

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
MARCH 2016

Voting Day 2016 Results - Warrant Articles

Budgets

Brentwood – Amended Budget \$5,130,925 -- PASSED
East Kingston - Proposed Budget \$2,708,139 -- PASSED
Exeter - Proposed Budget \$17,135,355 -- PASSED
Exeter Region Coop - Proposed Budget \$56,692,794 -- PASSED
Kensington - Proposed \$2,393,940 -- PASSED
Newfields - Proposed \$2,448,333 -- PASSED
Stratham - Proposed \$10,276,705 -- PASSED

Trust Funds

Brentwood – Create Fund for Safety and Security/Add \$20,000 -- PASSED
Exeter Region Coop –Synthetic Field Replacement/Add \$50,000 -- PASSED
Newfields - Building Maintenance - Add \$10,000 -- PASSED
Newfields - Special Education - Add \$10,000 -- PASSED
Stratham - Special Education – Add \$100,000 -- PASSED
Stratham - Maintenance - Add \$25,000 -- PASSED

Contracts

Exeter - Paraprofessionals (3 years) 2016-2019 -- PASSED
Kensington - Teachers (2 years) 2016-2018 -- PASSED
Stratham - Paraprofessionals (3 years) 2016-2019 -- PASSED

Other

Brentwood - Expand Kindergarten to Full Day Program (\$270,049.88) -- PASSED
Brentwood – Child Benefit Services for \$3,893.60 (Petition) -- AILED
Brentwood – Approve Expansion to Full Day Kindergarten (Petition) --TABLED
Exeter – Addition to Main Street School (\$5.4M Bond) -- PASSED
Exeter Region Coop – Create Fund for CMS Renovation (\$2M) -- FAILED
Exeter Region Coop – Confidence in Superintendent (petition) -- PASSED
Newfields – Implement School Nepotism Policy -- PASSED
Newfields – Hire an extra teacher (petition) -- FAILED

Voting Day 2016 Results - School Board Members

Brentwood – Melissa Litchfield
East Kingston – Jennifer Ranz
Exeter – Lisa McConnell and Patrick O'Day
Exeter Region Coop – Melissa Litchfield (Brentwood); Kimberly Meyer (Exeter),
James Webber (Kensington); Travis Thompson (Stratham)
Kensington – Ben Cole
Newfields – Dan Connor
Stratham – Cheryl Eveleigh (Write In)

Coop Budget Advisory Committee Results

Two current members of the Exeter Region Cooperative Budget Advisory Committee were re-elected to a three-year terms on March 8, 2016. They are Lucy Cushman of Stratham and Simon Heslop of Newfields, who was re-elected as a Write-In candidate. Robert Delorie of Exeter was elected as a Write-In candidate to his first three-year term. Congratulations to each of them!

Thank You for Your Service

Serving on a school board today is no easy task. The commitment of time and energy is often more significant than one first imagines. SAU 16 has been fortunate over the years to have capable and dedicated individuals devote some of their community service efforts to help the students, families, and staff members of their respective communities. In March 2016, the following individuals left their school board seats to others. Their service is gratefully appreciated.

East Kingston — **Erin Pettinato** (*served 3 years*)

Exeter — **Jean Tucker** (*served 30 years*)

Exeter Region Coop — **Linda Garey** (Brentwood – *served 3 years*); **Darrell Chichester** (Exeter – *served 3 years*)

Kensington — **Stacy Surprenant** (*served 3 years*)

Newfields — **Karla Dalton** (*served 3 years*)

Stratham — **Everett Lamm** (*served 3 years*)

US Military Academy Nominations

Six (6) SAU 16 connected high school students were nominated recently by US Senator Kelly Ayotte to attend one of the prestigious US Military Academies. Among the nominations made to the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD are Christopher Cashman from Exeter (Exeter High School); John Thompson from Stratham (Phillips Exeter Academy); Katarina Vogel from Raymond (Great Bay eLearning Charter School and the Seacoast School of Technology); Anne Dunigan from Brentwood (Phillips Exeter Academy); and Lucas Dishart from Exeter (Exeter High School and the Seacoast School of Technology). Among the nominations made to the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO is Keala Eichholz from Stratham (Exeter High School). To be considered for an appointment to a service academy, applicants must be nominated by a Member of Congress or another authorized nominating source.

