

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

**Tax Rates—2016**

Local tax rates for the six towns within SAU 16 have been set and fall tax bills have been processed by local town officials. The finalized 2016 rates (per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation) are as follows:

Brentwood - \$24.25 (Increase of \$1.05)—Increase of 4.53%  
East Kingston - \$24.77 (Increase of \$0.02)—Essentially Unchanged  
Exeter - \$26.24 (Increase of \$0.52)—Increase of 2.74%  
Kensington - \$23.51 (Increase of \$0.48)—Increase of 2.08%  
Newfields - \$23.22 (Increase of \$0.11)—Essentially Unchanged  
Stratham - \$20.40 (Increase of \$0.50)—Increase of 2.51%

**School Board Seats Available in March 2017**

Terms of office for some current school board members expire in March 2017. Now is the time for interested citizens to consider serving in these capacities. Board Members whose terms expire include Liz Faria and Amy Mitchell in Brentwood; Korrine Bork in East Kingston; Dawn Bullens in Exeter; Dennis Roffman in Kensington; Kirsten Lord in Newfields; Bob O'Sullivan, Eric von der Linden, and Jillian Carter (1 year term) in Stratham; and Deborah Hobson (East Kingston), Denny Grubbs (Exeter), and Travis Thompson (Stratham) for the Coop. Of the thirty-three total School Board seats in SAU 16, these twelve (12) positions will be available for (re)election.

**Filing Period**

Any resident over 18 years old may be a candidate for any school district office, including school board member, school district clerk, or school district moderator. Terms of office vary depending on the position. Those interested in having their names on the ballot in March 2017, must declare their candidacy in writing to the current school district clerk for their respective district **between January 25 and February 3, 2017.**

**Coop Budget Advisory Committee**

The nine-member Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) that serves the Exeter Region Cooperative School District will have four seats available for election in March 2017. Any resident of Brentwood (current member Krista Steger), Exeter (current member Roy Morrisette), or Kensington (current member Cheryl McDonough) will be able to be a candidate for this important position. Each term is for three-years. In addition, a two-year term is available to any Newfields resident (current member Simon Hyslop). Budget Advisory Committee membership is similar to the distribution of members on the School Board with three representatives from Exeter, two from Stratham, and one from Brentwood, East Kingston, Kensington, and Newfields. The filing period for interested candidates is **between January 25 and February 3, 2017.** Anyone interested in serving the community in this capacity may contact SAU Business Administrator Amy Ransom at [aransom@sau16.org](mailto:aransom@sau16.org) or 775-8671 for additional information.

### **State Champions—EHS Unified Soccer**

The Exeter High School (EHS) Unified Soccer team captured its second consecutive State Championship title recently with an impressive 10-5 victory over strong rival Winnisquam High School at a game held at Southern NH University in Manchester. The Blue Haws had an impressive season under the leadership and mentorship of dedicated coach Sharon Orchard and worked very hard as a team to be successful and to join other repeat EHS champions. Congratulations to our student-athletes and to all who supported the team to achieve this distinction!

### **State Champions—EHS Division I Boys Soccer**

The Exeter High School (EHS) Division I Boys Soccer Team overcame a series of challenges and completed a hard-working and impressive season by defeating Manchester Memorial High School 5-0 at a game held recently at Southern NH University in Manchester. EHS junior Quinn Mantegari led an outstanding group of student-athletes under the direction of distinguished Head Coach Jim Tufts who completed his 40<sup>th</sup> season in this position. Coach Tufts has led EHS teams to eight different state championships - five in Boys Soccer and three in Boys Ice Hockey. Congratulations, Coach, and your 2016 team for doing so well!

### **Contract Negotiations Update**

This school year four (4) collective bargaining groups within SAU 16 are involved in contract negotiations with their respective school boards. Recent hard work has led to tentative settlements between three (3) of the groups and their respective School Boards. These include the teachers association in Exeter and East Kingston, as well as the administrators association in the Exeter Region Cooperative School District. Ongoing work is continuing between the Exeter Education Association and the Exeter Cooperative School Board. The settled contracts will be presented to voters in March 2017.

