SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
MARCH-APRIL 2015

Voting Day 2015 Results - Warrant Articles

Budgets
Brentwood – Amended Budget $5,157,135 -- PASSED
East Kingston - Proposed Budget $2,747,240 -- PASSED
Exeter - Proposed Budget $16,532,753 -- PASSED
Exeter Region Coop - Proposed Budget $55,721,982 -- PASSED
Kensington - Proposed $2,430,531 -- PASSED
Newfields - Proposed $2,421,720 -- PASSED
Stratham - Proposed $10,151,138 -- PASSED

Trust Funds
Exeter Region Coop – Create Fund for Synthetic Field Replacement/Add $50,000 -- PASSED
Newfields - Building Maintenance - Add $10,000 -- PASSED
Newfields - Special Education - Add $10,000 -- PASSED
Stratham - Special Education – Add $100,000 -- PASSED
Stratham - Maintenance - Add $25,000 -- PASSED

Contracts
Brentwood - Teachers (3 years) 2015-2018 -- PASSED
Exeter Region Coop - Paraprofessionals (3 years) 2015-2018 -- PASSED
Newfields - Paraprofessionals (3 years) 2015-2018 – PASSED
Stratham - Teachers (3 years) 2015-2018 -- PASSED

Other
Brentwood - Expand Kindergarten to Full Time (Petition) -- TABLED
Brentwood - Expand Kindergarten to Extended Day (Petition) -- TABLED
Newfields - Add World Language - $20,000 -- FAILED
Stratham – Pre-School Study - $20,000 --PASSED

Voting Day 2015 Results - School Board Members

Brentwood – Scott Dennehy and Jessie Hollister
East Kingston – David McBride (Write-In)
Exeter – Kathy McNeill and John Maxwell
Exeter Region Coop – Maggie Bishop (Exeter), Denny Grubbs (Exeter—two years), James Webber (Kensington—Write-In); Paul Bauer (Newfields—Write-In); Helen Joyce (Stratham)
Kensington – Heather Antal
Newfields – James McIlroy
Stratham – Sarah Galligher and Travis Thompson

Coop Budget Advisory Committee Results

One current member of the Exeter Region Cooperative Budget Advisory Committee was re-elected to a three-year term on March 10, 2015. He is David Pendell of East Kingston. Mark Paige of Exeter and Connie Gilman of Stratham were elected to their 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 2015, the following individuals left their school board seats to others. Their service is gratefully appreciated.

Brentwood — **Dianne Vosgien** *(served 6 years*)
East Kingston—**Christina Cassano Pelletier** *(served 3 years)*
Exeter Region Coop — **Paul Staller** (Kensington – *served 1 year*); **Alicia Heslop** (Newfields – *served 3 years)*
Kensington — **Barb Darby** *(served 3 years)*
Stratham—**Heidi Hanson** *(served 3 years)*

New Lincoln Street School (LSS) Principal Chosen

Mr. J. Andrew (Drew) Bairstow of Dover has been selected by the Exeter School Board to be the new principal of Lincoln Street School beginning on July 1, 2015. Mr. Bairstow is currently the principal of the Fred C. Underhill School (PreK to grade 2) in Hooksett, NH. He has served in that role since July 2011. Prior to his current position he was the Assistant Principal at Hooksett Memorial School (grades 3-5) for three years. He had also been a middle school Reading/Language Arts teacher for five years prior to become a school administrator.

Mr. Bairstow earned his B.S. degree in Elementary Education and Communication from Keene State College in 2000 and his M.Ed. degree in Educational Administration from Rivier College in 2006. After college he spent a year teaching English in Thailand and a year as a special education instruction assistant in Durham, NH.

Mr. Bairstow replaces Dr. James Hayes who is serving as the Interim Principal at LSS for this school year.

SAU 16 and the Exeter community is very pleased to welcome Drew Bairstow!