SAU 16 Salaries over \$100,000 Paid in 2015

The following information is annually provided to the Exeter News-Letter at its request. The list itemizes all salaries above \$100,000 paid during the 2015 calendar year:

Michael A. Morgan—Superintendent of Schools--\$156,341.17

Paul Flynn—Associate Superintendent of Schools--\$131,902.85

Margaret Callahan—Principal, Seacoast School of Technology--\$120,255.81

Karen Pelletier—Assistant Principal, Exeter High School--\$116,440.04

William Furbush—Principal, Cooperative Middle School--\$116,026.88

Esther Asbell—Assistant Superintendent--\$115,277.43

Thomas Fosher—Principal, Stratham Memorial School--\$113,179.99

Richard Wendell—Director of Operations--\$111,126/40

William Ball—Athletic Director/Coach, Exeter High School--\$110,146.59
James Tremblay—Principal, Exeter High School--\$110,091.08
Steven Adler—Principal, Main Street School--\$109,079.96
John LeSage—Assistant Principal, Cooperative Middle School--\$109,051.68
Karen Mullen—Title I Director, Exeter Schools--\$108,015.56
William Perkins—Assistant Principal, Cooperative Middle School--\$107,925.13
Richard Pratt—Technology Administrator, Exeter High School--\$106,103.47
Saundra MacDonald—Assistant Superintendent--\$104,914.43
Andrew Littlefield—Technology Administrator, Coop Middle School--\$104,638.28
Michael Monahan—Assistant Principal, Exeter High School--\$104,223.40
Amy Ransom—SAU Business Administrator--\$103,362.44
Ronald Kew—Principal, Swasey Central School--\$103,199.50
Melanie Faulkner—Assistant Principal, Cooperative Middle School--\$102,481.43
Lauren McGrath—Assistant Principal, Cooperative Middle School--\$100,991.89
James Tufts—Physical Education Teacher/Coach, Exeter High School--\$100,016.05

NH Teacher of the Year for 2017

Two dedicated SAU 16 teachers have been nominated for the prestigious title of NH Teacher of the Year for 2017. **Mrs. Barbara Dupont**, a fourth grade teacher at Newfields Elementary School and **Mrs. Amy Steinberg**, a fifth grade teacher at Lincoln Street School in Exeter submitted the required documents that begin this intensive and detailed process. Through a series of interviews, public displays, and school visits over the next eight months, all nominees will be accorded several opportunities to display the quality of their individual professional work with students and colleagues. A final decision is expected at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year.

National Merit Scholar for 2016

Exeter High School (EHS) senior Sean Sullivan has earned the impressive distinction of being named a “Finalist” in the National Merit Scholarship Program for 2016. Essentially this designates him as having demonstrated exceptional high performance on the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test with excellent potential for future academic accomplishments. It also opens up the strong possibility of receiving academic scholarships for college or university study. The entire EHS community congratulates him! This is a proud personal accomplishment for Sean and for all of EHS.

SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight: Stratham Memorial 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.

Stratham Memorial School – *Tom Fosher, Principal*
39 Gifford Farm Road, Stratham – 772-5413

Stratham (SMS) is home to the Wolves and offers a preschool through grade five program with approximately 580 students. There are five sections of each grade level.

The SMS philosophy states: “We exist to inspire every student, every day.” This is a constant reminder that SMS is challenging for all who enter its doors. Implementing an enriching and rigorous curriculum, each student succeeds at his or her own pace.

The staff, using the Professional Learning Community (PLC) model, has developed goals that reflect enhanced professional practice and conversation. Teams meet based upon their assigned grade level, as well as cross-grade, with its entire faculty over a six-day schedule.

The SMS community is heavily involved on many levels. The volunteer program received the *Blue Ribbon Award* once again based upon the many hours of service. The school supports many community service projects as well, making this a win-win scenario for all!

Did You Know?

Many SAU 16 schools regularly donate non-perishable food items to the St. Vincent de Paul Community Assistance Center in Exeter. In 2015 this organization distributed over 368,000 pounds of food with an approximate retail value of \$1,106,700 during 3,266 client household visits. This represents approximately 307,500 meals for those in need.

Only 106 of the approximately 25,400 registered voters in the six towns that comprise the Exeter Region Cooperative School District attended the 2016 Deliberative Session held in early February. This represents less than half of 1% of those eligible to participate and vote. Subsequently, 4,692 voters cast a ballot on Voting Day (March 8, 2016). This represents 18.46% of those eligible to vote that day.

The Health Science Technologies program at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST) took 41 HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) to the statewide event held recently at Dartmouth College. Students participated in leadership events and competitions all related to the health field.

High Tech Day at UNH took place on March 16. The brainchild of SST Computer Science (CS) teacher, Norm Messa, and Dr. Phil Hatcher, Chair of the CS Department at UNH and a member of the SST IT Advisory Committee, High Tech Day at UNH brings students from all over the state to Kingsbury Hall to participate in a variety of technology-related classes. Eighteen SST students participated.

