

# **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

## **Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16**

### **FEBRUARY 2016**

#### **Coach Megan Young Honored**

*As reported in my January 2015-2016 Report of the Superintendent of Schools, Exeter High School (EHS) Varsity Girls Soccer Coach Megan Young was recently inducted into the New Hampshire Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame. Begun in 1994, this Hall of Fame has vested this prestigious honor on 30 men since its foundation. Coach Young is the first female soccer coach to have been selected for this outstanding recognition!*

Prior to Coach Young taking on this key athletic role in 2001, no EHS Girls Soccer team had ever played in a state championship game. Beginning with her first state title in 2006, Coach Young has led her student-athletes to seven (7) state championships and has amassed a record of 159 wins, 9 losses, and 3 ties. That means that her teams have won 93% of their games in 10 years! During this time, Coach Young has also received three “Coach of the Year” awards and has mentored countless Division I players.

In addition to her EHS coaching duties, she works full time as a Physical Education teacher at the Cooperative Middle School (CMS) and is herself a graduate of EHS. Congratulations Coach Young! Thank you for all of your hard work and determined effort!

#### **New East Kingston Principal Selected**

Mr. Steven Tullar, currently the Principal of the K-6 Westminster Schools (a K-6 district is southeastern VT) and a resident of Walpole, NH, has been chosen as the new principal of East Kingston Elementary School (EKES) beginning on July 1, 2016.

Mr. Tullar earned his BA degree in Sociology and two M.Ed. degrees, one in Elementary Education and another in Supervision and Administration, from the University of New Hampshire (UNH).

He has been an elementary classroom teacher for 12 years including work at Stratham Memorial School and in the Oyster River School District. Mr. Tullar also served as the Assistant Principal of Auburn Village School for one year. At various times since 1993, he has taught college courses at UNH, Antioch New England University, and Keene State College. Outside of education, Mr. Tullar has also done carpentry work, specializing in agricultural buildings and worked on a family dairy farm in Orford, NH.

Mr. Tullar succeeds current principal, Mr. Jim Eaves, who is retiring after serving EKES for the past 13 years.

#### **EHS Swimmers Earn State Championships**

Both the Exeter High School (EHS) boys and girls swim teams captured their respective Division I State Championships at UNH in Durham earlier this month. This was the first swimming and diving state championship ever earned by the EHS girls. The boys' team

captured state honors in 2014 and can now boast two state championship titles in three years.

### **School Board Candidates**

Thirteen (13) School Board seats are available when voters go to the polls next month. Candidates for the various independent boards within SAU 16 are listed below. Voting takes place in all districts on **Tuesday, March 8, 2016**. Registered voters will be asked to choose from among the following. Each term is for three years unless noted otherwise.

**Brentwood** (1 seat available): Melissa Litchfield

**East Kingston** (1 seat available): Jennifer Ranz

**Exeter** (2 seats available for three years): Lisa McConnell and Patrick O'Day

**Exeter** (1 seat available for two years): Neil Bleicken

**Exeter Region Cooperative** (4 seats available):

Brentwood - Melissa Litchfield

Exeter - Kimberly Meyer

Kensington - James Webber

Stratham (one-year term) - Travis Thompson

**Kensington** (2 seats available)

Three-year seat: Benjamin Cole and Timothy Galitski

Two-year seat: Tina Favara

**Newfields** (1 seat available): Dan Conner and Karla Dalton

**Stratham** (1 seat available): Vacant

### **Coop Budget Advisory Candidates (BAC)**

Three seats on the Budget Advisory Committee for the Exeter Region Cooperative School District are available when voters go to the polls next month. Candidates are listed below. **Voting takes place in all districts on Tuesday, March 8, 2016.**

Registered voters will be asked to choose from among the following. Each term is for three years.

Exeter: Vacant

Newfields: Vacant

Stratham: Lucy Cushman

### **School District "Savings Accounts"**

Any school district is allowed to set aside funds - with the permission of the voters - for a specific purpose. Over the years, the seven independent school districts within the SAU have done precisely that. The following is a list of the specific "savings accounts" which are called either a "capital reserve account" or an "expendable trust fund." The amounts listed in each account were the total value of that particular account at the end of the most recent calendar year on December 31, 2015.