SAU 16 Salaries over $95,000 Paid in 2014

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 2014 calendar year and are taken from reported W-2 forms:

Michael A. Morgan—Superintendent of Schools--$149,316.48
Paul Flynn—Associate Superintendent of Schools--$126,212.96

Margaret Callahan—Principal, Seacoast School of Technology--$113,521.45
Esther Asbell—Assistant Superintendent--$111,663.47
William Furbush—Principal, Cooperative Middle School--$110,748.99
Thomas Fosher—Principal, Stratham Memorial School--$110,419.05
Steven Adler—Principal, Main Street School--$106,942.04
Richard Wendell—Director of Operations--$106,315.42
William Ball—Athletic Director/Coach, Exeter High School--$105,561.01
John LeSage—Assistant Principal, Cooperative Middle School--$103,402.46
William Perkins—Assistant Principal, Cooperative Middle School--$102,772.99
Saundra MacDonald—Assistant Superintendent--$101,470.04
Ronald Kew—Principal, Swasey Central School--$101,293.46
Amy Ransom—SAU Business Administrator--$99,954.96
Michael Monahan—Assistant Principal, Exeter High School--$99,595.05
Andrew Littlefield—Technology Administrator, Cooperative Middle School--$99,110.50
Richard Pratt—Technology Administrator, Exeter High School--$99,110.50
Carol Mastacouris—Assistant Principal, Exeter High School--$98,575.96
Melanie Faulkner—Assistant Principal, Cooperative Middle School--$98,153.46

National Merit Scholars for 2015

Four Exeter High School (EHS) seniors have advanced to "Finalist" in the National Merit Scholarship Program for 2015. These students have demonstrated exceptional high performance with excellent potential for future academic accomplishments. The entire EHS community congratulates **Guinevere Gilman, Meredith Gilman, Cameron Morris, and Caroline Ritter**! This is a proud accomplishment for these students and for EHS.

Champions for Children

Community members and school staffs continue to recognize and celebrate the dedication of local individuals by nominating them for a 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.

Recently the Kensington School Board selected **Ms. Stephanie Robinson** for this award. In the summer of 2011, the Robinson family brought the Stanley Cup to Kensington to share with the entire community. The donations that were accepted at that time were given to the school to enhance the wonderful education provided to the children. Mrs. Robinson volunteers at Kensington Elementary School (KES) on a weekly basis to assist with a grade 4 writing block. She also volunteers in art class and runs the school store. This dedication and commitment to KES speaks volumes about her overall support KES.

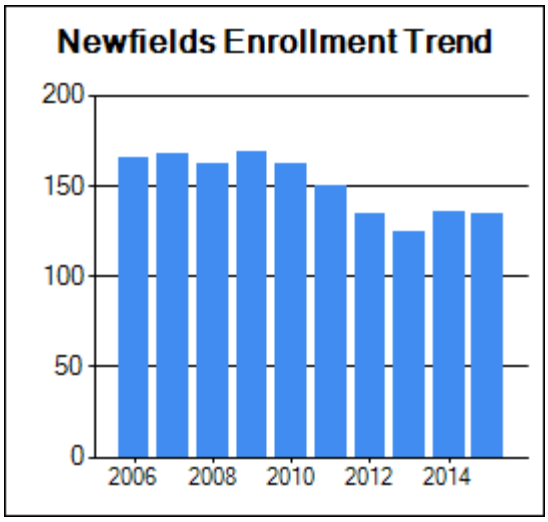
Best Communities for Music Education

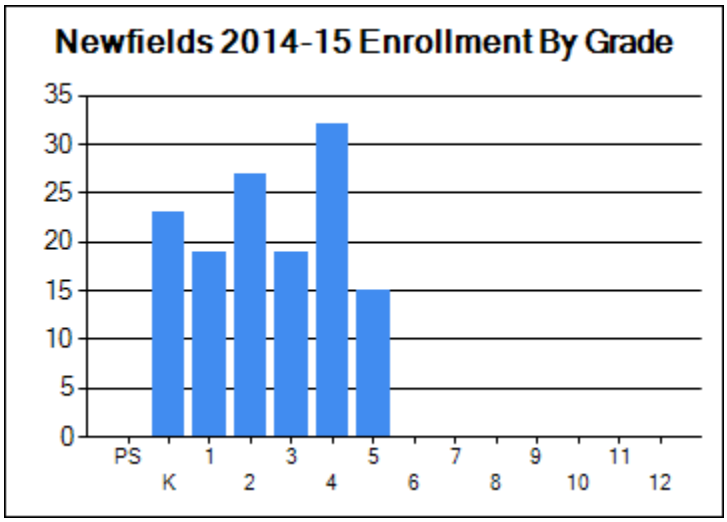
The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation has designated the SAU 16 school districts as one of its 2015 "Best Communities for Music Education" in the United States. This outstanding recognition acknowledges the "example that you set in providing quality school-based music education programs to young people in your community." This designation is a testament to the music teachers, parent supporters,

and our communities at large for realizing the key role that music plays in our schools and in the current and future lives of our K-12 students. Much has been written about the intrinsic value of music and how it impacts other important areas of learning while also transmitting artistic culture to our students and communities. Congratulations and many thanks to everyone who has been inspirational and dedicated to enhancing SAU 16 in this manner!