### **Dedicated Service**

It is difficult to imagine any school district in today's society where "geographic mobility" and "serial careers" do not have direct impact on the sustainability of school personnel. SAU 16 has to be one of those "rare exceptions" and "a special gem" to be able to retain such a cadre of dedicated and committed staff members. The following individuals are acknowledged here because they have faithfully served the SAU 16 community for such an extended period of time.

#### **40 Year Club**

Dr. Kathi Atwood—Exeter High School Special Education (41 years)

Janice Bastille—SAU 16 Title I Teacher (42 years)

Mary Jo Gregg—Main Street School Teacher (40 years)

Bonnie Rosencrantz—Main Street School Teacher (42 years)

Jan Smith—Lincoln Street School Assistant Principal (42 years)

#### **30 Year Club** (Listed by School District in alphabetical order)

Robert (Archie) Schroeder—Brentwood Teacher (38 years)

Nina Baillargeon—Main Street School Teacher (30 years)

Rita Jacobs—Main Street School Teacher (31 years)  
Debra Watson Kimball— Main Street School Special Education Teacher (32 years)  
Elaine Thurston—Main Street School Food Service Program (35 years)

Sandra Blumenthal—Lincoln Street School Teacher (33 years)  
Sue Noseworthy—Lincoln Street School Music Teacher (34 years)  
Cinda Patire—Lincoln Street School Teacher (32 years)  
Pam Rossetti—Lincoln Street School Teacher (35 years)  
Stephanie Varrin—Lincoln Street School Teacher (31 years)

Dr. Andy Inzenga—Cooperative Middle School Music Teacher (38 years)  
Teresa Kukesh—Cooperative Middle School Physical Education Teacher (31 years)  
Wendy MacArthur-Keith—Cooperative Middle School Teacher (37 years)  
Jeanne Mantarian—Cooperative Middle School Speech Therapist (34 years)

Bill Ball—Exeter High School Athletic Director (39 years)  
Pam Belanger—Exeter High School English Teacher (37 years)  
Harry Hobbs—Exeter High School Math Teacher (33 years)  
Dr. Angela Lennox—Exeter High School Science Teacher (33 years)  
John LeSage—Exeter High School Assistant Principal (35 years)  
Pam McDonough—Exeter High School Guidance Counselor (33 years)  
Richard Pratt—Exeter High School Technology Administrator (33 years)  
Karen Pelletier—Exeter High School Assistant Principal (37 years)  
Dave Shannon—Exeter High School Physical Education Teacher (34 years)  
Jim Tufts—Exeter High School Physical Education Teacher (34 years)

Leslie Haslam—Exeter Adult Education Director (33 years)

Eileen Anderson—Exeter Region Cooperative—Food Service Accounting (33 years)  
Dick Wendell—Exeter Region Cooperative—Director of Operations— (35 years)

Sarah Oppenhimer—East Kingston Teacher (33 years)

Margaret Kilcoyne—Kensington Teacher (33 years)  
Wendy Lawler—Kensington Teacher (35 years)

Alison Bzdafka—Newfields Teacher (30 years)  
Barbara Dupont—Newfields Teacher (36 years)  
Dee Kettlewood—Newfields Teacher (31 years)

Judy Eitler—Stratham Guidance Counselor (38 years)  
Christine Gaudet—Stratham Teacher (32 years)  
Donna Maher—Stratham Teacher (37 years)

Karen Mullen—SAU Title I Teacher—(39 years)  
Lyn Schimoler—SAU Special Education Administrative Assistant (33 years)

### **Spotlight: East Kingston 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.

### **East Kingston Elementary School** – *Steve Tullar, Principal*

#### **Mission Statement: Learning Empowers All People**

5 Andrews Lane, East Kingston – 642-3511

East Kingston Elementary School (EKES) is a kindergarten through grade five public school that presently enrolls 140 students. EKES was built on its present site in 1971 and originally had just four classrooms. Over the years, two major additions were completed. To date, the facility consists of twelve classrooms, a multipurpose room, library, computer lab, and extensive grounds and ball fields. The faculty is comprised of thirteen full-time and four part-time professional staff members. There are paraprofessionals serving a variety of roles including special education aide, reading tutor, reading recovery tutor, math tutor, and library aide.

