

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
August 2014

VISION

To provide a rigorous and comprehensive education that will prepare our students for diverse post-secondary educational opportunities, a competitive workplace, and active civic participation.

MISSION

To help students gain knowledge and skills that build intellect, character, and a lifelong thirst for learning.

New Professional Staff Members

Summer months bring much excitement to schools because they provide an opportunity to meet many wonderful candidates for a wide variety of professional positions. For fall 2014 the following individuals are joining the SAU 16 community in these positions:

SAU Administration—Helen Rist (Special Education)

Brentwood—Emily Abbott (Special Education)

East Kingston—Francesca Leone (Kindergarten); Sarah O’Connor (Technology—30% time)

Kensington—Sarah Dawson (Grade 3); Becky Ruel (Principal)

Newfields—Jennifer Beland-Mosher (Special Education—60% time); Kate Segal (Principal); Lara Thomas (Speech Language Pathologist—60% time)

Stratham—Ashley Arnold (Grade 2); David Goldsmith (Assistant Principal); Samantha Hodgdon (Grade 5); Melanie Metz (Special Education); Amy Riley (Grade 2); Kellie Tingle (Grade 4)

Main Street School, Exeter—Lauren Barrett (Kindergarten); Shannon Doherty (Kindergarten); Susan Mills (Grade 1)

Lincoln Street School, Exeter—Anna Walker Bassett (Reading Specialist); Hallie Estle (Grade 4); James Hayes (Interim Principal); Adrienne (Dree) Sherry (Speech Language Pathologist—one year for a Leave of Absence)

Cooperative Middle School, Stratham—Jeanine Gallant (School Nurse); Edward Lettich (Special Education); Rya Papalian (Special Education); Kimberly Paynter (School

Psychologist); Sarah Sherman (Special Education); Jason Talon (Science); Brittany Thompson (Special Education)

Exeter High School—Sara Cross (English); Seth Goyette (Alternative Education—Special Education); Hannah Harwood (Speech Language Pathologist); Tracey Moulaison (Math—40% time) Melissa Small (Social Studies); Geoffrey Taylor (Social Studies); James Tremblay (Principal); Neil Themea (Speech Pathologist—80% time); Kathy Vetter (Library Media Specialist); Britany Yorgey (Spanish)

Seacoast School of Technology—Carolyn Kelley (Biotechnology—67% time); Dawn Russell (Careers in Education); Paul Yergeau (Automotive Technology)

Eustis Award

In recognition of the 53 years of combined service that Joan and Dick Eustis dedicated to teaching, coaching, and administrative capacities, SAU 16 annually recognizes a district employee who has served students with the distinction that exemplifies an SAU 16 education. Their notable and outstanding careers set a positive tone throughout the Exeter area. Together they serve as role models for educators today.

For 2014, **Mr. Bill Perkins** was selected to receive this prestigious award. His name will be added to the plaque that is located in the SAU 16 Conference Room. He currently serves as one of the Assistant Principals of the Cooperative Middle School (CMS).

Mr. Perkins was chosen because of his life-long commitment to students and families in Exeter and throughout the SAU. He was jointly nominated by CMS Principal Bill Furbush; CMS Assistant Principal Melanie Faulkner; CMS math teacher Deb Merrill; CMS Technology Administrator Andy Littlefield; Adult Education Director Leslie Haslam; and Co-Principal Peter Stackhouse from the Great Bay eLearning Charter School (GBecs).

A native of Exeter and a graduate of the Exeter public school system, Bill Perkins started his teaching career 28 years ago at Exeter Area Junior High School, first as a Study Skills Coordinator and then as a Science teacher. He became Assistant Principal at CMS in 2000. In addition to that role, today he also teaches Science for the Adult Education program and serves as a Trustee for GBecs. His passion for teaching and his dedication to students and the SAU 16 community is clearly evident in the way that he lives his life helping others.

Part of Bill's nomination for this award summarizes why he was selected as the 2014 recipient of this award:

Bill continually goes above and beyond to support students, in and out of the classroom. Bill's own background affords him a perspective that some have not experienced and as a result shares certain compassion with students of need. Whether teaching a student to fly fish in the courtyard, supplying students with clothing or staying with a student every day

after school for academic support, Bill's selfless actions have bettered the lives of many students. Bill's support goes beyond helping students. Bill is generous when it comes to supporting his colleagues as well. Bill is always willing to lend an ear for teachers struggling with student and parent issues. The Cooperative Middle School and the Exeter area are fortunate to have such a great educator, leader, and all around great guy as Bill Perkins. Thank you for all you do and have done for your students.