**Brentwood:**

Capital Reserve - Special Education	\$64,613.70
Capital Reserve – Maintenance (as of Nov. 1, 2014)	\$79,821.94

**East Kingston:**

Capital Reserve - School Building Expansion	\$624,715.22
Capital Reserve - Elementary Development	\$1,582.93
Capital Reserve - Special Education	\$41,679.95
Capital Reserve - School Maintenance	\$16,220.48

**Exeter:**

Expendable Trust - Unused Sick Days	\$67,556.86
Capital Reserve - Building Renovations	\$167,486.40
Capital Reserve - Coop Building Costs	\$309,161.69
Capital Reserve - Transportation	\$0.00
Capital Reserve - Land and Improvement Acquisition	\$0.00
Capital Reserve – Coop Middle School Bond Reserve	\$428,327.93

**Exeter Region Cooperative:**

Capital Reserve Fund - (Re)Construction	\$394,613.63
Capital Reserve - Special Education	\$508,656.01
Capital Reserve - Maintenance	\$504,931.84

**Kensington:**

Capital Reserve - Educational Trust	\$8,909.69
-------------------------------------	------------

**Newfields:**

Capital Reserve - School Maintenance	\$62,881.21
Capital Reserve – Special Education Expend Trust	\$20,000.00

**Stratham:**

Capital Reserve - Special Education	\$425,308.30
Capital Reserve - School Maintenance	\$92,463.18
Trust Fund - Debbie Greenberg	\$4,011.04

**Champions for Children**

Community members and school staffs continue to recognize and celebrate the dedication of local individuals by nominating them for a 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 Exeter Cooperative School Board recently recognized Ms. Lucy Cushman for being “a total school community volunteer.” For over 20 years, she has served on “school-related boards” of all types. While serving on the Stratham School Board (1994-1997), she was instrumental in the forming of the Exeter Region Cooperative School District and served on its original School Board for 12 years (1996-2008). She was one of the original members of the Coop’s Budget Advisory Committee (2007) and the Board of

Trustees of the Great Bay eLearning Charter School (2005). She continues to serve with both of those groups today. As part of her dedication and commitment to students, Lucy served on the Building Committees for both the Cooperative Middle School (1996-1998) and Exeter High School (2004-2006). Today she continues to work on school building projects and is Co-Chair of the Cooperative Middle School Building Renovation Committee.

Lucy Cushman has a real passion for helping students and the community. She is a premier community organizer and leader. She is service-oriented and has committed her energy, enthusiasm and talents to more than a generation of SAU 16 students and their families. She is a role model for others and is truly a “Champion for Children.” The Exeter Region Cooperative is grateful to her and proud to recognize her for all of her hard work of behalf of others.

## **SPOTLIGHT**

### **Spotlight: Newfields Elementary School**

Given the fact that SAU 16 has an excellent reputation for its local schools, each month a different school will be highlighted here as a way of sharing more specific information with the wider SAU and community audience. Each building principal was asked to provide information to be shared with new teachers joining the SAU this year.

**Newfields Elementary School** – *Kate Segal, Principal*  
**Home of the NES Hawks: We Fly for Excellence!**  
9 Piscassic Road, Newfields – 772-5555

Our school-wide expectations for our small town, New England neighborhood school, originally built in 1854 as a two-story academy, are to: *Have fun! Challenge Yourself! Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Take Care of Each Other.* Currently, Newfields Elementary School (NES) has six grades (K-5) with one or two classes per grade level. We have a professional, effective, and caring staff of 40 servicing 139 incredible students. In 2013, NES was the recipient of the *National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence* by the United States Department of Education. Our mission continues to encourage academic excellence in a nurturing environment; empowering students, staff, parents, and neighbors to reach our maximum potential; and continuing to make community contributions to our town, district and SAU.

### **Did You Know?**

Three SAU 16 educators were presenters at the acclaimed *2015 Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference* that was held in Manchester in early December. Cooperative Middle School (CMS) Technology Administrator Andy Littlefield presented workshops dealing with “Blended and Personalized Learning;” CMS Technology Integrator Jennifer Middaugh presented a workshop entitled “Chromebooks for Educators: Beyond the Basics;” and Stratham Memorial School (SMS) Curriculum Coordinator Jessica Wentworth presented a workshop entitled “Mystery Skype: Connecting and Engaging Students.” Also, former SAU 16 Assistant Superintendent Steve Kossakoski who is now

the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS), presented a Spotlight Session entitled “Student-Centered Learning: Paradigm Shift or Incremental Change?”

SAU 16 was formed in 1915. During its 100 years in operation, 11 different people have served in the role as Superintendent of Schools.

Almost 2,500 school aged children in New Hampshire are considered “homeless.” The SAU 16 contact person dealing with “homeless” issues is Ms. Ellen Riiska.

The SAU Business Office issued 2,058 W-2 forms for 2015.

