

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

**Tax Rates—2014**

Local tax rates for the six towns within SAU 16 have been set and fall tax bills will soon be processed by local town officials. The finalized 2014 rates (per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation) are as follows:

Brentwood--\$25.19 (Increase of \$1.31)—Increase of 5.49%  
East Kingston—\$25.00 (Increase of \$0.24)—Increase of 0.01%  
Exeter--\$26.06 (Increase of \$0.03)—Essentially Unchanged  
Kensington--\$23.86 (Decrease of \$0.69)—Decrease of 2.81%  
Newfields—\$24.25 (Decrease of \$0.03)—Essentially Unchanged  
Stratham—\$19.91 (Increase of \$0.26)—Increase of 1.32%

**School Board Seats Available in March 2015**

Terms of office for some current school board members expire in March 2015. Now is the time for interested citizens to consider serving in these capacities. Board Members whose terms, three (3) years unless otherwise noted, expire include Jessie Hollister and Dianne Vosgien in Brentwood; Christina Cassano-Pelletier in East Kingston; Kathy McNeill and John Maxwell in Exeter; Barbara Darby in Kensington; James McIlroy in Newfields; Heidi Hanson and Travis Thompson in Stratham; and on the Coop Board, Maggie Bishop (Exeter); Denny Grubbs (Exeter—two-year term); Paul Staller (Kensington—two-year term); Alicia Heslop (Newfields); and Helen Joyce (Stratham). Of the thirty-three total School Board seats in SAU 16, these fourteen positions will be available for (re)election. Now is the time for interested individuals to gather information about the duties and responsibilities associated with serving as a School Board Member. This is a wonderful opportunity for community service!

**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 2015, must declare their candidacy in writing to the current school district clerk for their respective district **between January 21 and January 30, 2015.**

**Coop Budget Advisory Committee**

The nine-member Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) that serves the Exeter Region Cooperative School District will have three seats available for election in March 2015. Any resident of East Kingston (current member Dave Pendell), Exeter (current member Carl Robertson) or Stratham (current member Susan Canada) will be able to be a

candidate for this important position. Each term is for three-years. Budget Advisory 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 21 and January 30, 2015**. 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 Girls Soccer**

The Exeter High School (EHS) Girls Soccer team recaptured its State Championship status recently with an impressive 3-0 victory over strong rival Bedford High School. The Blue Haws ended their impressive season with a 19-0 record as it elevated their overall string of championships to seven in nine years! Outstanding Coach Megan Young credits her team with giving “everything we had from the first whistle to the final whistle.” The team’s success was led by Casey Estey who scored 99 goals in her high school career and goalie Megan Defeo who had 14 shutouts to her credit this year. Congratulations to Coach Young and to all of the members of her team! You have made the entire SAU 16 community very proud of you!

### **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 Stratham, as well as the paraprofessionals in the Exeter Region Cooperative and Newfields. Ongoing work is continuing between the Brentwood Teachers Association with the Brentwood School Board. The settled contracts will be presented to the voters in March 2015 for action at the annual School District Meeting of their respective districts.

### **Exeter High School Honored by the College Board**

The College Board recently announced its 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll — a list of 547 districts across the U.S. and Canada being honored for increasing access to AP<sup>®</sup> course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of three (3) or higher on Advanced Placement exams. Reaching these goals indicates that these districts are successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit from rigorous AP course work. Data from 2014 shows that among African American, Hispanic, and Native American students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half of students are participating because their schools do not always offer the AP course for which they have potential. These 547 districts are committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

Helping more students learn at a higher level *and* earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators

to college professors. Many districts are experimenting with a variety of initiatives and strategies to determine how to simultaneously expand access and improve student performance.

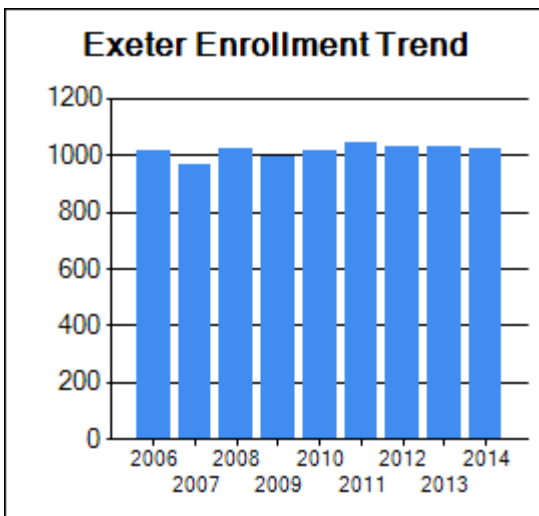
Inclusion on the 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2012 to 2014, for the following criteria: Increased participation/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts, and at least 11 percent in small districts; Increased or maintained the percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students, and; Improved performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2014 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2012, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70 percent of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

