

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
FEBRUARY 2014

ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETINGS

A summary of 2014 School District Meeting Warrant Articles and Voting Days/Times are presented here for quick reference:

Brentwood:

School District Meeting: Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9:00 am at Swasey Central School

Proposed Budget: \$5,455,102

Other Warrant Articles:

- Brentwood Teachers Association contract - proposed three years with estimated costs of \$43,877 (2014-15); \$65,793 (2015-16); \$64,789 (2016-17)
- Expand Kindergarten from a half-day to a full-day program and raise \$120,000 for that purpose
- By Petition: Adopt the provisions of the SB 2 format for the Annual School District Meeting (60% majority required; voting by ballot on March 11, 2014)

Voting Day: Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm at Brentwood Recreation Center

East Kingston:

Deliberative Session was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 6:30 pm at East Kingston Elementary School

Proposed Budget: \$2,891,892 Default Budget: \$2,853,892

Other Warrant Article:

- East Kingston Teachers Association contract - proposed three years with estimated costs of \$44,068 (2014-2015); \$48,409 (2015-2016); \$50,686 (2016-2017)

Voting Day: Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm at East Kingston Elementary School

Exeter:

Deliberative Session was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 7:00 pm at Lincoln Street School

Proposed Budget: \$15,737,649 Default Budget: \$15,670,526

Other Warrant Articles:

- Exeter Education Association teachers' contract - proposed three years with estimated costs of \$216,567 (2014-15); \$220,740 (2015-16); \$210,641 (2016-17)
- Use \$373,673 from the 1997 Middle School Bond Non-Capital Reserve Fund to offset bond payments for the Cooperative Middle School
- Raise and appropriate \$169,748 to be added to the Middle School Bond Non-Capital Reserve Fund established in 1997. No amount to be raised by taxation.
- Discontinue the Land and Improvement Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund established in 2004 and transfer these funds (approximately \$512,769) to the general fund. Raise and appropriate \$512,769 to be added to the Construction, Reconstruction or Acquisition of School Buildings and/or School Ground Site Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. No amount to be raised by taxation.

Voting Day: Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at Talbot Gym, Tuck Learning Campus

Exeter Region Cooperative:

Deliberative Session was held on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 7:00 pm at Exeter High School

Proposed Budget: \$54,385,508 Default Budget: \$53,941,272

Other Warrant Articles:

- Exeter Area Administrators contract - proposed three years with estimated costs of \$49,613 (2014-15); \$34,856 (2015-16); \$35,553 (2016-17)
- Exeter Education Association teachers' contract - proposed three years with estimated costs of \$412,058 (2014-15); \$631,578 (2015-16); \$570,343 (2016-17)
- Remove the \$500,000 cap on the Maintenance Trust Fund that was established in 2001
- Remove the \$500,000 cap on the Special Education Trust Fund that was established in 2002
- Release all claims to a twelve-foot wide easement running from the fence by the school track through the Carlisle property to Old Town Farm Road at Exeter High School

Voting Day: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – at each respective town

Kensington:

Deliberative Session was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 6:00 pm at Kensington Elementary School

Proposed Budget: \$2,613,439 Default Budget: \$2,774,379

No other Warrant Articles:

Voting Day: Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 8:00 am to 7:30 pm at Kensington Elementary School

Newfields:

Deliberative Session: was held on Monday, February 3, 2014, 6:30 pm at Newfields Elementary School

Proposed Budget: \$2, 379,572 Default Budget: \$2,370,122

Other Warrant Articles:

- Newfields Staff Association contract - proposed four years with estimated costs of \$5,179 (2014-15); \$17,839 (2015-16); \$20,491 (2016-17); \$25,498 (2017-18)
- Add \$10,000 to the School Building Maintenance Fund established in 1992

Voting Day: Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, Newfields Town Hall

Stratham:

School District Meeting: Friday, March 7, 2014, 7:00 pm at Stratham Memorial School

Proposed Budget: \$10,365,229

Other Warrant Articles:

- Remove the \$300,000 cap on the Special Education Trust Fund
- Add \$100,000 to the existing Special Education Trust Fund (currently \$175,150)
- Add \$25,000 to the existing Maintenance Trust Fund (currently \$202,000)

Voting Day: Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at Stratham Municipal Center

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Twelve 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 11, 2014**. Registered voters will be asked to choose from among the following. Each term is for three years unless noted otherwise.