At the Annual Brentwood School District Meeting this year, voters approved the extension of the kindergarten program at Swasey Central School (SCS) from a half-day program to a full-day program beginning in the fall of 2016. The vote was 193 (67.7%) to 92 (32.3%).

Exeter voters recently approved the \$5.4M bond to expand Main Street School (MSS) which will pave the way for the addition of full-day kindergarten in that community. Because funds needed to be borrowed to complete the project, at least 60% of those voting had to approve. The final vote was 1295 (61.96%) in favor; 795 (30.04%) opposed.

The month of March is very exciting in all SAU 16 schools because of the emphasis on the arts. March is both “Music in Our Schools Month” and “Youth Art Month.”

From the 1978 Newfields Town Report: “Newfields Elementary School began the academic year with many staff changes including a new principal (who is shared with the Swasey School in Brentwood), two classroom teachers, an art teacher, an aide, and a custodian. Despite these changes, a strong commitment was made by the principal to maintain existing programs while making improvements to them. The entire school staff is a dedicated and capable group of professionals who strive to provide the best education possible for the children of Newfields.”

Over 30 Exeter High School (EHS) students were recently honored by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) and the Athletic Directors Association of New Hampshire for the High School Scholar Athlete Award. Each recipient met the following criteria: 1) must be a NH high school senior; 2) must have earned a B+ average; 3) must be currently active in at least two NHIAA recognized varsity sports; 4) must be a positive role model who has participated in community service activities; and 5) must be nominated by their high school principal and athletic director. Principal Jim Tremblay and Athletic Director Bill Ball accompanied the students to the awards ceremony in Concord on March 14, 2016.

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

Third graders at **Kensington Elementary School** (KES) are becoming experts in local government. Following the standards outlined in the College, Career and Civic Life, Framework for Social Studies State Standards, students in Ms. Chris Culver’s “3C class” are learning about civic virtues and democratic principles. In preparation for Market Day in April, the students of 3C have formed their own society - 3C City. They are in the process of running for offices and positions critical to the success of their town such as Selectman, Treasurer, Road Agent, Librarian, Planning Board, School Board, Police Officer, and Maintenance Director. Students are writing persuasive speeches which are intended to convince their classmates to vote for them. As their study of government and economics continues, students will also begin to learn about supply and demand, as well as understanding net and gross profits.

In March, Physical Education classes at **Swasey Central School** (SCS) have been focusing on the climbing rope, low and high balance beams, cargo net and mats for weight transfer, rolling, and jumping units for the children. Students enjoy participating in demonstrating animal movements, tumbling, inverted balances, balance stunts, and individual and group stunts. They often create their own movement patterns based on what they have learned. In April, the students will transition to prepare for the exciting Jump Rope competition and show that is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2, at Exeter High School. At that time, the 168 members of the K-5 SCS club will use light up jump ropes and possibly glow-in-the-dark designs on their shirts to add to the electrifying excitement for the evening.

Newfields Elementary School (NES) has concluded its NWEA Measures of Academic Progress for Reading and its Fountas and Pinnell winter screenings for first through fifth

graders. Principal Kate Segal and the NES teachers are extremely proud of the growth of their students in reading fluency and comprehension, as well as the effective teaching by the staff in the area of literacy. It must be noted that 88% of the NES students in grades 2-5 are proficient or higher according to the winter Measures of Academic Progress assessment. Additionally, 31% of the students are in the 80th and above percentile! According to our Fountas and Pinnell data, 95% of second graders are proficient and above. In the fall, 50% of first graders met their individual expectations and now have progressed to 73%. Very importantly, five students went from being two levels behind grade level expectations to meeting and/or exceeding grade level expectations. NES educators continue to work in weekly Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to determine specific needs of students and look forward to results from the second half of the school year.

East Kingston Elementary School (EKES) strives to promote a disciplined and stimulating learning environment for all students. Its goal is to provide a positive climate for learning that assures student achievement, enhances self-esteem and resiliency, and develops positive social behavior. The EKES staff values the importance of committing time and resources to help students develop self-control, accept responsibility for their choices, and to recognize the responsibilities that go along with being a contributing member of a caring and responsive community. To better support the creation of community centered classrooms, the school's leadership promotes the use of the *Responsive Classroom* model and *Open Circle* program. *Responsive Classroom* provides teachers with strategies and tools for creating a caring community of learners that embeds social understanding and problem solving into everyday classroom life. It focuses on the strong link between academic success and social-emotional skills. *Responsive Classroom* is a great fit for EKES because of the shared belief that a high-quality education for every child is built on the foundation of a safe and joyful learning community. *Open Circle*, taught in grades K-3 by school counselor Betsy Schulthess, is a curriculum-based program that provides explicit instruction for social, behavioral, and executive functioning skill development. The curriculum keys in on developing children's social and emotional skills, including managing emotions, empathy, positive relationships and problem solving. *Open Circle* supports teachers in building classroom communities where students feel safe, cared for, and engaged in learning.