Spotlight: Newfields School District

Given the fact that SAU 16 has an excellent reputation for its local schools, each month a different school district will be highlighted here as a way of sharing more specific information with the wider SAU and community audience.





State and Federal Accountability

NH Accountability Information:	Elementary and Middle - Performance Indicator Report High School - Performance Indicator Report [NH Performance Based Accountability System]

Student Assessment

Achievement Level (%)	Reading		Mathematics		Writing		Science	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
Substantially Below Proficient (%)	2	7	1	17	17	8		
Partially Proficient (%)	15	16	16	18	20	34		
Proficient (%)	63	53	56	43	43	47		
Proficient with Distinction (%)	20	23	27	21	20	9		
Testing Participation (%)	100	99	100	99	100	98		

Student Achievement Trends

Number and Percent of Students Scoring Proficient or Above

N is the number of students enrolled during testing minus the number of state-approved nonparticipants

Grade	Content Area	2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
3	Reading	28	93	25	72	27	85
	Mathematics	28	68	25	96	27	78
4	Reading	48	92	28	86	25	76
	Mathematics	49	88	28	79	25	88
5	Reading	38	97	47	94	30	87
	Mathematics	38	84	47	85	30	83
	Writing	38	76	47	74	30	63

Educational Attainment of Teachers in NH in 2014-2015:

Bachelor's Degree: 40.9%

Master's Degree: 57.7%

Beyond Master's Degree: 1.1%

Educational Attainment of Newfields Teachers in 2014-2015:
Bachelor's Degree: 22.6%
Master's Degree: 77.4%

Average NH Teacher Salary in 2014-2015: $55,986
Average Newfields Teacher Salary in 2014-2015: $61,993

Average NH Student-to-Teacher Ratio in 2014-2015: 12.0 to 1
Average Newfields Student-to-Teacher Ratio in 2014-2015: 10.8 to 1

SAU 16 Square Miles: 81.66
Newfields Square Miles: 7.26
Newfields Population:
1,683 (2013 estimate from the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning)
1,551 (2000 census)
1,680 (2010 census)
Registered Voters: 1,213 (March 2015)

2014 Total Equalization Valuation of Property: $258,693,944
2014 Tax Rate per $1,000 of assessed valuation: $24.25

Did You Know?
The Atrium at the Tuck Learning Center (formerly Exeter High School) was dedicated to **Mr. Benjamin F. Swiezynski** in March 1995. The plaque on the north wall of the Atrium praises Mr. Swiezynski for his "twenty-four years of dedicated service" as an Exeter School Board member.

He is consistently remembered for his many kindnesses and as being one of the town's most well-known and respected citizens whose love of the town and commitment to the education of youth was evident to all who knew him. A consummate gentleman, often dressed in his overcoat and signature hat, he was quick with a joke or kind word. His involvement in town lasted until just days before he died in October 2007.

Many knew Mr. Swiezynski from his business, Ben's Foto Shop, on Water Street in Exeter, which opened in 1948 and stayed open for almost 60 years. Ben was known as the official photographer of the town and many remember his photos of the school sports teams. However, it was his dedication to the Seacoast School of Technology — which he was largely responsible for bringing to town when he was on the Exeter School Board — that is legendary.

Mr. Swiezynski's legacy lives on in SAU 16 through his son, Skip Swiezynski who teaches Physical Education at Lincoln Street School and coaches football at Exeter High School and his daughter, Sandy Parks who is the Director of the Exeter High School Alumni Association.

Did You Also Know?
Thirty-two students, representing all of the region's high schools, were recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST). This impressive ceremony recognizes the outstanding qualities that membership in this

elite organization demands: Skill, Honesty, Service, Responsibility, Scholarship, Citizenship, and Leadership. Each student is vested with an Honor Sash that he/she is able to wear at graduation.

