

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16**  
**August 2013**

**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 2013 the following individuals are joining the SAU 16 community in these positions:

East Kingston—Amanda Akerley (Tech Ed—30% time); Erin Murphy (Music—40% time); Matthew Stevens (Grade 4)

Kensington—Jennifer King (Grade 3); Kelsey Plourde (Grade 2); Rebekah Prince (Grade 5)

Newfields—Beth Campbell (Grade 1)

Stratham—Jessica Buchnan (Grade 3—Leave of Absence); Shannon DeLello (Curriculum Coordinator—60% time); Tiffany Locke (Physical Education); Robyn Powley (Special Education); Eleni Xydias (Grade 3)

Main Street School, Exeter—Christine Martin (Preschool—50% time)

Lincoln Street School, Exeter—Ashley Chisholm (Grade 3); Marc Robitaille (Grade 5); Amy Steinberg (Grade 5)

Exeter Region Cooperative School District—Susanne Bowden (Student Services Administrator)

Cooperative Middle School, Stratham—Laurie McIntosh (Occupational Therapy—40% time)

Exeter High School—Jacqueline Catcher (English); Paul Delnero (Safety Coordinator—60% time); Sarah Jedrzejewski (Social Studies); Maureen Sales (Physics); Heather Saluto

(Social Studies); James Sophinos (English—Alternative Education); Jonathan Vogel (English—one year position); Alex Ward (Social Studies)

Seacoast School of Technology—Harry Lindsay (Automotive Technologies); Anne Pfannkoch (Health Sciences)

### **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 2013, **Mrs. Carla Ranks** was selected to receive this prestigious award. Her name will be added to the plaque that is located in the SAU 16 Conference Room.

**Mrs. Ranks** was chosen because of her significant dedication to the Early Childhood Education program at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST). She has been a pre-school teacher in this program since it started in September 1980. For 33 years she has devoted herself to sharing her love and knowledge of children with her students.

In collaboration with Principal Margaret Callahan, several key individuals added to the chorus of praise for Mrs. Ranks. Some of their comments included:

From Janel Holmes, a colleague in the Wright Start Preschool Program:

*“Carla not only teaches the ABC’s and 123’s, but teaches the whole student with compassion and respect. She will go above and beyond the call of duty to help a student or colleague in need. Carla Ranks simply leads by example and leads well. I can truly say that I am a better person, mother, friend, and teacher because of having Carla in my life! She is a gift!”*

From Ashley Taylor, a Wright Start Preschool student from 1991 who is now a teacher at Main Street School:

*“Carla has always been a part of my family in some way. She had the pleasure of teaching my mother in the Early Childhood Education Program and later went on to have myself, my siblings, and many relatives in the preschool. She is an extremely dedicated teacher, not only to her high school students, but to her preschool students as well. She never stops caring about her students—even after graduation!”*

From Stacey Jordan, an Early Childhood Education student (Class of 1981) who is now a teacher in the Wright Start Preschool program:

*“As a student in her Early Childhood program at SST, I was inspired by her to become the teacher that I am today. During my senior year, she gave me direction to pursue my dreams. She treated each of her students with dignity. Her values have remained the same, and she continues to give her students the confidence they need to achieve success. Carla Ranks certainly embodies everything that the Eustis Award represents and I can’t imagine anyone who would be more deserving of the recognition.”*

The presentation of this Award was made at Exeter High School on Opening Day for all of the professional staff on August 22, 2013. She 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

### **Another School Year Begins**

All schools within SAU will begin the 2013-2014 school year on August 26, 2013. The calendar for the entire school year is available on the SAU 16 website ([www.sau16.org](http://www.sau16.org)).

### **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 seventy local individuals have been honored in this way.

### **School Board Seats Available in March 2014**

Terms of office for some current school board members expire in March 2013. Now is the time for interested citizens to consider serving in these capacities. Board Members whose terms expire include Charlie Gargaly and Amy Mitchell in Brentwood; Korrine Bork in East Kingston; Tracy Jeffers in Exeter; Gary Bonitatibus in Kensington; Kirsten Lord in Newfields; Bob O’Sullivan and Eric von der Linden in Stratham; and Dave

Miller (East Kingston), Kate Segal (Exeter), Kathryn Clark (Kensington), and Mark Portu (Stratham) for the Coop. Of the thirty-three total School Board seats in SAU 16, these twelve 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: *Organizational Leadership in Schools* will be available for those who are pursuing a Masters degree with a concentration in school administration; *Collaborative Leadership* will be offered for those who are pursuing a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS). Registration may be completed directly at [www.plymouth.edu](http://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, six 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 2014, those registered voters who cast ballots will make the final determination about the proposed contract. In March 2013, slightly 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, East Kingston, Exeter, Exeter Region Cooperative, and Newfields. Negotiations with the Exeter Area Administrators Association in the Exeter Region Cooperative District will also be in process. The goal is to reach an agreement between the respective association and school board by mid-January 2014.

### **Seacoast Professional Development Center (SPDC) Opportunities**

The SPDC will continue to offer a wide variety of courses and workshops for teachers and community members this year. This includes opportunities to learn more about technology initiatives and teaching strategies that will strengthen programs for students. Information is updated regularly at the SAU 16 website ([www.sau16.org](http://www.sau16.org)).

## **Exeter Adult Education Programs**

An extensive array of programs for high school completion and for personal enrichment is available through the Exeter Adult Education Program located at the Tuck Learning Campus. These opportunities are part of the numerous programs offered to local residents. Contact 775-8457 or [www.sau16.org](http://www.sau16.org) for more information.

## **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](http://www.sau16.org).

## **Did You Know?**

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, almost 500 EHS students took advantage of this opportunity.

Over 78% of the EHS graduates in the Class of 2013 are planning on attending a two-year or a four-year college this fall.

The Exeter High School Alumni Association is beginning its third 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).

Great Bay eLearning Charter School (GBeCS) which is located on the Tuck Learning Campus in Exeter is expanding to include grade seven this year. It now offers programs for students in grades seven through twelve. Approximately 160 students will attend the school this year. Because it is a state-approved charter school—and because charter schools are public schools—students from any New Hampshire community may attend at no cost to the family.

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.

## **Reflection**

Honor the past! Celebrate the present! Plan for the future!