The presentation of this Award was made at Exeter High School on Opening Day for all of the professional staff on August 21, 2014. Mr. Perkins joins an outstanding array of professional educators who have previously been selected for this coveted award. Past recipients include:

2004-2005—Mike Olson—Cooperative Middle School
2005-2006—Sam Bruno—Seacoast School of Technology
2006-2007—Walter Pierce—SAU 16
2007-2008—Angela Lennox—Exeter High School
2008-2009—Robert “Archie” Schroeder—Swasey Central School
2009-2010—Robert Schur—Cooperative Middle School
2010-2011—Judy Lewis—Stratham Memorial School
2011-2012—Anne DeMarco—Seacoast School of Technology
Margaret Ruggeri—Kensington Elementary School
2012-2013—Kathy Bean and Barbara Egan—Main Street School
2013-2014—Carla Ranks—Seacoast School of Technology

School Nutrition Association Director of the Year—2014

Ms. Jeanne Pierce, Food Service Director for the Exeter and Exeter Region Cooperative School Districts, was honored this summer with the prestigious award from her colleagues as the New Hampshire School Nutrition Association Director of the Year. A resident of Wolfeboro, Ms. Pierce is known throughout SAU 16 for her dedication, creativity, and resourcefulness in developing menus that utilize local produce and vendors as much as possible. She consistently emphasizes the value of her co-workers and stresses that they are no longer “just food service workers,” but have become “school nutritionists” who partner with each other and with local businesses and school colleagues to offer and serve students and staff at least two meals each day. Many local individuals attest to the fact that Jeanne Pierce has set “a very high bar” in the school nutrition world. SAU 16 is fortunate to have her! Congratulations, Jeanne!

Another School Year Begins

All schools within SAU will begin the 2014-2015 school year on August 25, 2014. The calendar for the entire school year is available on the SAU 16 website (www.sau16.org).

Coop School Board Vacancy

The Exeter Region Cooperative School Board is in the process of selecting a new Board Member to replace Exeter resident Ms. Kate Segal who resigned to accept the principal's position at Newfields Elementary School.

Any Exeter resident who would like to be considered for this position must submit a letter of interest that would include information about the person's background and reasons why he/she would like to serve on this Board. All those who submit letters will be interviewed by the remaining eight members of the Coop Board in a public meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at Exeter High School. The Board will then meet in non-public session to choose one individual to fill this vacancy. The selected person will serve until March 2015 at which time the position will be filled by the traditional ballot method on Voting Day.

Letters of interest should be sent to: Superintendent of Schools, SAU 16, 30 Linden Street, Exeter NH 03833. The deadline for receipt of the letters is 4:00 pm on Friday, September 12, 2014.

Champions for Children

Community members and school staff will continue to recognize and celebrate the dedication of local individuals by nominating them for a local Champion for Children award. This award is given to those individuals who have distinguished themselves by demonstrating significant involvement in programs and/or services that directly benefit the students and families of School Administrative Unit 16. The local school board makes the final decision on each award selection. Since 2009, over eighty local individuals have been honored in this way.

School Board Seats Available in March 2015

Terms of office for some current school board members expire in March 2015. Now is the time for interested citizens to consider serving in these capacities. Board Members whose terms expire include Jessie Hollister and Dianne Vosgien in Brentwood; Christina Cassano-Pelletier in East Kingston; Kathy McNeill and John Maxwell in Exeter; Barbara Darby in Kensington; James McIlroy in Newfields; Heidi Hanson and Travis Thompson in Stratham; and Maggie Bishop and one yet-to-be named person (Exeter), Paul Staller (Kensington), Alicia Heslop (Newfields) and Helen Joyce (Stratham) for the Coop. Of the thirty-three total School Board seats in SAU 16, these fourteen positions will be available for (re)election.

