (FY) 2022. Using statutorily prescribed calculations, the Agency of Education, Department of Taxes, Department of Finance and Management, and Joint Fiscal Office collaborate to project the yields and rate based on these statutory assumptions.

The forecasted FY22 homestead yield is \$10,763 compared to \$10,998 for FY21 (the current property tax year). The forecasted FY22 income yield is \$12,825 compared to \$13,535 for FY21. The average homestead tax rate is forecasted to increase by 9.5 cents over FY21. The statewide base non-homestead tax rate is forecasted to increase by 10 cents. This represents about a 9 percent education tax increase, on average, for all property taxpayers.

"It is important for Vermonters to know this is a forecast put together according on statutorily prescribed parameters," said Secretary of Administration Susanne Young. "For fiscal year 2019, the forecast was similar, but due to the hard work of school districts as well as spending decisions made between the Administration and the Legislature, the average homestead rate did not increase at all and the nonhomestead rate increased about 4 cents. Just like we did then, the Administration is committed to mitigating the impact of these uncertainties on property taxpayers, to the greatest extent possible," Young added.

There are two significant elements impacting the rate forecast this year. First, the economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reduced the forecast for non-property tax revenues that go to the Education Fund. In August of this year, the FY2022 forecast for these funding sources was reduced from \$590.9 million to \$552.1 million. These revenue sources include 100% of Sales and Use Tax, 25% of Meals and Rooms Tax, 33% of Purchase and Use Tax, and lottery proceeds. This downgrade in the revenue forecasts alone accounts for over 4 cents on the property tax rate. Additionally, due to calculations from the State Treasurer, this year the projected cost of teachers' retirement to the Education Fund is \$38.9 million, up from \$6.9 million last year. This accounts for approximately 3.5 cents on the forecasted rate. Importantly though, as in all years, changes in each district's per pupil spending will result in very different property tax impacts across the state, as locally voted spending amounts are still the primary determinant of a town's homestead education tax rate.

While there is always an element of uncertainty in forecasting rates, this year the COVID-19 pandemic has created

extra uncertainty, meaning these forecasted rates are not inevitable. While the forecasts of non-property tax revenue sources were reduced due to the pandemic, the future path of the virus could require further adjustments to those forecasts. It is also unknown what future federal stimulus may look like, or how that stimulus could impact property tax rates. Changes in these areas would lead to changes in the ultimate rates for FY22.

Additional resources for understanding education tax rates are available on the department's website at <u>http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/understanding-property-taxes/education-tax-rates</u> and from the Vermont school boards association at <u>http://www.vtvsba.org</u>.

