

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - February 26, 2021

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

Today Governor Mills did announce a vaccination timeline that continues to prioritize eligibility based on age. The planned schedule is as follows:

March 3 - Eligibility expands to residents age 60 and older

April - Eligibility expands to age 50 and older

May - Eligibility expands to age 40 and older

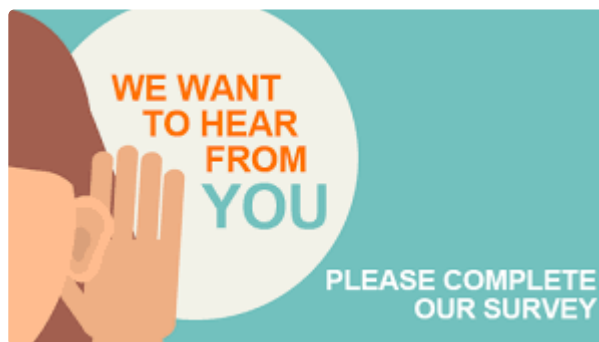
June - Eligibility expands to age 30 and older

July and beyond - Ages 29 and under, including children pending authorization of a vaccine for them

As part of the update on the vaccination strategy, Governor Mills also directed the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Maine Department of Education (DOE) to provide in the coming weeks vaccination opportunities dedicated to public preK-12 school staff who are eligible for vaccination with the age categorizations. Specifically, that means in March, approximately 10,500 education personnel aged 60 and older will qualify for vaccination. More details will be forthcoming.

Stay healthy and remember spring is approximately three weeks away.

My best always,
Sandy Prince



Learning Model Parent Survey

Yesterday the district sent out [this survey](#) to all families.

As part of our ongoing efforts to monitor the successes and challenges of our learning model, we are seeking your input. In addition, the STRRT team that met this summer to plan for school reopening will also be reconvening. We have been closely monitoring the positive COVID-19 case rate in our state and community, and a steady decline has been noted. This is an opportunity to re-examine family preferences, and consider what possibilities might exist to increase in-person learning within CDC and DOE recommendations.

Thank you for taking the time now to provide us with your feedback, if you have not done so already. The survey will remain open until March 5.

Weekly SPS COVID-19 Update

Positive COVID cases at Scarborough Public Schools
February 13 to February 26, 2021

Location	Total Case # in last 14 days	Total # Close Contacts identified
Blue Point School	1	14
Eight Corners School	0	0
Pleasant Hill School	0	0
Wentworth School	2	14
Scarborough Middle School	0	0
Scarborough High School	6	47
District (non-school)	1	0
TOTAL	10	75



We are eager to welcome our newest Kindergarten students to Scarborough Public Schools! We are currently planning for Fall 2021 and will be able to release more information about what school will look like later this spring. If you have a child **who turns 5 on or before Oct. 15, 2021** and you are considering sending them to school in the fall, [please complete this form](#). Formal registration packets will be available on our website at a later date.

The information you provide is important for us to accurately plan for the number of classrooms, teachers and materials we will need in the fall. Please complete the form so we can contact you through email with updates and news about the 2021-2022 school year as the situation evolves and decisions are made. We will hold registration appointments at each school later in the Spring.

[2021-2022 Pre-Registration Form](#)



Superintendent Search Process

The search process for a new Superintendent is still open and we are looking for your input and/or participation in the interview committee. It is important we have robust input from Scarborough staff, students, and the community at large in various phases of the hiring process, including involvement in the interview committee and providing feedback about the qualities and characteristics most valued by the community when selecting the next Superintendent.

The interview committee will be a collaborative team of community members, students, staff, board, and administration, who will conduct the first round of interviews. It is important to note there are three mandatory dates for the interview committee, which will be held in the evenings via Zoom:

- March 15th for discussion about the interview process
- March 22nd and 23rd for candidate interviews

If you would like to be considered for the interview committee, please click this [link](#). The interview committee application will be open until March 1st.

Additionally, a superintendent search feedback survey will also be open until March 1st. Please click this [link](#) to provide your feedback and insight. Your participation will provide valuable information to the interview committee and Board so that stakeholder input can be prioritized during the superintendent search process.

If you have any questions, please contact the Board at boe@scarboroughschools.org.



FY22 School Budget Process

Creating and maintaining the school budget is a continuous cycle, constantly being refined throughout the year as administration reviews areas for cost containment and improvements for the next fiscal year. This year has been particularly difficult for district staff and administrators as they have been working through one time costs associated with the pandemic and managing revenue from multiple sources with varying restrictions for how it can be expended.

The public portion of the FY22 budget process is about to get underway as district leadership will present their budget in detailed workshops with the school board. This year there will be two virtual workshops held: Tuesday March 9th at 8:00 - 10:00 am and Wednesday March 10th at 4:30 - 6:30 pm. These meetings will provide insight into the district's FY22 school year priorities and the district leadership's decision making process for reaching their proposed first reading of the budget, which will be formally presented at the Thursday March 18th School Board meeting. Be on the lookout for Zoom links on the Scarborough Public Schools website to join these meetings as they are occurring or to watch at a later time, so you can be involved in the budget process from the beginning.

As highlighted in the February 15th edition of the town's newsletter, the board has officially begun a search for a new superintendent. The board is in the process of reviewing community applications for the interview committee which are due on March 1st, as well as collating the data from the key criteria feedback survey, which is also due on March 1st. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey or apply for the interview committee. The board will be announcing the committee members at the Thursday, March 4th meeting.

The FY22 budget and superintendent search will be a large focus for board efforts in the coming months, which will be reflected in future communications. We are looking forward to hearing from the community as these projects progress. Please reach out with any questions or comments at boe@scarboroughschools.org.

Federal CRF Update

Prior to the FY21 budget going to referendum and being approved on July 14, 2020, Scarborough Schools had received \$106k in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds via the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER1). Those funds were used to hire two full time subs to meet staffing demands resulting from COVID. Since that time, Scarborough has received a total of \$4.3M dollars in Federal funds through two Coronavirus Relief Fund allocations (CRF1 and CRF2). CRF

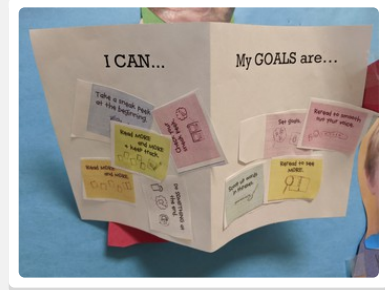
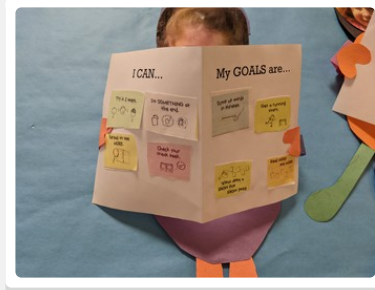
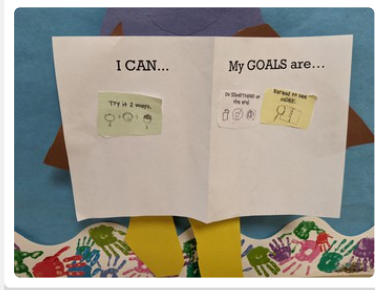
allocations were allotted based strictly on student enrollment, while ESSER funds were based on the district's Title I status (Title I is an entitlement program whose calculation is based upon the number of students receiving free and reduced lunches), resulting in a significantly smaller allocation for Scarborough. Obtaining this funding has been instrumental in successfully and safely reopening schools.

The money that has been received thus far has allowed the district to strategically invest in areas that meet the demands of educating during a pandemic, while not increasing our local taxes or reducing programming. As would be expected in a time of hybrid learning, technology has been the largest area of investment using CRF funds. Investments in technology include: remote services software and subscriptions, live streaming equipment, laptops, chromebook cases for safe transport of devices, and audio equipment to address sound quality challenges in an environment of masking and online learning. These funds also provided Town Hall with the necessary wiring and equipment to live stream all meetings by the various councils and boards to ensure business was conducted safely. Staffing and personnel costs was another major category, including increased staffing to address new safety protocols and expected absences across all departments, in class staff support for remote teachers, professional development training opportunities, and new hire training.

Opening the doors to aging facilities has included substantial investments, such as: a thorough HVAC system review and modifications as needed, new safety dividers, expanded health care facilities, air purifiers, fans, various pieces of cleaning equipment, and increased outdoor learning spaces. Of particular note is the construction of a new storage shed which has been an ongoing need for the facilities department. The new demand to accommodate the necessary PPE, furniture and soft goods removed from classrooms to meet social distancing requirements, and extra educational and cleaning supplies exacerbated this already known need. In partnership with the town council, a site was selected at the bus depot and the shed was erected in December 2020. For those interested, [here](#) is a detailed look at all CRF expenditures.