Graduate School Course Available in Exeter

Plymouth State University will continue to offer graduate level courses at the Seacoast Professional Development Center (SPDC) in Exeter this fall: *Reading and Writing: The Spell of Language* will be available for those who are pursuing a Masters degree. It will be team taught by SAU 16 teachers Lisa Zach Swasey (Brentwood), Chris Culver

(Kensington) and Exeter School Board Member Jean Tucker. Registration may be completed directly at www.plymouth.edu.

Food Pantries and “End 68 Hours of Hunger” Continue to Need Help

Community service efforts for the new school year will continue to focus on food pantries around the state. They will also focus on “End 68 Hours of Hunger,” the weekend food backpack program that is designed to provide assistance for some of the most needy among us. Many individuals and families struggle to make ends meet and often need to avail themselves of local food banks. The schools in SAU 16 will continue to find ways to gather food and funds to assist those who are struggling to meet some of the most basic of needs. Please encourage our respective communities to join this effort as much as possible.

Contract Negotiations

During the upcoming school year, four collective bargaining groups within SAU 16 will be involved in contract negotiations with their respective school boards. When a settlement is reached between the school board and the association, the results are brought forward to the voters in the community. In March 2015, those registered voters who cast ballots will make the final determination about the proposed contract. In March 2014, less than 20% of registered voters participated in this process.

Negotiations with the teacher associations in the following districts will take place this year: Brentwood and Stratham; negotiations with the Exeter Cooperative Paraprofessional Association in the Exeter Region Cooperative District and in Newfields Paraprofessional Association will also be in process. The goal is to reach an agreement between the respective association and school board by mid-January 2015.

Seacoast School of Technology (SST)

The Seacoast School of Technology (SST) in Exeter serves students from seven area high schools daily: Epping, Exeter, Great Bay eLearning Charter School (GBeCS), Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional, and Winnacunnet. Some students who are enrolled in private schools, home schooled or the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) also participate in the program. Students travel to the Linden Street location to participate in one of eleven career and technical educational courses that prepare them for further education and a career. For more information about SST, please access their website at <http://www.seacoasttech.com/> or at www.sau16.org.

Did You Know?

The cornerstone for the Tuck building of the former Exeter High School was laid in 1911—103 years ago!

Exeter High School (EHS) offers the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) to all juniors in October at no cost. Sophomores may also take the same test at their own expenses. In 2012 and 2013, almost 500 EHS students took advantage of this opportunity.

Assistant Superintendent Esther Asbell has been selected by the Board of Directors to serve as the President of the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) for the 2014-2015 school year.

SAU Business Administrator Amy Ransom has been selected by her peers to be the Vice President of the NH Association of School Business Officials (NHASBO). Her term of office extends through June 2016.

The Stratham Town Democratic Committee selected Tucker Gallant as its 2014 essay contest scholarship winner for this thoughtful discussion of the Preamble to the US Constitution. Tucker is a 2014 graduate of Exeter High School.

The Exeter High School Alumni Association is beginning its fourth official year of operation. Sandy Swiezynski Parks, an EHS graduate from the Class of 1967, is the Director of the Association and may be reached at the high school (775-8647).

SAU 16 is a member of the Seacoast Learning Collaborative (SLC) and works with that organization to provide some special education and transportation services on a shared, cost-savings basis to area communities. SLC is located at "The Castles" on Route 27 in Brentwood.

The *Jim Huebner Leadership Award* was created recently to honor the memory of the popular Exeter High School Physics teacher who died this past year. Mr. Huebner had also been a YMCA Camp Director. The first annual Award was presented this summer to Ms. Caity Mahan and included a \$500 scholarship to a Junior Counselor-in-Training Program at YMCA Camp Lincoln. Jim's wife, Dr. Dawn Huebner presented the Award.

Reflection

For generations, many individuals have expressed support and concerns about public education. Here's one from Professor Samuel Reed Hall: "The entire system of education in America is defective and in need of drastic reform."

Professor Hall was born in 1795 in Croydon, NH. (That is a very small town, north of Newport and south of Grantham.) He went on to become principal of the teachers' seminary at Phillips Andover (MA) Academy and later at what is now Plymouth State University. He wrote many textbooks and was considered one of the foremost authorities in education. One of his biggest claims to fame is that he is credited with being the first teacher in the United States to use a large slate blackboard in the front of a classroom.

Two hundred years later, we are still trying to "reform" public education!