Exeter High School (EHS) Senior **Sean Sullivan** has been selected by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars and the US Department of Education to compete for the very prestigious honor of *Presidential Scholar*. Each year approximately 4,000 high school seniors in the US are invited to be part of this extensive process which focuses on academic achievement and having scored exceptionally well on the SAT or ACT tests. Sean is the only selected student from EHS this year. The final decision is made by the end of April.

Newfields Elementary School (NES) Principal **Kate Segal** was selected to serve as a National Panelist for New Principals by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) for the 2015-2016 school year. Her work in this regard acknowledges her contributions “to the body of knowledge that enhances the work of your colleagues, informs educational leaders and advances the profession of the principalship.”

The *Penguin Plunge*, involving a February swim in the Atlantic Ocean in Hampton, is the primary fund raiser for New Hampshire Special Olympics. This year is the 17<sup>th</sup> *Annual Penguin Plunge* and the 17<sup>th</sup> year that Exeter High School (EHS) teacher and coach Jim Tufts has led a team of students into the frigid waters for the plunge. The 2015-16 school year will see 20 athletes compete in Bowling during the fall season; 15 athletes compete in Unified Soccer; and this spring, 50 athletes will compete in Track and Field. In addition, over 100 peer coaches from EHS and the Cooperative Middle School (CMS) help the athletes train for their competitions.

**Mr. Archie Schroeder**, one of the fourth grade teachers at Swasey Central School (SCS) and the 2008 recipient of the prestigious *SAU 16 Eustis Award*, has been involved with studying archaeology on the grounds of SCS with his students. Recently, he presented each of his students with a “Student Archaeologist” patch – their special “merit badge” - that may be affixed to a shirt or jacket.

*Jump Rope for Heart* is taking place at both Main Street School (MSS) and Lincoln Street School (LSS) in their Physical Education classes. School-wide assemblies will highlight this program during the month of February with a speaker from the *Jump Rope for Heart* organization. The focus of the MSS assembly will be on compassion and the LSS assembly will be having a demonstration of jump roping tricks by Extreme Air.

“Passing Threads” is now open. This is the new, student-run, free, clothing store at the Cooperative Middle School (CMS) and is open to any student who may be interested in “shopping” there.

### **The Three C’s—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service**

All of the students in grades 1-5 at **Swasey Central School (SCS)** have taken a “Kindness Pledge” in their art classes. This is based on the book *Wonder*, written and illustrated by Raquel J. Palacio. Each student added their thumbprint on a community art piece to acknowledge their pledge to be kind. The community art banner was unveiled at the school-wide January Shindig and is hung in the school for all to see.

In early January, the fourth graders at **Kensington Elementary School (KES)** were visited by Ms. Hayley LaPoint, one of the staff meteorologists at WMUR (Channel 9) in Manchester. She visited KES to share her love of forecasting weather with the students. Ms. LaPoint recounted stories of tracking severe weather in Fargo, North Dakota and chasing storms in the Midwest. Students were particularly fascinated by the conversation about lightening and asked great questions about “tornado alley,” flash flooding, and El Nino. The students took a virtual tour of the WMUR studio and the green screen process. Ms. LaPoint encouraged students to find and pursue their “passion.”

This year **East Kingston Elementary School (EKES)** marks its thirteenth (13) year as a member of the UNH School/University Collaborative. EKES is one of eight elementary schools on the NH seacoast selected to host UNH graduate level education interns to work with classroom teachers for the school year. The EKES staff is proud and excited to be a member of the Collaborative and to have three UNH interns currently working with the school this year. Recently, EKES hosted a prospective intern breakfast for the 2016-2017 school year. Ten prospective interns spent the morning at the school and will be visiting several schools over the next two months. Most prospective interns will have made a match with a cooperating teacher at a host school by mid-April. UNH does an excellent job managing the selection process.

**Lincoln Street School (LSS)** is now using Twitter as a communication tool. Principal Drew Bairstow is using it as a method to increase communication between LSS and the Exeter community. Twitter allows him to instantaneously distribute useful information; share report card dates; offer links to valuable online resources for parents; and more. He posts information, pictures, and videos of LSS happenings, allowing the school community to celebrate the successes of students and teachers more frequently than ever before. Twitter provides a streamlined, free, and universal location for all of these messages. Twitter will provide a list of short messages organized by the date of posting. If you are interested, you will have a variety of options for viewing or receiving the messages. For most parents, visiting the school’s Twitter page ([www.twitter.com/ExeterLSS](http://www.twitter.com/ExeterLSS)) will be the easiest option. If you already have a Twitter account, you can follow updates automatically by searching for @ExeterLSS from your Twitter homepage. If you choose, you can even have messages delivered automatically to your cell phone as text messages.