Initial direction from the state was that all CRF funds had to be spent and accounted for by December 30, 2020, and more specifically, on items not already accounted for in the budget. In response to districts across the country struggling to meet this requirement, in late December the federal government extended the CRF expenditure deadline to June 30, 2021. This provided the opportunity to pull back some planned facility spending and redirect those dollars to continue to fund the additional covid staffing needs through the end of the 2021 school year. In addition to the funds already discussed, a second Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund allotment (ESSER2) was released last week. Scarborough is set to receive an additional \$438,893. ESSER2 funds can be expended through September 30, 2023 and (unlike most federal grants) may be used to supplant normally budgeted costs. As such, ESSER2 funds are expected to be incorporated into the FY22 budget development process.

In the coming months, school administrators and the school board finance committee will be discussing the impact of these funds and investments on the FY22 budget. As always, please reach out to the board with any questions that you may have at boe@scarboroughschools.org and stay engaged as FY22 budget discussions get underway.



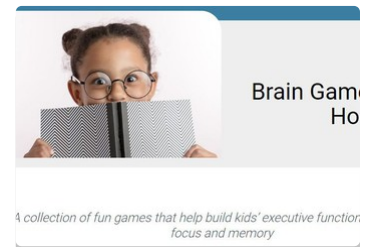
Building independent readers! Student reflect and identify what they can do and set goals for themselves. While these photos are from grade 1 students at Blue Point School, this learning strategy is used across all three K-2 schools as our students learn to become more independent and self-directed as learners.

Parent Resources

These resources provide ideas families can use to help support social and emotional learning.

From the Greater Good Science Center:

- [General Information For Parents and Families](#)
- [Brain Games to Try at Home](#)
- [Take Home Skills: Practices for Families](#)



Blue Point School Displays Heart!





Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

[SPS Revised School Calendar](#)

- **March 1** - Superintendent Interview Committee Applications Deadline
- **March 1** - Superintendent Search Feedback Survey Deadline
- **March 4** - School Board Meeting
- **March 9** - BOE/LC Budget Workshop #1
- **March 10** - BOE/LC Budget Workshop #2
- **March 12** - Staff/Student day for Cohort B Students (*changed at the 7/30/20 BOE meeting*)
- **March 18** - School Board Workshop

Fully Remote Preparedness Plans

Linked [here](#), you will find an overview to Scarborough Public Schools Fully Remote Preparedness Plan, which was shared with the School Board at their December 3, 2020 meeting. Although our goal is to maintain in person learning to the greatest extent possible, there needs to be adequate staffing to facilitate in person learning.





Health & Safety

Please make sure you review [the UPDATED Student Health Self Assessment](#) questions EVERY DAY before sending your child off to school.

TOGETHER, we can make our schools as safe as possible!

COVID-19 Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours have you had a fever (100.4 and above*) or used any fever reducing medicine? YES =

Do you feel sick with any of the most common symptoms of Covid, had vomiting/diarrhea, or felt unwell? (see symptom list to the right) YES =

Have you been a close contact of a person with Covid in the past 14 days? YES =

Have you traveled outside of the state in the past 14 days? YES =
Contact Your School

Stay home with any YES response to the questions above OR with two or more of the "less common" symptoms listed to the right.

Attend school when all answers are NO and your child is feeling well with no other symptoms of illness. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.

Updated 10.9.20

Most Common Symptoms of Covid 19:
Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fever (100.4°F/ 38 °C or greater)*
Chills
Sore throat
New loss of taste or smell

Less Common Symptoms:
Muscle pain
Nausea or Vomiting
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Congestion/runny nose

*Fever is 100.4°F/ 38°C regardless of measurement location (oral, temporal).

Links to Our Schools



Blue Point



Eight Corners



Pleasant Hill



Wentworth School



Middle School



High School

Services & Information

[Spec. Services](#) | Alison Marchese, amarchese@scarboroughschools.org
[Transportation](#) | Sarah Redmond, redmond@scarboroughschools.org
[Food Services](#) | Peter Esposito, pesposito@scarboroughschools.org
[Athletics & Activities](#) | Mike LeGage, mlegage@scarboroughschools.org
[Curriculum](#) | Monique Culbertson, mculbertson@scarboroughschools.org
[Community Services](#) | Todd Souza, tsouza@scarboroughmaine.org



Tech Support

For technology assistance with SPS student laptops, please send a message to techsupport@scarboroughschools.org and someone from Technology will be in touch to assist you.



Scarborough Schools

Facebook @scarbmeschools

259 U.S. Route 1, Scarborough, ... (207) 730-4100

scarboroughschools.org