EKES has a reputation as an effective and caring community of learners in the town and across the region. The students are genuinely friendly, eager to learn and very supportive of one another. The staff is highly professional and determined to provide the best for each student. Parent volunteers can be found throughout the building on any given day and are tireless in their efforts to support students and learning.

In 2013, EKES was named the New Hampshire Elementary School of Excellence “Ed”ies award winner for our commitment to provide students with a high quality personalized education in a safe and caring environment. As a school community, we are proud of our students’ accomplishments and the type of community minded individuals they become.

### **Did You Know?**

The Exeter Region Cooperative School Board and the Budget Advisory Committee have both voted in favor of presenting its \$21.9M “Cooperative Middle School Renewal Project” to the voters at its January 10, 2017 Bond Hearing and Budget Hearing. Members of the public are strongly urged to attend those Hearings to express their points of view in preparation for the Deliberative Session that will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at Exeter High School.

Cooperative Middle School (CMS) Special Educator Brittany Thompson is a member of the Fremont School Board.

Jordyn Boucher, an Exeter High School (EHS) freshman from Brentwood, was featured recently on the *NBC Today Show* because of her wonderful story of “beating leukemia” through the tremendous work of the staff at St. Jude Research Hospital in Memphis TN. Jordyn has been cancer-free for six years!

The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra has begun its 19<sup>th</sup> season. Its outstanding Music Director and Conductor is John Page, one of our Exeter parents.

EHS junior Jackie Gaughan is dominating Cross Country records by reaching unprecedented heights at this year's New England Championships which were held recently in Rhode Island. She became the first EHS runner to achieve a first-place finish. She was also the first girl to win the New England title since 2006. Congratulations, Jackie!

Former EHS football coach, Charlie Burch who passed away in 1978 at the age of 47, was recently inducted into the NHIAA Hall of Fame. Coach Burch led EHS to three state championships (1963-1965) and amassed a 23-game winning streak in the 1960's. He was also named Division III Coach of the Year three times in a row.

Stratham Memorial School (SMS) teacher Steve Gagnon had the honor of recently attending the successful NASA launch of the Antares rocket - two years after the model had exploded immediately after its original launch. Mr. Gagnon was part of the "NASA Social Media" group that was selected for this unique opportunity in Virginia in mid-October. Upon his return to SMS, he shared this amazing experience with his students.

Outstanding EHS football quarterback Kyle Ball (no relation to Coach Bill Ball), who led the Blue Hawks into the Division I state championship game recently, signed a National Letter of Intent to play Division I baseball at the University of Maine. Congratulations, Kyle!

The kindergarten students at Main Street School (MSS) selected a heart as the official shape of the 2017 dog tags for the Town of Exeter. The other choices were a doghouse or a fire hydrant. This was a great lesson in citizenship and how democracy works. It is the second year in a row that the MSS children participated in this process with Town of Exeter election officials.

For the fourth consecutive year, the 12 members of the male staff at Stratham Memorial School (SMS) are participating in the "Movember" movement to call attention to men's health issues. These gentlemen are all growing moustaches as a way to support this initiative through the month of November.

Eight members of the Exeter High School (EHS) Honors Choir performed "El Capitan" by John Philip Sousa in early November with the US Army Band and Soldiers Chorus that was held in the Arthur L. Hanson III Auditorium at EHS. EHS choral teacher Roxanne Papp helped to organize this wonderful experience for the students.

Governor (US Senator-Elect) Maggie Hassan and Executive Councilor (Governor-Elect) Chris Sununu are both residents of Newfields and have had their children enrolled in SAU 16 schools.

Main Street School Physical Education teacher Katie McNamara will present a workshop about disability and adapted sports activity design at the SHAPE (the Society of Health and Physical Educators) National Conference in Boston in March 2017.

## SAU 16 History

**Elizabeth A. “Bette” Hutchinson Childs** (8/8/34 - 11/1/01) – Born on August 8, 1934 in Nashua, New Hampshire, Bette moved to Exeter in 1966 with her artist husband William “Bill” Childs, also a teacher. Having previously taught school for three years in Milford, New Hampshire, Bette initially began her career at Lincoln Street School as a substitute teacher. Realizing Bette embodied the teacher who truly loved teaching, Principal Richard Keays embraced the opportunity to make her a permanent part of his school when an opening in his fourth grade staff presented itself. Bette’s love for reading and the desire to encourage that love in her students inspired her to work with *Scholastic Books* to start a library in her classroom. As a gifted and insightful teacher, she understood early the benefits reading would bring to her students when she initiated required research projects, often animal related, to share with their classmates. Bette shared herself with the Lincoln Street students for 24 years before retiring in 1996. She will forever be honored in the *Bette Child’s Reading Corner* of the Lincoln Street School Library.

## Strategic Initiatives in Our Schools

SAU 16 *Vision For Our Graduates*....A Compass to Guide Our Work

*Each graduate demonstrates engaged learning and citizenship through the ability to solve problems independently and collaboratively with perseverance and resilience, and communicates solutions with confidence and empathy.*

Careers in Education students at the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** recently became a part of a new Career & Technical Student Organization (**CTSO**). SST teacher, Dawn Russell, attended a conference over the summer and not only decided that her program would be part of Educators Rising, but she became part of the New Hampshire Board and started planning the state’s first event. TEACHERFEST was held at the New Hampshire Technical Institute (NHTI) in Concord in mid-October. About 350 Careers in Education students from around the state attended. Fifty-seven of the sixty (60) SST Careers in Education students attended. The keynote speaker was Ashley Preston, 2016 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year. There were 13 breakout workshops along with a college fair. It was a solid introduction to a career in education for our SST students.

At the end of October, **Lincoln Street School (LSS)** held its 20<sup>th</sup> annual Cornfield Character Celebration. Ninety-six (96) characters were created by the students and staff this year and were viewed by almost 600 people who toured the school grounds and delighted in the characters from literature, art, and history. It is a wonderful way for young children to learn by doing and then viewing the results of their hard work.

**East Kingston Elementary School (EKES)** recently hosted its first Instructional Rounds experience. A team of 12 SAU 16 educators spent the day visiting classes with the goal of responding to the school-identified “problem of practice” which asked “Do our students and routines support student ownership of learning?” The EKES staff wanted to know if the structures and routine established during the first six weeks of school set the stage for developing a school where students own their learning and are engaged and

enthusiastic about that learning. The visiting team provided two important pieces of feedback information: 1) Strong positive community was evident throughout the school; and 2) Students demonstrated support for each other in academic learning. Each SAU 16 school will participate in the Instructional Rounds process this year.

**Newfields Elementary School** (NES) is proud to report that it has a one-to-one technology device for each of its students. Using 2016 federal Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) Grant funds, NES purchased additional iPads and Chromebooks. Mrs. Casey Hamilton's first grade classroom and Mrs. Dee Kettlewood's kindergarten classroom each have 20 iPads which are available for other classroom use. All fourth and fifth grade students are assigned a Chromebook in their homerooms. Each student is responsible for caring for their device, taking it from class to class, and keeping it charged. Second and third grade teachers have a classroom set of Chromebooks available for student use throughout the school day. The remaining REAP funds were used to purchase projectors and ceiling mounts for those classroom teachers who are using older generation projectors on carts.

Math instruction this year at **Stratham Memorial School** (SMS) is having teachers research and implement more of the "workshop model" to increase direct student involvement in their own learning. Math "workshop" is different from traditional experiences because the children take on roles that are more than simply being a student. They become the "beholders of grand jobs—readers, writers, mathematicians, historians, and more." "Workshop" creates a math-rich learning environment in which components include number talk/study, mini-lessons, independent work; explorations of how numbers work; guided small group/strategy work; conferring, collaboration, math shares, and differentiation.

The **Cooperative Middle School** (CMS) recently announced its "MakerSpace" in the Media Center. This work-in-progress allows students to explore STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Music) aspects in an open atmosphere that is supportive of "tinkering with tools and innovative ideas." Library Media Specialist Dee Whall is coordinating this site and is very appreciative of the CMS Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) for providing this project with funds to make available materials so that the students can work with *K'Nex*, *Snap Circuits*, weaving, sewing, *LittleBits*, pattern coloring, and coding. The "MakerSpace" includes three "Creation Station" cubbies that change weekly and introduce students to different aspects of STEAM. A *Lego* Wall is in the process of being added as well.

**Exeter High School** (EHS) English teacher, Ms. Jackie Catcher, worked with her College Prep Freshman English classes and participated in the National Writing Project's *Letters to the New President*, an initiative that empowers students to research and write about issues that matter to them in the presidential election. Student interest ranged from increased gun control to ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The EHS Youth and Government Club, under the direction of Ms. Catcher and Social Studies teacher Ms. Heather Saluto, used excerpts from the project to represent students' hopes for the future in an artistic display exhibited during the school-wide Mock Election held on Monday, November 7, 2016 and in which more than 1,000 students participated.

One of the highlights of the recent 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Adult Education that was held in mid-November on the Tuck Learning Campus was when Merrimac MA resident and former **Exeter Adult Education** student Jim Smith arrived to celebrate the work of Director Leslie Haslam. Twenty-five years ago, Mr. Smith was the owner of a sign company and, ironically, he did not know how to read. Thanks in large part to Leslie Haslam and the dedicated staff at Exeter Adult Education, he learned to read! Today students include individuals from Brazil, Ukraine, China, Macedonia, and the Dominican Republic who are trying to do the same thing!

This year Mrs. Tammy D'Agostino and Mrs. Cheryl Eastwood have launched a new Character Building project with fifth grade students at **Kensington Elementary School** (KES). Recognizing the importance of growing the "whole child," Mrs. D'Agostino and Mrs. Eastwood are asking students to select a character trait that they would like to spend the year developing (i.e. grit, courage, and empathy). This project is more than just building students' awareness of the trait, but rather an explicit, intentional focus on developing the trait within themselves. Students will be working to not only understand the trait they have selected, but research how to specifically strengthen it. They will be finding examples of this trait in their everyday world, identifying a role model who exemplifies the trait selected and continually reflecting on their own growth and development. [LetItRipple.org](http://LetItRipple.org) has been a valuable resource for students as they launch their journey of character development this year. *Let It Ripple's* mission is "to use film, technology, discussion materials, and events to engage a 21st century audience in conversation and action around complicated subjects that are shaping our lives." This fifth grade initiative seamlessly supports the vision in developing a KES student who is kind, confident, empathetic, self-driven and academically competent.

Third graders at **Swasey Central School** (SCS) began this school year with a unit on simple machines which allowed them to incorporate several hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities. Students work to solve problems together, trying one prototype, then testing and fixing it to make it better. This format gives students practice in group collaboration and communication, an important part of community building. Writing focus is on personal narratives, where students attempt to focus on one small moment, and really connect the reader with the writer. This involves lots of trying of new methods and being willing to just let some words go! Students use mentor texts to see how the experts do it and then give it a try in their own writing. They have spent time learning about themselves as readers, and understanding how to choose a book that is truly just right for them. Students are focused on understanding character traits and how they influence the story. For the "Words Work" section of the class, students are split into differentiated groups focusing on specific spelling skills.

Students learn best by doing! Recently, **Main Street School** (MSS) participated in a variety of different activities to learn and experience more. Kindergarten students completed "a walking field trip" to the Exeter Fire Department as part of its study on Fire Safety. In return, Exeter Fire Department personnel brought some of its safety equipment and a fire truck to MSS for the children to see and examine. Second graders took their own "walking field trip" to the American Independence Museum and participated in a variety of activities, including colonial games while they visited a colonial classroom.



## **Reflection**

My wife and I recently spent a day in Boston with our four-year-old grandson, Thomas, who lives with our son, his wife, and younger brother in Brentwood. We rode the subway, strolled through Haymarket Square where Thomas found and enjoyed a big glass of freshly squeeze watermelon juice, and then walked through Faneuil Hall where he had a really big piece of cheese pizza for lunch. (He was smiling from ear to ear!) Then it was off to the Museum of Science to check out the Tyrannosaurus Rex model and watch the special Dolphin show at the IMAX Theater. (At one point when the dolphins were busy playing in the ocean, Thomas even asked my wife, “Are we underwater, Mimi?”)

Driving home (yes, he was sound asleep), my wife and I reflected on how wonderful it is to see life through the eyes of a four year old! After all, children make life in schools so rewarding!