Brentwood (2 seats available): Elizabeth “Liz” Faria and Amy Mitchell

East Kingston (1 seat available): Korrine Bork

Exeter (1 seat available): Dawn Bullens and Paul Nicholson

Exeter Region Cooperative (4 seats available; 1 from each of the following towns):

East Kingston - No candidate (Write-Ins are accepted)

Exeter - Kate Segal and Mr. Chris Suprock

Kensington (two-year term) - Jane Bannister

Stratham - James Firmin

Kensington (1 seat available): Dennis Roffman and Paul Staller

Newfields (1 seat available): Kirsten Lord

Stratham (2 seats available): Robert O’Sullivan and Eric von der Linden

Coop Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Candidates

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 11, 2014. Registered voters will be asked to choose from among the following. Each term is for three years.

Brentwood: Krista Steger

Exeter: Roy Morrisette

Kensington: Cheryl McDonough

Ms. Barbara Switzer to Retire in June

After serving as Principal of Kensington Elementary School (KES) since 2001, Ms. Barbara Switzer announced her retirement at the end of this school year. Prior to coming to Kensington, this dedicated principal had worked in various capacities in the Portsmouth School District, including being an elementary special education teacher, a special education coordinator for the middle and high school, and an assistant elementary school principal. Her 13 years of service to the children, families, and staff at KES have been highlighted with significant work with curriculum, instruction, and assessment; major shifts in technology; significant community service awareness and outreach to the community at large; and strengthening of a positive climate and culture of which the citizens of Kensington can be most proud. The last principal to serve this long at KES was Mr. Frank Scala who resigned in 1989 after also serving in that capacity for 13 years. The search for Ms. Switzer successor will begin soon.

SAU Special Education Administrator Resigns

Well respected and dedicated SAU Special Education Administrator, Carol Andre, has decided to resign her position at the end of the 2013-2014 school year for medical reasons. Ms. Andre has worked in SAU 16 for the past six years - three years as the Special Education Administrator at Exeter High School and three years as the Special Education Administrator for the entire SAU.

Ms. Andre came to Exeter after many years of serve in various capacities in the Dover, NH School Department. The search for her successor is underway and should be completed by early April.

Four in a Row

The Exeter High School Girls Ski team captured its fourth consecutive Division I State Championship at Mount Sunapee Ski Area earlier this month. This impressive string of victories was highlighted by successful runs from sophomores Keala Eichholz, Natalie Bruno, Amelia McGowen and freshman Katrina Johnson. Dedicated Exeter Coach Joanne Pare has coached the team to victory all four years and looks forward to even a more impressive record in the future.

Division I Swimming Champions

The Exeter High School (EHS) boys Swimming and Diving Team recently captured the Division I State Championship in a very tight competition against Bishop Guertin High School of Nashua. Amazing performances from a variety of student athletes helped to bring this honor to EHS. This included Kellen Gray, Zach Bishop, Ethan VanderWoude, James Mundy, and senior captain Patrick Carignan.

Did You Know?

Only one-quarter of one percent of the registered voters in the Exeter Region Cooperative School District, which includes all six towns in SAU 16, attended the Annual Deliberative Session that was held on February 6, 2014. The Coop uses the SB 2 form of government for this purpose. Sixty-one voters attended that meeting which included ERCSD School Board Members, administrators, members of the Coop Budget Advisory Committee, teachers, staff members, and Supervisors of the Checklist from all six communities.