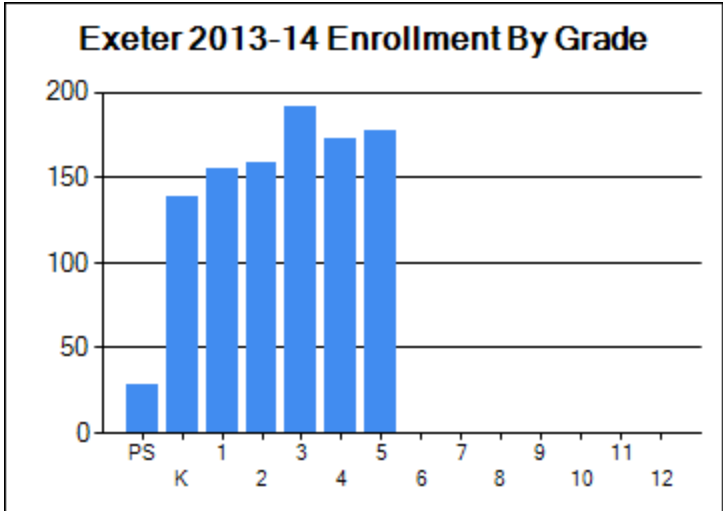
When these outcomes have been achieved among an AP student population in which 30 percent or more are underrepresented minority students (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native) and/or 30 percent or more are low-income students (students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch), a symbol has been affixed to the district name to highlight this work.

EHS is proud to have been recognized with this outstanding national recognition!

**Spotlight: Main Street School and Lincoln Street School, Exeter**

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.





**2013 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Results**

Student Assessment								
Achievement Level (%)	Reading		Mathematics		Writing		Science	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
Substantially Below Proficient (%)	3	7	5	17	2	8		
Partially Proficient (%)	8	16	11	18	9	34		
Proficient (%)	48	53	46	43	50	47		
Proficient with Distinction (%)	40	23	37	21	38	9		
Testing Participation (%)	100	99	100	99	99	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	178	90	172	90	192	82
	Mathematics	178	90	172	88	192	79
4	Reading	165	85	180	89	173	91
	Mathematics	167	83	180	88	173	88
5	Reading	175	90	172	87	180	92

	Mathematics	175	92	172	89	180	84
	Writing	175	79	172	73	180	88

Educational Attainment of Teachers in NH in 2013-2014:

Bachelor's Degree: 42.2%

Master's Degree: 56.5%

Beyond Master's Degree: 1%

Educational Attainment of Exeter Teachers in 2013-2014:

Bachelor's Degree: 16.9%

Master's Degree: 83.1%

Average NH Teacher Salary in 2013-2014: \$54,712

Average Exeter Teacher Salary in 2013-2014: \$70,971

Average NH Student-to-Teacher Ratio in 2013-2014: 12.1

Average Exeter Student-to-Teacher Ratio in 2013-2014: 11.9 to 1

SAU 16 Square Miles: 81.66

Exeter Square Miles: 20.02

Exeter Population:

14,454 (2013 estimate from the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning)

14,058 (2000 census)

14,306 (2010 census)

Registered Voters: 10,841 (March 2014)

Total Equalization Valuation of Property: \$1,590,626,551

Tax Rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation: \$26.06

Town Rate: \$7.77

County Rate: \$1.16

State School Rate: \$2.50

Local School Rate: \$14.63

**Did You Know?**

Main Street School was originally St. Michael School. Note all of the crosses alongside the top of the building.

The front of the left side of the "old" Exeter High School on Linden Street has an engraved heading: Tuck High School. The cornerstone for that original building was set in 1911.

Exeter High School senior James Peel recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play Division II baseball for Nycak College of New York. This outstanding Blue Hawk has wanted to play college baseball since he was in Little League. Now he has his chance!

Stratham Memorial School Principal Tom Fosher is one of three finalists for 2015 Elementary Principal of the Year.

