

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

**Voting Day 2014 Results - Warrant Articles**

**Budgets**

Brentwood - Proposed Budget \$5,455,102 -- PASSED  
East Kingston - Proposed Budget \$2,891,892 -- PASSED  
Exeter - Proposed Budget \$15,737,649 -- PASSED  
Exeter Region Coop - Proposed Budget \$54,385,508 -- PASSED  
Kensington - Proposed \$2,613,439 -- PASSED  
Newfields - Proposed \$2,449,572 -- FAILED - Default \$2,370,122 -- PASSED  
Stratham - Proposed \$10,365,229 -- PASSED

**Trust Funds**

Exeter Coop - Remove Cap from Maintenance Fund -- PASSED  
Exeter Coop - Remove Cap from Special Education Fund -- PASSED  
Newfields - Building Maintenance - Add \$10,000 -- PASSED  
Newfields - Special Education - Add \$10,000 -- PASSED  
Stratham - Special Education Cap Removal -- PASSED  
Stratham - Special Education - Add \$100,000 -- PASSED  
Stratham - Maintenance - Add \$25,000 -- PASSED

**Contracts**

Brentwood - Teachers (3 years) 2014-2017 -- FAILED  
East Kingston - Teachers (3 years) 2014-2017 -- PASSED  
Exeter - Teachers (3 years) 2014-2017 -- PASSED  
Exeter Coop - Administrators (3 years) 2014-2017 -- PASSED  
Exeter Coop - Teachers (3 years) 2014-2017 -- PASSED  
Newfields - Teachers (3 years) 2014-2017 -- PASSED

**Other**

Brentwood - Adopt SB2 Format for the School District -- FAILED  
Brentwood - Expand Kindergarten to Full Time -- FAILED  
Exeter - Middle School Bond Payment Withdrawal of \$373,673 -- PASSED  
Exeter - Add to Middle School Bond Fund \$169,748 -- PASSED  
Exeter - Discontinue Land and Acquisition Fund Transfer \$512,769 -- PASSED  
Exeter Coop - Release Easement on Property Near High School -- PASSED

**Voting Day 2014 Results - School Board Members**

Brentwood - Amy Mitchell and Liz Faria  
East Kingston - Korrine Bork  
Exeter - Dawn Bullens

Exeter Coop - Deborah Hobson (East Kingston), Kate Segal (Exeter), Jane Bannister  
(Kensington), James Firman (Stratham)  
Kensington - Dennis Roffman  
Newfields - Kirsten Lord  
Stratham - Robert O'Sullivan and Eric von der Linden

### **Coop Budget Advisory Committee Results**

Two current members of the Exeter Region Cooperative Budget Advisory Committee were re-elected to three-year terms on March 11, 2014. These are Roy Morrisette of Exeter and Cheryl McDonough of Kensington. Krista Steger of Brentwood was elected to her 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 2014, the following individuals left their school board seats to others. Their service is gratefully appreciated.

Brentwood — **Charles Gargaly** (*served 9½ years*)  
Exeter Region Cooperative — **Kate Clark** (Kensington – *served 1 year*); **Dave Miller** (East Kingston - *served 6 years* and Coop Board – *served 6 years*); **Mark Portu** (Stratham – *served 3 years*)  
Kensington — **Gary Bonitatibus** (*served 3 years*)

### **SAU 16 Salaries over \$100,000 Paid in 2013**

The following information is annually provided to the *Exeter News-Letter* at its request. The list itemizes all salaries above \$95,000 paid during the 2013 calendar year and are taken from reported W-2 forms:

Michael A. Morgan—Superintendent of Schools--\$144,336.55  
Paul Flynn—Associate Superintendent of Schools--\$122,615.53  
Richard Keays—Principal, Lincoln Street School--\$112,554.53  
Thomas Fosher—Principal, Stratham Memorial School--\$111,555.99  
Margaret Callahan—Principal, Seacoast School of Technology--\$110,784.01  
William Furbush—Principal, Cooperative Middle School--\$107,405.02  
Steven Adler—Principal, Main Street School--\$105,049.95  
Sean Kiley—Principal, Exeter High School--\$105,040.00  
Esther Asbell—Assistant Superintendent--\$105,024.99  
Richard Wendell—Director of Operations--\$103,741.53  
William Ball—Athletic Director/Coach, Exeter High School--\$101,652.23  
John LeSage—Assistant Principal, Cooperative Middle School--\$100,388.01  
William Perkins—Assistant Principal, Cooperative Middle School--\$99,600.50  
Michael Monahan—Assistant Principal, Exeter High School--\$96,845.98