Exeter is the birthplace of three famous artists: Daniel Chester French (1850-1931) was the sculptor whose most famous work is the seated President Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC; writer John Irving (b. 1942) has written several impressive novels including *The Hotel New Hampshire* and *The Cider House Rules*; and author Dan Brown (b. 1964) has also written several novels including *The Da Vinci Code*.

The Three C's—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service + Transitions

The fifth grade SOARS team at **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** decided to undertake a major can drive to contribute to the *End 68 Hours of Hunger* initiative that is underway throughout the entire SAU. Within two weeks, the students created posters, made announcements, and visited classrooms to maintain momentum for the project. During that time, the first graders placed the collected canned goods in groups of ten on each tile in a school hallway. When counted, SMS was able to donate 1,187 cans to this program that provides food to over 75 children throughout the SAU who are in need of food over the weekend. The “68 Hours” represents the amount of time that passes from school lunch of Friday until school breakfast on Monday. The program is coordinated by parent, student, and community volunteers.

The **Kensington Elementary School (KES)** Wellness Action Committee (WAC) sponsored “Health Spirit Week” during the week of February 10-14, 2014. This was the second year of implementing this event in place of the “Biggest Winner,” which was done for three years.

During this week, the school staff emphasized the importance of staying healthy by exercising, eating well, getting proper sleep, reducing stress, drinking water, and reducing the amount of daily screen time. Each day, students and staff displayed school spirit by wearing a different color (Monday - yellow; Tuesday - orange, etc.). On Monday of that week, there was an opening assembly and volunteers from Seacoast United Soccer visited KES to teach the students the importance of exercise and to demonstrate their soccer skills. On Tuesday there was an afternoon assembly with the Start Academy which provided a Jiu-jitsu presentation. On Wednesday, Popovers On the Square Chef Mary Kilcoyne prepared a healthy treat for the students to eat during both lunches. During an assembly in the afternoon, SST students provided a cardiovascular presentation for all the KES students. This was followed by “Jump for Heart” where everyone jumped rope and collected money to support the American Heart Association. On Thursday, there was a day-long WINTER CARNIVAL. The students were organized into multi-aged groups and participated in seven different outdoor activities throughout the day. At the end, they met in the multipurpose room for hot chocolate and a slide show of all the fun that they had together at the carnival. Friday was the day for the students to turn in their weekly health worksheets and healthy challenge sheets, which were given out over the week to encourage students to be healthy.

The February issue of *The Beacon*, the newsletter publication of the **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST) features an impressive list of more than 50 community service initiatives undertaken this year by the students, teachers, staff, and principal of this school that includes students from at least eight different area high schools. Some excerpts from this list include:

- Health Science Technologies students are being trained to receive an emergency preparedness certification to help the seacoast region in the event of an emergency. This training is funded through a National Association of City and County Health Officials Grant for the Medical Reserve Corps.
- SST opened its doors during New Hampshire’s Manufacturing Week so that local businesses could see the School and learn the ways in which the staff is preparing students for the multitude of career opportunities in the advanced manufacturing field. Manufacturing is the number one industry in New Hampshire.
- Culinary Arts students are collaborating with the YMCA by preparing 70 batches of cookies to be given to potential donors as the YMCA continues its fundraising efforts. This is a 5-month project. Teens from Exeter’s New Outlook Teen Center will also be involved in this venture.
- Marketing Technologies students raised \$549 and volunteered at the *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* walk in October.
- Digital Media Arts students are partnering with the fourth graders at the Kensington Elementary School to film their submission to the New Hampshire Division of Travel & Tourism Development’s *Class Act Video Awards Contest!* All fourth grade classes were invited by Governor Maggie Hassan to create a video promoting our great state.