The New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) recently honored Cooperative Middle School (CMS) teacher, **Ms. Pat Glennon**, during its annual conference in Providence, RI. She received outstanding recognition as a "Master in the Middle" for bringing such an emphasis on community service to CMS through the Travis Mannion Foundation. Each year CMS students have amassed over 6,000 hours of community service. This work has inspired students to become more aware of others' needs. Ms. Glennon has been teaching at CMS for 21 years and currently teaches sixth grade Reading on Team One.

Exeter High School (EHS) senior **Chelsea deRochemont** recently became New Hampshire's 2015 State Champion in the Rock-Paper-Scissors Tournament held at The Derryfield School in Manchester. Over 350 middle and high school students originally participated in this statewide event and 30 participating schools each selected its own winner to compete at the state level. Chelsea won! She received a trophy and a $500 cash prize. Congratulations, Chelsea, and thank you for representing EHS so well!

Eighteen students from Japan recently spent two weeks attending classes at Exeter High School and staying with host families within SAU 16. This annual student exchange program is coordinated by EHS Japanese teacher **Mr. Nori Ichizawa** who also brings EHS students to Japan each summer. This culturally and educationally program is well received and is a credit to the dedication and commitment of Mr. Ichizawa and the strong Japanese language program that he has developed and nurtured at EHS.

Cooperative Middle School (CMS) Math teacher **Ms. Jamie Sirois** was recently featured in a front page article in Seacoast Sunday dealing with local debates about the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). A strong proponent of the rigors associated with the CCSS, she teamed with CMS colleague **Mr. Adam Wiggin** to author a book entitled, *The Everything Parent's Guide to Common Core Math Grades 6-8: Understanding the New Math Standards to Help Your Child*. This is an excellent example of the professional dedication of teachers in SAU 16.

Two Newfields Elementary School (NES) teachers, **Ms. Casey Hamilton** and **Ms. Sarah Rosenbleeth** have been nominated for the 2016 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Award.

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

March is Music in Our Schools Month and **Lincoln Street School** (LSS) celebrated with grade level concerts in "An Evening of Music" that was spread over five dates this month. Because of the wonderful involvement of students and the outstanding dedication of Music teacher, **Mrs. Sue Noseworthy**, two concerts were hosted for third graders and two concerts were hosted for fourth graders; all students in fifth grade presented their musical talents together in the LSS gym with impressive crowds of proud parents, grandparents, teachers, staff, and community supporters. It is very important to note this year that March 2015 marks Mrs. Noseworthy's 30th consecutive year of celebrating

music at LSS! Congratulations and THANK YOU Mrs. Noseworthy for your dedication, commitment, leadership, and service to the children and families of Exeter!

Traveling abroad is always an exciting, challenging, and educationally beneficial trip for students. Recently **Exeter High School** (EHS) Spanish teacher, Senor Sam Heath, traveled with students to Barcelona, Spain to explore some key areas in the northeastern part of that country. Together they visited and learned firsthand about the Barri Gotic, the largest intact group of medieval buildings surviving in Europe; the fortress of Monjuich overlooking the city; the spires of the modern Sagrada Familia church; the medieval hill town of Gerona; and the Roman ruins of Tarragona. They also had the opportunity to visit some of the museums and buildings which are home to some of the works of architect Antoni Gaudi and artists Salvador Dali, Joan Miro, and Pablo Picasso. Traveling anywhere is always learning something new.

Second graders at **Swasey Central School** (SCS) were very busy reading non-fiction materials about US symbols in March. Students worked in pairs or small groups to use what they learned to build three-dimensional symbols of their choosing. These projects are being proudly displayed in April when they perform patriotic songs that complement the reading that they have done. In addition to learning songs, researching facts, and working collaboratively on their projects, each student painted a t-shirt to wear on the night of their concert.

Newfields Elementary School (NES) continues to report on the academic growth of its students. Recent reports show that in September, 17% of NES kindergarteners met or exceeded grade level expectations in reading. March 2015 data confirms that 74% of them are now reading at or above grade level. Among the NES first graders, the math midterm assessment showed a 91.1% average and their reading scores demonstrated that 89% of the children met or exceeded their grade level expectations.

