



The sign at the SAU 107 office located in the Old Town Hall

SAU 107

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Every time I drive through Nottingham Center, I observed a number of cars parked outside the Old Town Hall. They are there for [SAU 107](#). Remember the old saying-*Curiosity killed the cat but information brought him back?* Well, I was curious about the SAU 107. I wanted to know more about it. I did recall there once an SAU with Strafford, Northwood, and Nottingham, then just Northwood, and Nottingham. Now it is just Nottingham. What I found requires a two-part answer – what is SAU 107 and who is the new superintendent?

Initially, I met with Ronald Campo, the newly hired Business Administrator on December 16, 2022. He explained to me that the SAU which means School Administrative Unit and it looks at the “big picture” of education for its assigned area. SAU 107 covers Nottingham School which includes Kindergarten through Eighth Grade, Nottingham students Ninth through Twelfth in either at Coe Brown or Dover High School and special education preschool through now 22 years old. It looks at the facilities, the food, and the education plans. It monitors compliance with state and federal laws and grants. It oversees Nottingham’s education big picture.

Later, I interviewed the new superintendent, [Timothy Koumrian](#), Thursday, December 29, 2022. He talked about how New Hampshire’s unique SAU system works. Here in the Granite State, the SAU can take one of 3 forms. One form just involves a single district. This is our SAU. A second includes multiple towns in one district with one school board such as Oyster River. The third also includes several towns but each municipality has its own board as well as a district board. The original SAU 44 was in the third model with Strafford, Northwood, and Nottingham with each having its own school board and a fourth board composed of all three. He attributed the change from SAU 44 to 107 to each town and its school board wanting to control its work and destiny. In two words, it means more local control.



The new superintendent, Timothy Koumrian at his desk

\ With SAU 107 question answered, I wanted to know more about Timothy Koumrian. He attended Hamilton College in upstate New York as a psychology major with an educational focus. He switched to elementary education and gained a Master's Degree from Leslie College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After teaching one year^[ss1] of teaching 4th-grade students in Newton, he decided he preferred teaching special needs, students. A program at Granite State College prepared him for that and he taught special education in Raymond for 6 years. He defined special education as providing general education material to learning-challenged students in such a way that they could learn it. He is a big advocate for special needs students in the local schools.

He wanted more so he became a certified special education director. He was Sp. Ed in the Goshen- Lempster region Then he was a Special Ed Director in both Claremont and Lebanon. He then moved to and was the director of special education in Salem, NH. Still seeking more in the field of special education, he obtained a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) from Plymouth State University. SAU 107 is his first superintendent position.

Coming back to SAU 107, he noted the first six months here have been a challenge. He says, “the challenge is providing educationally and financially required data as opposed to just education “while and negotiating a teacher three contract while hiring staff all at the same time. Reflecting on Nottingham, he admired and was impressed by the positive pride and attitude of the Nottingham School students and their rich diversity. Moving forward, he plans a retreat with the school board to develop a shared and new vision for SAU 107.

Welcome SAU 107 and our new superintendent, Timothy Koumrian,