Saundra MacDonald—Assistant Superintendent--\$96,499.97  
Andrew Littlefield—Technology Administrator, Cooperative Middle School--\$96,200.49  
Richard Pratt—Technology Administrator, Exeter High School--\$96,200.49  
Carol Mastacouris—Assistant Principal, Exeter High School--\$96,167.01  
Melanie Faulkner—Assistant Principal, Cooperative Middle School--\$95,755.04

### **SAU Special Education Administrator**

**Mrs. Helen Rist**, currently the Principal of Newfields Elementary School (NES) has been selected as the new SAU 16 Special Education Administrator. Mrs. Rist began her professional career as a Special Education Teacher and Coordinator of Special Education Aides at Lincoln Street School in 1981. She served in that capacity for four years. After a brief time working in real estate, she returned to the work that she truly loved and worked at Garrison Elementary School in Dover from 1988-2003. While in Dover, she worked as a Special Education teacher, a regular education classroom teacher, a Reading Specialist and an Assistant Principal. From 2003-2010, she was the Teaching Principal at Newington Public School and since 2010 she has been the Principal at NES.

Mrs. Rist brings a positive attitude, an excellent background in both regular education and special education, and over 11 years of experience as a school administrator to this important position. She replaces Ms. Carol Andre who resigned this year for health reasons.

### **Exeter High Principal Accepts New Position in Massachusetts**

After serving as the Principal of Exeter High School (EHS) since July 2012, **Mr. Sean Kiley** has resigned his position effective on June 30, 2014 and has decided to accept a new position as the Principal of Winchester (MA) High School beginning on July 1, 2014. During Mr. Kiley's two years of service, he developed strong relationships with numerous students and was visible at many of their activities and events. He also created a blog that highlighted student successes and served as an important communications tool for the EHS community. The District wishes him well as he moves forward in his professional career.

### **Did You Know?**

Less than 17% of the registered voters (4,002 of 23,877) in the Exeter Region Cooperative School District, which includes all six towns in SAU 16, cast a ballot on March 11, 2014.

The Exeter Chamber of Commerce has created a new award entitled "*The Ed Pease Excellence in Education Award*." This award will be presented each year to a teacher in the Exeter area. Formal announcement of this award will be made at the annual Chamber Awards Dinner on Friday, April 11, 2014 in Portsmouth.

March is "Music in Our Schools Month" and it is filled with a marvelous array of student activities that enhance this aspect of the Fine Arts in all SAU 16 schools. It is a tribute to all SAU 16 communities that music is so well supported among us. Much research has demonstrated that students who participate in music programs excel in their other academic work as well.

Exeter High School (EHS) hosted 16 students from Japan for three weeks in March. This excellent culture opportunity has become an annual event which has also opened up the doors of cultural exchanges with EHS students traveling to Japan each summer.

### **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 fiscal year on June 30, 2013.

#### **Brentwood:**

Capital Reserve - Special Education	\$64,970.54
Capital Reserve - Maintenance	\$140,594.14

#### **East Kingston:**

Capital Reserve - School Building Expansion	\$600,198.30
Capital Reserve - Elementary Development	\$1,520.79
Capital Reserve - Special Education	\$40,044.25
Capital Reserve - School Maintenance	\$31,211.62

#### **Exeter:**

Expendable Trust - Unused Sick Days	\$66,484.26
Capital Reserve - Building Renovations	\$179,727.91
Capital Reserve - Coop Building Costs	\$304,253.03
Capital Reserve - Transportation	\$39,048.63
Capital Reserve - Land and Improvement Acquisition	\$2,101,562.96

#### **Exeter Region Cooperative:**

Capital Reserve Fund	\$388,348.22
Capital Reserve - Special Education	\$500,571.08
Capital Reserve - Maintenance	\$496,911.56

#### **Kensington:**

Capital Reserve - Educational Trust	\$8,486.18
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#### **Newfields:**

Capital Reserve - School Maintenance	\$32,881.21
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#### **Stratham:**

Capital Reserve - Special Education	\$150,224.11
Capital Reserve - School Maintenance	\$128,399.51
Trust Fund - Debbie Greenberg	\$4,810.81

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

The *Read Across America* celebration of Dr. Seuss and Literacy at **Main Street School (MSS)** displayed attractively decorated classroom doors as book covers; a short video for the children on the life of Dr. Seuss; singing the song “READ” to the tune of “YMCA;” guest readers, including visitors from other schools and the Exeter Police and Fire Departments; and an *Open Circle* lunch that highlighted videos of students making recommendations of their favorite books.

Due to the increased costs and the large class of students from **Newfields Elementary School (NES)** attending Sargent Camp this year, NES students held their first annual *Read-A-Thon* for two weeks in February. The goal was to raise funds to defray the costs associated with this most worthwhile community-building activity in which students from other SAU 16 fifth grades participate. Thanks to the generosity of so many local parents and community members, \$2,184 was raised.