At **Lincoln Street School (LSS)**, many of the third graders participated in a simulation of the Ellis Island experience as the culminating activity for their study of immigration which is part of their social studies curriculum. The LSS cafeteria was arranged with various stations just like at the original Ellis Island off the coast of New York City. Students went through those stations to receive their “final clearance” to enter the United States. Parent volunteers and staff members supervised the stations. Each year it is always noteworthy when current middle and high school students return to LSS and speak memorably about this wonderful, annual experience.

Exeter Adult Education continues to offer a wide variety of enrichment classes for community members. There are various starting dates for these wonderful opportunities which are available at a modest cost. Upcoming courses include: *Intermediate Computer Skills; Introduction to Web Design II; Conversational Spanish I and II; Understanding Choices for Social Security; Italian Cooking; Preserving Family Memories; and Introduction to Fly Fishing.*

Introducing young children to various national holidays is an important part of the education provided at **Main Street School (MSS)** which only has students in Pre-School through Grade 2. This year, recent assemblies of students and staff have focused on Martin Luther King Jr. and Presidents’ Day. These assemblies are directed by school administrators and provide students with the opportunity to learn content about the celebrations and recognitions that are tied to the holiday. Bringing many students together also enhances the community building emphasis within the school. Music teacher Juliet Goyette is commended for the excellent work that she does in preparing different and relevant activities for these assemblies which are thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

Newfields Elementary School (NES) was featured recently on the front page of the Exeter News-Letter with an impressive article regarding its “Child to Child Connection” that is specifically designed to help children in Haiti. The children and staff recently collected four large boxes of supplies that would be delivered to the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere that was devastated by the 2010 earthquake. Donations included soap, diaper cream, toothpaste, pencils, crayons, and clothes. Principal Helen Rist worked closely with community volunteer Laura Martin in conjunction with Sonja and Mike Nagel who have traveled to Haiti several times to help the people there.

The very active Partnership Advisory Council (PAC) at **East Kingston Elementary School (EKES)** is a research and recommendations committee of the School Board. This year it is exploring the changing local demographics and their impact on EKES. Three subcommittees have been formed: the Programming Options group which is exploring different classroom alignments, including a multi-age configuration; the Financial group which is considering different ways to save funds such as sharing resources between or among districts; and the Demographics group which is analyzing short and long term demographic trends for the town, the school, the region, and the state.

All students in Biology I at **Exeter High School (EHS)** have been gathering key information about their personal health and fitness by measuring blood pressure, respiration rates, and checking their pulse after resting, standing, relaxing, and vigorous exercise. This exercise lab is part of the class’ new animal homeostasis unit which will lead into a further study of heredity with a closer investigation of cell cycles, DNA structure and function, and cancer.

One of the specialized classes in the Global Skills Program at the **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** is using movement to expand its Math instruction. Brain Gym exercises are used to open students' minds to mathematical thinking. This supports student learning while they earn "money" for working hard and going above and beyond minimal expectations. Students tabulate their "wallet" at the end of each week and make deposit into their own "bank account." Throughout the typical week, students are able to trade bills with the bank to better track the amount of "money" that they have saved. During this experience, students are also exposed to a variety of math topics such as fractions and decimals and also integrate their computer skills.

Kindergarten students at **Swasey Central School (SCS)** are taking advantage of these winter months by exploring how people and animals adapt to their environment when snow, ice, and cold temperatures are all around. These young children identify what they do to stay warm and learn about the various attributes of animals who survive in this challenging weather.

Reflection

Growing up in Berlin, I went to public kindergarten at the Marston School in 1954-55. I remember my teacher, Mrs. St. Hilaire, with such fondness because she began me on a journey that has led me to a life of going to school every year for almost 60 years! Kindergarten was a half-day program and was offered long before kindergarten programs were required in the State of New Hampshire.

Here are just two historical quotes from that school year to help put life in perspective:

- "Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$50,000 a year just to play ball? I wouldn't be surprised if someday they'll be making more than the President!"
- "When I first started driving who would have thought that gas would someday cost 25 cents a gallon? Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage."