

SAU16 Annual Report for Year Ending June 30, 2017

The 2016 year was marked by the tragic loss of Superintendent Michael Morgan who served SAU16 so well for nine years. Superintendent Morgan worked tirelessly to focus the districts on important strategic goals. This annual report is designed to honor Mr. Morgan's leadership and commitment to the SAU16 community by documenting the districts' accomplishments in those key areas he cared so deeply about.

SAU 16 Vision Statement

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.

SAU16 Mission Statement

To help students gain knowledge and skills that build intellect, character, and a lifelong thirst for learning.

SAU16 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.

SAU 16 Strategic Plan

In October 2016, the Joint Board approved a new SAU16 Strategic Plan for the 2017 - 2022 period. The plan focused on three major areas: Teaching and Learning, Health and Community and Philosophy and Governance. Following are highlights of work that has taken place related to each of these major areas.

I. Teaching and Learning

A. The first strategic recommendation is to implement a rigorous and relevant curriculum and effective instruction that enables all students to demonstrate the Exeter High School competencies.

2017 Exeter High School Graduates: Recognitions and Post-Graduation Plans

In June 2017, 378 students graduated from Exeter High School and 86% of the graduates planned to attend post-secondary institutions.

- 70% of the class (266 students) to 4 year colleges and 15% (56 students) to two year institutions; four (4) students joined the military.
- 58% or 218 of the graduates planned to attend institutions in New England; 146 students planned to attend institutions in New Hampshire, including 63 students to attend the University of New Hampshire.
- Three (3) students planned to attend Ivy League schools, including Dartmouth, Brown and the University of Pennsylvania.

National Merit Scholarship Awards: Five (5) EHS students were selected to be National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists and four (4) became finalists. These students were eligible for academic recognition and financial awards for colleges.

New Hampshire Scholars: 158 students earned recognition as New Hampshire Scholars for their completion of a rigorous course of study in high school. Nine (9) were recognized with a concentration in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and twelve (12) with a concentration in Art.

Dual Enrollment Programs: 248 students enrolled in 29 dual enrollment courses at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST) earning a total of 696 college credits. UNH waives a key course required of all education majors at UNH if the student has participated in the Careers in Education program at SST.

Advanced Placement (AP) District Honor Roll: In April, 2017 Exeter High School (EHS) was one of eight (8) New Hampshire high schools recognized for the AP Honor Roll. For EHS, this is the third year in a row being recognized for the significant number of students taking AP courses, as well as the percentage of students scoring well on the AP exams.

- 221 EHS students took 12 AP courses in 2017, including AP Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English Language and Composition, English Literature, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, Spanish, Statistics, US History and US Government and Politics. This number is a significant increase over the 146 students enrolled in AP five years ago.
- 83% of these students earned a score of 3 or better (out of a possible 5) on the AP exams.

NH Scholastic Art Award: An EHS senior was recognized at Carnegie Hall in New York City, winning a *National Gold Medal Award* for two artworks.

World Language Recognitions: In March 2017, for the 7th consecutive year, EHS French students participated in the Le Grand Concours National French Exam, earning their best scores ever. Thirty eight (38) students were inducted into the National Junior Classical League and earned 25 total awards from the National Latin Exam and two students earned awards from the Medusa Mythology Exam.

Exchange Programs: In July 2016, 28 EHS students participated in the student exchange program in Japan and 13 students enjoyed a home stay in Montgeron, France as part of a collaboration Exeter High School has with L'Institution Sainte Therese in France.

Black Box Poetry Night: The EHS English Department hosted its first Black Box Poetry Night with over 100 students reciting their own original poems or selected from published works.

NHIAA Sports Awards: In October 2016, EHS was honored for its high degree of sportsmanship with the *Division I Runner-Up Championship Banner for Sportsmanship*. Since the award began in 1998, EHS has been recognized ten (10) times.

- EHS Co-ed Unified Basketball team won its first *NH State Championship* at the University of New Hampshire, capping a 12-0 season. Unified teams make high school sports available to all students, including those with intellectual and physical disabilities.

- EHS Boys Swimming and Diving Team captured the *Division I State Championship* - its fourth first place finish in five years. The EHS Girls Swim Team secured a strong third place finish.

NH State Geography Bee: A Cooperative Middle School (CMS) seventh grader captured second place in the *NH State Geography Bee* in Keene.

National History Day: CMS History Club students were recognized at the National History Day Exposition at Plymouth State University, with three (3) students capturing first place awards for their film on Alice Guy Blache and three (3) students capturing second place for their work on Galileo Galilei. These students participated in the National competition in June 2017 at the University of New Hampshire.

Essay Competitions: CMS students were also recognized at the Exeter Historical Society for their responses to the essay prompt, *Change Comes to Exeter: Immigrants Get the Job Done!* A CMS student placed first in the *Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest*.

CMS Athletic Recognition: The CMS Track and Field girls' team placed 1st for the 11th year in a row at the regional championship meet and athletes had strong showings at the statewide New Hampshire Middle School Meet of Champions.

Full Day Kindergarten: In September 2016, Brentwood's Swasey Central School implemented full day kindergarten and Exeter voters approved the addition to Main Street School in anticipation of full day kindergarten for 2018-2019. All SAU16 elementary schools will then provide full day kindergarten.

B. A second strategic recommendation under Teaching and Learning is to provide technology rich infrastructure and supportive professional development to enhance the K-12 curriculum.

1:1 Program: The Cooperative Board approved the beginning of a four year plan to provide all EHS students with individual Chromebooks beginning September 2017. While the only official 1:1 school is the high school, all of SAU16 schools have made significant investments in technology.

- Currently there are close to 3,300 Chromebooks being used in our classrooms and media centers.
- CMS is 1:1 in math classrooms and close to 1:1 in 8th grade English Language Arts.
- Using 2016 federal Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) grant funds, Newfields Elementary School implemented a 1 to 1 technology device providing students in lower grades with iPads and upper grades with Chromebooks.
- At Stratham Memorial School, students in the upper grades use Chromebooks and students in primary grades use sets of iPads.

CMS Maker Space: CMS opened a "maker space" in the media center, providing students with opportunities to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math aspects in an atmosphere that allows students to "tinker with tools and innovative ideas."

Seacoast School of Technology (SST) Student Honors: A first year SST Computer Science student from Exeter High School was one of only eight (8) students selected from hundreds of applicants for an internship at the Interoperability Lab at the University of New Hampshire. A second year SST Computer Science student from Exeter High School earned Local Honorable Mention in the *Aspirations in Computing Award* from the National Center of Women in Technology.

Instructional Rounds: All SAU16 schools participated in an intensive professional development strategy called Instructional Rounds. A team of teachers from schools across the districts visit classrooms in the designated school to observe specific teaching and learning practices requested by the school. The team then provides their observational data to the host school for reflection and planning to improve curriculum and instructional practices.

II. Health and Community

A. A Social and Emotional Learning Committee continues to work to foster social and emotional learning and provide supports in our schools. During 2017, the committee explored a variety of tools and selected a screening tool to pilot in 2017-2018 to assess students' needs and provide teachers with resources to incorporate social emotional learning into the curriculum.

B. A second recommendation is to ensure schools provide social and emotional learning appropriate and meaningful for students.

At **CMS Hawk Pride Assemblies**, students were recognized at each assembly in one of the following areas: Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Excellence. Family and community members were invited to assemblies throughout the school year.

CMS Blue Hawk Youth Alliance: This CMS affiliate of the Granite Youth Alliance was formed at CMS to share the message of substance abuse prevention and create a community of students living without alcohol, tobacco or drugs. The group published a public service announcement at WBYY in Dover and viewed their video at the Granite Youth Alliance Film Festival in June. The students produced a drug awareness play for elementary students.

Sticks and Stones: CMS sixth graders participated in the artist-in-residence program, *Sticks and Stones*, tackling the critical issue of bullying.

CMS Mentors: Through a partnership with CMS and Phillips Exeter Academy (PEA), students from PEA mentored and assisted students with homework in a supervised environment conducive to studying and learning.

C. A third recommendation in Health and Community is to find ways to bring the community into all our schools and to bring schools and students into the community.

Exeter High School Hosted Naturalization Ceremony: In December 2016, EHS students witnessed 43 new citizens being sworn in during a special naturalization ceremony, the first to be held at a high school at the initiative of Federal Judge Landya McCafferty. The ceremony

included participation by students and officials from the US District Court and Governor Maggie Hassan.

Veterans Day Assembly: At EHS, the Veterans Day assembly brought in about 30 veterans from the SAU16 community as our high school students honored their service.

Wellness Day: CMS once again held their annual Health and Wellness Day when community members volunteered their services to facilitate small classes or workshops for CMS students in Health and Wellness areas. Students participated in a variety of classes that support all areas of wellness: emotional, environmental, intellectual, physical and social.

Let's Talk Series: The CMS counselors provided parent workshops to present a variety of parenting topics from Mindfulness to Internet Safety.

Guest Readers: Organized to recognize Dr. Seuss and foster reading, guest readers from our communities came into our elementary schools during the annual *Read Across America* week. Again, as he has for the past eight (8) years at Kensington Elementary School (KES), Police Chief Sanders ate lunch with students every Friday afternoon and followed lunch with special readings to the students.

Fire Departments Assist in Our Schools: Our local fire departments continued to visit our schools to teach students about fire prevention. Firefighter Unions provided winter coats for students in need and second graders participated in the Stop, Drop and Read programs.

Lions Clubs Screen Vision: Lions Club members screened hundreds of children in our elementary schools and supported follow up eye exams.

Northeast Passage: This UNH program in disability awareness provided opportunities for our elementary students to experience what it is like to use specialized equipment and different recreation opportunities for children with disabilities.

Local Historians: Representatives of the Exeter/Seacoast Grange visited with third graders sharing a history of their programs and providing students with dictionaries. Long time Stratham citizens visited Stratham Memorial School to share stories about the history of their town.

Community Helpers Unit: During a project based learning unit, community members visited kindergarteners at East Kingston Elementary to share with the students about their careers as veterinarians, hairdressers and waste management workers.

D. A fourth recommendation in Health and Community is to promote and encourage civic-mindedness for students to have a positive impact in their communities

68 Hours of Hunger Program: Students in our schools conducted a variety of fundraisers to support families in SAU16.

Exeter High School Senior Serve Day: EHS students volunteered in our elementary schools each June to help collate summer skills packets, collect art work and volunteer in classrooms

and on the playgrounds. Students from SST volunteered throughout the school year as breakfast buddies for students who eat breakfast in the school cafeteria.

CMS Community Service: Students in the CMS Character Does Matter group made holiday cards and ornaments for the troops overseas and also organized care packages for the troops. In addition to overseeing a variety of fundraising projects throughout the year, students from the club joined the Pease Greeters to welcome home service men and women. Students in Community Art Club created artwork and shared stories with seniors from Langdon Place.

Meals on Wheels cards: Elementary students created cards for the Meals on Wheels program for senior citizens for different holidays throughout the school year.

Holiday Concerts: Students from our schools once again performed holiday concerts for a variety of senior groups and residences in the community. Stratham Memorial students produced a holiday CD for those who may not experience the sounds of the holidays.

Making a Positive Difference: As a culminating activity to a unit focused on the question “*How can we make a positive difference in our community with our senior citizens?*” Kensington students visited seniors at Rockingham Assisted Living in Brentwood, performing songs and interviewing seniors about their childhoods, families and interests. As a follow-up, many of the same residents attended the school’s annual Community Breakfast in May, held in conjunction with the school’s Memorial Day ceremony.

Memorial Day Observances: Our schools used Memorial Day to remind students about the importance of service. In East Kingston, fifth graders placed flags at the gravesites in the Union Cemetery.

III. Philosophy and Governance

A. *One of the recommendations of the Strategic Plan for Philosophy and Governance is to explore the option of a later start time due to positive effects a later start has on teen health, safety and learning.*

Late Start Committee: A committee consisting of administrators, staff and parents conducted a yearlong study focusing on the benefits of a later start to the school day, as well as the challenges to making this kind of change. The Committee presented its preliminary findings to the Joint Board this fall and continues its work.

IV. Additional Information about SAU16

A. *October 2016 Enrollment:* Total student enrollment in October 2016 was 5,290 students, a reduction of 45 students from October 2015. The trend is for decreasing enrollment at the elementary level, but consistent enrollment at the middle and high schools.

B. *District Recognitions*

Champions for Children: Four community members were recognized

In addition, Tara Holmes Bell was selected as the *Southeast NH Champion for Children Award* for her outstanding work with suicide prevention.

Music Education: For the third year in a row, The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation designated SAU16 as one of the “Best Communities for Music Education in the United States,” noting the example SAU16 sets for quality school-based music programs for young people in our community.

Excellence in Education: In August 2016, CMS special education teacher and case manager, Patrick Joyce, received the *Edward Pease Excellence in Education Award* from the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce, honoring his teaching ability and positive relationships with students and colleagues.

Eustis Award: In September 2016, Mrs. Lynne Walker, third grade teacher at East Kingston Elementary School, received the *Joan and Dick Eustis Award* for her dedication and service to the SAU community.

NH Teacher of the Year: In mid-December, Lincoln Street School teacher, Amy Steinberg, was recognized as one of the *2017 NH Teacher of the Year* semi-finalists.

Exeter Area Junior High School Celebrated: In October 2016, community members gathered to celebrate the 31 years that the Junior High served this community on the site, dedicating two benches to represent the two long serving principals, Mr. Frank Kozacka (1967-1977) and Mr. Thomas Meehan (1977-1998).

C. Safety and Security: SAU16 School Boards and staff continued to make improvements to safety and security in the district.

- Kingston Elementary School added a secure vestibule to the main entrance. Cameras were also added to the school to allow observation of the play area and parking lots, as well as the building itself.
- Cameras were added and updated at Exeter High School that provide greater coverage, especially of the athletic grounds and rear parking lots.
- The district wide Emergency Operations Plans were updated and filed with the Department of Education as required by RSA. Working with Homeland Security, every school’s Seabrook Evacuation Plan was updated as were school maps.
- A reunification drill was held at the Cooperative Middle School that tested our capabilities to reunify students and parents in a large scale emergency.
- All new administrators completed training to get them to ICS level 100 and 700.

D. New Leaders and Staff

Frank Markiewicz joined SAU16 as Business Administrator in July 2017. Mr. Markiewicz was Business Administrator for SAU 27 in Litchfield for four years and held the same position at SAU 44 in Northwood for three years prior to that. Before making the transition to public education, Mr. Markiewicz worked in commercial banking.

Exeter High School

In early October, the Coop Board selected **Michael Monahan** to serve as the principal of Exeter High School. Mr. Monahan stepped up last spring to serve as the Interim Principal and after

careful and thoughtful deliberation, the Board selected Mr. Monahan to serve as the permanent principal at Exeter High School.

Also joining the EHS administrative staff this year were Assistant Principal **Cathy Clermont** and Interim Assistant Principal **Adam Rozumek**.

Other New Professional Staff at Exeter High School include:

Kayleigh Davis (English)
Christopher Donovan (Spanish)
James Fraser (Chemistry)
Jacqueline McKenney (Special Education)
Kathy Newcomb (Guidance Counselor)
Loni Rowe (Social Worker)
Lisa Sloan (Student Support Counselor)
Pamela Storlazzi (Chemistry)

New Professional Staff at the Seacoast School of Technology:

Margaret Foret (Culinary Arts)
Sharon Spooner (Equity Counselor)

Cooperative Middle School:

Jeanne Civiello was selected to serve as Assistant Special Education Director for CMS. Mrs. Civiello has working in the elementary and middle schools as a Speech Language Pathologist since 2004.

Other New Professional Staff at CMS include:

Elisa Catalano (Math)
Brenna Fitzgibbon (Special Ed – filling a 1 year sabbatical leave)
Amy McEnaney (Art .4)
Julia Reinoehl (Music)
Elizabeth Rollins (SLP)
Karen Fifield (Nurse .6)

New Elementary Administrators:

Newfield School Principal - David Foster
Stratham Assistant Principal - Katelyn Belanger

Other New Professional Staff Members within SAU16 districts:

SAU 16 Central Office

Heidi McBain (OT – SAU wide)

Brentwood – Swasey Central School

Emily Oxnard (Media Generalist .6)
Jocelyn Shelby (School Psychologist)
Daniel Haugh (Special Education)
Ethan Brown (Music .6 LOA)

East Kingston Elementary School

Amanda Ward (Grade 4)
Trish Merrill (School Psych .2)

Kensington Elementary School

Sarah McCarthy (STEM)
Trish Merrill (School Psych .2)
Kelsey Plourde (Grade 4)

Newfields Elementary School

Kristy Marek (School Nurse)

Stratham Memorial School

Lindsay Rowley (Grade 1)

Main Street School, Exeter

Kristen Cardarelli (Grade 2)
Sharon Lalonde (Grade 1)
Emily Stucki (ESOL .5)

Lincoln Street School, Exeter

Jen Harrington (Grade 3)
Darlene Shaheen (Grade 4)
Kelsey Tsonas (Special Education)

Final Thoughts

It is also important to note that SAU16 community suffered a second tragic loss with the death of Associate Superintendent Paul Flynn in November of this year. At a gathering of remembrance for Mr. Flynn, so many old friends described how both Mr. Morgan and Mr. Flynn could be found on so many Friday afternoons, long after the adjacent Central Office spaces were dark, talking through the highs and lows of the week, swapping stories especially the “local history,” and planning for the days ahead.

Both gentlemen gave their best to SAU16 every day and they have left a legacy of strong programs, dedicated staff, committed and service oriented School Board members - all keenly focused on what is best for the children and families in their care.