Lincoln Street School (LSS) third grade teacher, Mrs. Mara Andriski, just began an outreach program with her class that is designed to help children link their Immigration Simulation from last month to modern day immigration that is affecting thousands of people in Europe. The Greek island of Lesbos is one of the gateways, like Ellis Island, that these families pass through on their journey. The island nation as a whole has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize and has been reported in publications such as *The New Yorker* and featured on *the NBC Nightly News* because of their tremendous humanitarian efforts in the face of such overwhelming need. With support from a parent from Mrs. Andriski's class and the parent's colleague at Merrimack College in Massachusetts, the class is organizing a drive at LSS that is focused on those items needed most: clothes, blankets and toiletries, as well as collecting funds for shipping these items to Lesbos. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome. The overall hope is that talking about the collection of these items with students will truly give them a better perspective of modern immigration and the difficulties that immigrants still face on

a daily basis. It is Mrs. Andriski's hope that the real world application of this project will provide a deeper understanding and relevant connection for students as it relates to this immigration unit.

An evening Family Story Hour was held earlier the month at **Main Street School (MSS)**. Second grade students were video-recorded in the school library as they talked about their favorite literary characters. A number of teachers and student volunteers shared a story and combined the telling of the story with percussion instruments. Principal Steve Adler and Assistant Principal Beth Cadorette dressed up as "frog and toad" and shared one of their stories as well. There were also a variety of hands on activities and a book swap available. MSS is grateful to Curriculum Coordinator, Mrs. Karla Putney, and the many staff volunteers who made this evening a great success.

Exeter Adult Education's Director, Leslie Haslam, continues to find ways to engage students of all ages in learning. Recently, she spent an afternoon at Hutchinson Sealing Systems in Newfields with Human Resources and Safety Managers to arrange details so that a class in English as a Second Language (ESL) could be taught there to employees on both first and second shifts. Some of the company's employees are our former students and need to continue to strengthen their English listening, speaking and reading skills to be safe and productive. The class will meet weekly and will begin this month.

Technology Education at the **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** is creatively working with the guidance of teacher, Mr. Andrew Irving. Students on Team 9 have been working with Google SketchUp, a type of design software, to create prototypes of various products. The products are of the students' own choosing and are limited to products that solve problems in everyday life. These range from cell phone speakers and charging stations to replacement parts for broken items that are found in the home. These designs are produced on the school's 3D printer and, in some cases, are actually functional. The students are very proud what they have learned and the products that they have actually created.

The **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** will host its annual *Small Business Showcase* at the Talbot Gym on the Tuck Learning Center campus on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Approximately 80 local businesses and organizations will display information about their company's activities and community involvement. The 2016 Showcase will have one of the largest numbers of companies and association participants and is a credit to the hard work and determination of SST's Marketing teacher, Sandy Flannigan, and her outstanding students who realize the importance of developing strong business and communication skills in today's world.

Local psychotherapist, Benjamin Hillyard, recently provided a special program for parents and community members at **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)**. The focus of the presentation was anxiety in children. Mr. Hillyard was able to outline strategies and methods to assist young learners to deal with this growing concern and ways for the parents to aid their children in finding coping mechanisms to handle their stress. This often has its roots in a wide variety of sources including school, home, friendships, and children's own personal, emotional struggles. The 90 minute presentation was well received. Other topics covered included anger, depression, nutrition and social skills.

Mr. Hillyard was able to assist the group in understanding the confluence between mental health and education.

Black History Month and *Love of Reading* were topics of conversation in the **Exeter High School** (EHS) Library during the month of February. The Library celebrated Black History Month with a display highlighting African American History and African American authors. During this same period of time, “Love” was also celebrated: “Love for Books!” One of the displays emphasized “a blind date with a book” which reminded students not to judge a book by its cover. Books were wrapped in brown paper or red and white wrapping paper and the only clue to the contents of each book was a few spare words on the cover. Students agreed to “go on a blind date” by choosing a book and agreeing that once it was unwrapped, they had to read a minimum of 25 pages. Even some staff members joined in the fun and the entire initiative was well received.

Reflection

Last week I attended the funeral of my first grade teacher. She was 92 years old. What amazes me is that we had 70 students in that class in 1955. (“Seven rows of ten students in a row,” she told me a few years ago.) Somehow, that didn’t matter to a six-year-old because that was when I really started to like school—and I still continue to like school—even more than 60 years later!