

Report of the Superintendent of Schools
Joint Supervisory Committee
September 15, 2025

All Union 28 Schools attended Opening Day Convocation at Erving Elementary School. The day began with opening remarks and a discussion of our instructional focus areas. Across all union schools, we will be focused on improving student performance outcomes and our mantra is “All Means All”. Following opening remarks, staff broke into small groups to cover mandated trainings, instructional priorities and a professional development overview. I want to thank the staff for being reflective, flexible and collaborative as we dive into our second year together. Additionally, I extend my thanks and appreciation to the leadership team who worked together through the summer to prepare for the smooth transition into SY 25-26! I am thrilled that we are bringing back an intact leadership team that is firm in a common focus and has built a collaborative foundation to build on in the new school year.

While I am excited about the school year ahead, there are some challenges that will likely face the Union schools and their municipalities. Rising insurance costs from the Hampshire Trust will force some difficult decisions as we head into the new budget season. Retaining staff in an increasingly competitive market and continuing to provide strong educational services with declining enrollment and tighter budgets will also be areas of concerns. I am committed to working with the JSC and individual districts to navigate the changing landscapes while keeping student needs the focus.

As I prepare to present my formal goals for the 2025–2026 school year at the November JSC meeting, I want to share the general focus areas I plan to prioritize:

- **Enhanced instructional outcomes**, and
- **Improved efficiency in key operational areas**

Last year, the JSC Efficiency Subcommittee made meaningful contributions by analyzing and providing feedback on the Efficiency Study conducted by the Collins Center. Their insights were instrumental in affirming the long-term viability of the Union 28 structure. While much of their guidance proved difficult to implement under our current operating model, their work nonetheless offered valuable recommendations.

In particular, their suggestions related to improving the **efficacy and efficiency of central office functions** and **technology operations** stood out as actionable and aligned with our strategic direction. As such, I will be prioritizing those two areas in the coming year, with the goal of enhancing service delivery, streamlining workflows, and better supporting teaching and learning across the Union.

My professional development goals include finishing year 2 of the New Superintendent Induction Program. Additionally, I have also become an affiliate member of MASBO to deepen my understanding around the area of school finance.

I look forward to presenting a more detailed plan and engaging with the committee in November.

As always, I appreciate the support, candor and collaboration of the Joint Supervisory Committee, as well as, the individual district committees in their commitment to the continued growth and success of all Union 28 schools.

I am pleased to announce that Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, Pedro Martinez will be visiting Swift River School on October 3rd. The Commissioner is coming to the Western part of Massachusetts to attend a meeting in Springfield and requested to come visit SRS. We are excited to welcome him and share with him the opportunities and challenges of rural education.

Sincerely,

Shannon White-Cleveland