The **Kensington Elementary School (KES)** staff had a very full Teacher In-Service Day on March 14, 2014. The regular education teachers and the special education teachers joined their colleagues from other SAU 16 schools in Brentwood for a full morning to work on a Math Workshop where grade level teachers shared resources and developed some common lessons. The KES teaching assistants met to review and discuss English-Language Arts standards and the upcoming Smarter Balanced practice tests. The SAU guidance counselors, PE teachers, and nurses also met with their colleagues from other schools to discuss curriculum and topics of common interest. In the afternoon, the entire staff met with Kensington Police Chief Michael Sielicki to discuss KES lockdown procedures and the school's evacuation plan.

At **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)**, the kindergarten staff and the administration are preparing for the orientation for the incoming kindergarten parents as the school transitions to a full-day model. On May 1, 2014, parents will receive information about the typical components of the program, as well as options for the before/after school care provided by the Kingston/Exeter YMCA staff. School Nurse Lilly will explain required medical information and a tour of the school will be provided, along with a discussion of other important school topics such as special education protocols, the school calendar, and a welcoming presentation from the PTO. The children will visit the school for their own orientation on June 12 and June 13, 2014. This will include a school bus ride, meeting their teacher and classmates, and participating in a variety of developmentally appropriate activities.

For the past 13 years, the students at **East Kingston Elementary School (EKES)** have participated in the American Heart Association's *Jump Rope for Heart* event. This is a fundraiser to help medically fragile children who struggle with heart ailments. Students set goals for this fundraising, and reach out to friends and family to help them to reach these goals. The students raised over \$2,000 for this worthy cause. In return for participating, the school receives bundles of jump ropes along with a variety of health and nutrition curriculum materials. Veteran PE teacher Chris Benson organizes and coordinates this important event.

Students in the Health Sciences Technologies program at the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** have begun their traditional spring internships. Sixteen students are at the Rockingham County Nursing Home in Brentwood in pursuit of their Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA)

certification. Seven other students are at internships at other local health care facilities, including Rite Aid Pharmacy and Exeter Hospital. These students have spent three semesters preparing for these important internships and are well prepared with both content knowledge and practical skills.

*Special Olympics* at **Exeter High School** (EHS) are alive and well due to the dedication and commitment of respected veteran PE teacher and coach Jim Tufts. In early February, Coach Tufts participated in his 15<sup>th</sup> annual Penguin Plunge at Hampton Beach. Twelve EHS students joined him this year to raise money for *NH Special Olympics*. This fall, 20 athletes and 20 peer coaches participated in bowling; several students participated in swimming this winter; and at least 45 athletes and over 100 peer coaches from EHS and the Cooperative Middle School (CMS) will compete in track and field events later in the spring. The spirit and generosity of so many committed individuals is a credit to the entire community.

Fifth graders at **Swasey Central School** (SCS) recently did some exciting social studies work when the curriculum focused on mapping skills and geography through a study of Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, and several other important explorers in world history. The students gathered information, prioritized it, organized it, and then composed well-written reports that were shared with the class. Accompanying these skills, the students created maps and timelines to visually represent their information. These focuses led to discussions about colonization, trade, and the spread of cultural influences throughout the world.

The *Kids Who Care* program at the **Cooperative Middle School** (CMS) works in conjunction with Buxton Oil Company to provide “the gift of warmth” to needy and deserving families during the difficult winter months. Coordinated by respected social studies teacher Bob Schur, students help to raise money to support this program which made nine deliveries to local families this year. This included a Stratham family that had fallen on hard times; an Exeter family where the man had a serious leg infection and was unable to work; an extremely poor family with a disabled father and a mother who cares for a boy with Lou Gehrig’s disease; a Newfields family that had been huddled around a kitchen stove for warmth; and another Exeter family where the home temperature was 48 degrees when the delivery driver arrived and the disabled resident was in his home hospital bed bundled with a winter hat and mittens. This program is a real gift to the community and donations may always be made to *Kids Who Care* at CMS.

Significant curriculum work continues to be done with the Enhanced Learning Committee at **Lincoln Street School** (LSS). The primary focus for this group has been to examine the Star Reading Assessment Program which has piloted this tool with students in grades one through five. The Committee recently discussed various strengths and areas of concern with this assessment and is now recommending that the Exeter School District adopt the Star Assessment for grades 2-5 beginning with the 2014-2015 school year while it continues to examine other possible assessment programs for students in kindergarten and grade one.

## **Reflection**

My only grandchild lives in Brentwood. Thomas will be two years old this summer. I am amazed to think that he will graduate from high school with the Class of 2030! How much will change in education—and in our society—by then?