In early March a team of teachers and administrators from SAU 16 visited **Main Street School** (MSS) to conduct "instructional rounds" which is an SAU 16 initiative that is being used as a way to collect data about instructional practices in a systematic fashion in each of the schools within the SAU. Last year, the Strategic Planning team at MSS identified that the school community wanted to study how effectively school personnel communicate learning goals to students. Twenty-two educators from SAU 16 visited MSS and collected data about the communication of learning goals in classrooms. The data that is collected will be synthesized and the administration will be debriefed on what the team learned. The results of this important "instructional rounds" process will continue to be shared with the MSS staff who will be able to use it to set future goals for our instruction.

Thanks to the coordination and dedication of the **Kensington Elementary School** (KES) Reading Specialist, Amy Danusis, and Library Assistant, Cheri Eastwood, *Read Across America Week* was a huge success at KES! Throughout the week, the importance of reading was communicated and celebrated in a variety of ways. In early March, the entire school gathered to kick-off the week by reading *Oh, The Places You Will Go!* and reciting the Reader's Oath together. Student Council members read fun facts and quotes about Dr. Seuss each morning on the intercom. Did you know that Dr. Seuss's first book, *And to Think I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, was rejected by publishers 27 times? Students (and teachers!) dressed up as their favorite book characters and participated in DEAR

(Drop Everything And Read) time. Each class also decorated their classroom door in honor of Dr. Seuss or to represent their favorite books. About 35 families returned to school on March 12th for Family Literacy Night and many community members volunteered to read to students in their classrooms. The KES community is grateful to everyone who helped to make this event so successful for the students and their families.

Despite the winter's historic snowfall and frigid temperatures, the experiential education and challenge course program at the **Cooperative Middle School** (CMS) was undaunted by these obstacles. Trails were maintained and climbing and programming surfaces were kept ready to use. Students regularly showed their willingness and enthusiasm to brave the elements and to face the challenges that accompany a not-so-regular seacoast New Hampshire winter. Sixth grade students wrapped up their Mount Everest and survival theme units and did lots of reading about the equipment and skills needed to thrive in cold weather environments. They even learned about how much melted snow it takes to get one cup of hot chocolate!

The Literacy Lab cohort of teachers at **Stratham Memorial School** (SMS) met recently to work with content centers having a focus on inquiry. The group is also planning its next steps for using "Selfie Centers" in content areas and finding more ways to engage students in models that will expand their thinking skills and processes. The Text Set cohort of teachers has been working with a variety of social studies topics and finding more ways to integrate those topics into a variety of literacy units. Fourth grade teachers are using their social studies work to study regions of the United States using political, physical, and agricultural maps that impart knowledge about landforms, climate, and economy and how these various dimensions impact their lives. Other teachers continue to work with the Next Generation Science Standards with emphasis on a variety of age-appropriate science and engineering practices.

At the end of March, the **East Kingston Elementary School** (EKES) community was treated to a wonderful rendition of *Aladdin*. Three performances were provided and so much hard work went into making this entire experience so valuable and memorable for the students, parents, teachers, staff, and guests. This effort was so successful because of the collaboration that went into working with costumes, make-up, filming, and directing. In addition to the excellent young actors, actresses, and stage crew members, the EKES community recognizes and thanks **Lynne Walker, Erin Murphy, Mary George, Kim Kemp, Chessie Leone, Sarah Decoteau, and Chris Benson**.

The Adult High School Diploma program offered through the **Exeter Adult Education** program regularly hosts classes at the Tuck Learning Campus. These courses allow individuals of all ages the opportunity to earn a high school diploma. Classes meet once a week for 15 weeks from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This semester, available courses include Chemistry, English, Global Human Rights, Algebra I, Essential Math Skills, Introduction to Algebra, Energy and Motion, and Developing College Reading Skills. Further information is easily available at www.adulted.sau16.org or by calling 603-775-8457.

The **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST) recently hosted its annual *Small Business Showcase* at the Talbot Gym on the Tuck Learning Center campus. Approximately 85 local businesses and organization were able to display information about their company's activities and community involvement. The 2015 Showcase had the largest number of

company and association participants and is a credit to the hard work and determination of SST's Marketing teacher, **Sandy Flannigan**, and her outstanding students who realize the importance of developing strong business and communication skills in today's world.

Reflection

Every day, each of us must try to live and display a positive attitude—especially if we are working with young people. After all, others learn more from what we show them than they learn from what we teach them.