The very popular TIGER program from Plymouth State University presented its 2015-2016 children's feature, *I Got Your Back*, at **Main Street School** (MSS) recently. The focus of this year's special program was to raise awareness and seek solutions to various types of bullying behavior among children. Students of all ages respond well to the high energy interactions and positive messages that abound in this program. The **TIGER** acronym stands for **T**ake action; **I** can say no; **G**et help; **E**mpathy; and **R**espond. It is exactly this message that the program consistently tries to model and reinforce for students.

**Exeter Adult Education** continues to offer a wide variety of extensive programs for students of all ages. One of its major initiatives each voting season is to educate its students about the techniques involved in registering to vote and the importance of displaying citizenship by casting a ballot. Anyone interested in learning more about these program or the wide assortment of personal development courses offered should contact Exeter Adult Education directly at 775-8457 or explore its website at <http://adulthood.sau16.org/>

Community service continues to be a major initiative for the **Stratham Memorial School** (SMS) students and staff. In coordination with the successful *End 68 Hours of Hunger* program, SMS is now collecting pudding cups, specifically to enhance needs in this program. Additionally, aided by the efforts of retired teacher Sue Megan, groups of students continue to concentrate their efforts to support the Stratham SPCA, various family and children programs on the Seacoast, Womenade, and the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry.

**Newfields Elementary School** (NES) teachers Matt Bennett and Jodi Bennett and Principal Kate Segal are on the SAU16 Competency Based Education (CBE) Committee which is coordinated by Assistant Superintendents Esther Asbell and Sandie MacDonald. It meets four times a year. One of the goals of CBE is to support all students in order for high school graduates to reach proficiency in the skills they need for college and careers. "Competency education ensures students gain the academic and lifelong learning skills they need to be successful in an ever-changing world. Schools can personalize the learning experience, offering a variety of ways for students to learn and demonstrate learning. Students get the instructional support they need to succeed (academically, socially, and emotionally)." (iNACOL - International Association for k-12 Online Learning)

The structure of NES' Targeted Instruction and its Response to Instruction (RtI) facilitates the staff's ability to provide the elements of effective competency based education. Teachers use ongoing formative assessments to inform differentiated instruction. They are posting and articulating specific and measurable learning objectives. These learning outcomes emphasize competencies that include the application and creation of knowledge, along with the development of essential skills in Math, English/Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, the Arts, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology. The second session of Targeted Instruction is underway with 22 groups, using multiple points of data, offering a range of instruction, including multiple one-on-one learning opportunities.

**Seacoast School of Technology's** (SST) Digital Media Arts teacher, Kristine Groleau (an EHS Blue Hawk graduate), has worked diligently to find industry-recognized certifications for her students. Walker McHenry (GBECS) is the first student to pass the tests and earn his Adobe Certified Associate in Graphic Design and Illustration in Adobe Illustrator. These are not certifications for high school students, but the same tests given to adults working in the industry. Industry-recognized certifications, such as these, or ASE, LNA, ServSafe and OSHA are valuable tools for SST students.

The Honors Spanish IV class at **Exeter High School** (EHS) is focused on the theme of Conflict in Society this year. Each unit of the course focuses on a past or present conflict in a Spanish-speaking country. Students have the opportunity to learn about these conflicts through authentic materials such as news sources, movies, podcasts, literature, and artwork. One chapter or unit in this class dealt with the environment and teacher Nicole Vernon had the students conclude the unit by making recycled art that highlights their responsibility to be better stewards of the world. The authenticity, creativity, and originality of each project was impressive as the students focused on a municipal domestic and industrial waste-disposal site that is the largest open-air landfill in Central America. The students present their "conflict project" to their peers in Spanish and conclude with concrete steps and actions that they can take to be better citizens. The complexity of their oral presentations was extraordinary.

Computer Integration teachers at the **Cooperative Middle School** (CMS), Ms. Jennifer Middaugh and Ms. Erin McQuade, recently completed a collaborative project in which the students were assigned a computer technology pioneer to research. The students were provided guidelines on gathering information about their famous person with the goal of creating an interview script for filming. The students worked diligently with a partner and collaborated on the final typed interview questions. Once completed, the students worked together to prepare and practice for filming the actual interview. They used iPad and iMovie apps to complete the filming. For a grand finale, the students viewed each other's movies and completed brief "quizzes" that they created in Google forms on their technology pioneer.

**Reflection:** A School Board Member recently shared the following quote with me:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." (Theodore Roosevelt; Paris, France—April 1910)