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

This fall **Exeter Adult Education** the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program had a special group of students who came to learn English: twenty Colombian National Police officers who were staying in Exeter while training in Epping at SigSauer Academy. A Colombian native who now works at Phillips Exeter Academy made the connection between the group and Exeter Adult Education and facilitated this educational opportunity. All but two of the men were unable to greet us or make basic conversation in English when they arrived in mid-September. By the time they left in mid-November, all of the men were able to initiate and make conversation with staff as well as people in their shopping and training experiences. Additionally, they gained an appreciation for our community and their classmates. Following up with the Director of Instruction at SigSauer Academy created another connection between the business community and Exeter Adult Education. The training needs of employees often include communication skills, writing, critical thinking and mathematics—just what Exeter Adult Education has to offer.

As part of the SAU Strategic Plan, **Kensington Elementary School (KES)** is developing paperless practices as much as possible. Keeping aligned with the goals of this plan, Principal Becky Ruel is promoting the practice of emailing school information to parents as much as possible. Grade level email groupings are up and running after a few glitches trying to upload this information from PowerSchool. KES Administrative Assistant Michelle Aiken has been regularly sending emails to the entire KES community keeping families and staff updated on important dates, reminders for early release days, and flyers for upcoming clubs or events. The KES PTO is almost ready to launch their new website! PTO member, Jill Marchand, volunteered her time to design the new site which will make PTO news and information easily accessible to parents. All of these changes will hopefully improve the communication from KES to our greater community so that parents and families may be more informed and can access school information quickly. On the non-technical side of communication, the marquee outside the building has been in high demand not only to promote school events, but local community events as well! Head Custodian Matt Andrews has been busy changing the sign almost daily with all of the thing happenings at KES and around town. It's a busy time of year!

Fourth grade students at **Lincoln Street School (LSS)** are integrating social studies, reading, and language arts in their study of Native Americans and colonists in NH. As part of these studies, all fourth graders recently traveled to the Great Bay Discovery Center in Greenland, NH. Some students have just finished reading the historical fiction novel *Enemy in the Fort*. Others are participating in STEM activities, combining science, technology, engineering, and math activities to address both math and science standards. One such activity involves designing a package to transport via the United State Postal Service a single Pringles potato chip to a class at **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** The two classes are in the process of meeting and getting to know each

other by blogging using [www.kidblog.org](http://www.kidblog.org). The culminating activity will be to open the received packages while using Skype to see which chips survived the trip intact!

Ten Animal and Plant Science students from the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** recently attended the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY. These students qualified to attend by placing first in their event at the Granite State FFA Conference in April. Students had six months to hone their respective skills in preparation for the largest student event in the world, with approximately 56,000 student participants. Along with their celebrated teacher, Anne DeMarco and teaching assistant Wayne Demers, the following students attended the event: Jacob Magyar—Epping; Audrey Berenson, Jeffrey Cole, Erica Lyster, Elise McNaughton, Christina Rocco, Jordan Strater, Danielle Woodman—Exeter; Joshua McGowen—Raymond; and Justin Roberts—Winnacunnet.

In the Art Room at **Swasey Central School**, teacher Crystal Buswell has engaged the various grades with creative activities. The fifth graders are involved in a color wheel lesson that builds on the knowledge experienced in fourth grade. This lesson requires students to utilize primary and secondary colors that are arranged in a complimentary color scheme. The fourth graders are creating their own homemade scratch paper with oil pastels and India ink. They have shown great excitement in sketching their own designs. The third graders recently completed a sculpture lesson that focused on organic shapes and how a two-dimensional piece of art can become a three-dimensional sculpture. The second graders have been creating line designs that require imagination. The first graders have been strengthening their folding, cutting, and gluing skills by creating a collage with origami paper.

The **Exeter High School (EHS)** Robotics Club under the direction of teachers Courtney Fuller and Patrick Gile recently joined 27 other teams from around the state in their first competition of the season that was held at Trinity High School in Manchester. EHS finished 8<sup>th</sup> overall and qualified for the Finals tournament. Even though the number one seeded team defeated the EHS team, our student participants did a remarkable job and represented EHS very well in their sportsmanship, teamwork, and achievements.

At the **Cooperative Middle School**, Experiential Education teacher, Stephanie Frigon has been involved with many groups of students as they work toward developing team work and self-confidence. The four sixth grade teams participated in a variety of activities. Team 1 kicked off their community service initiative with two days of team building and one day of community service on the challenge course. Team 4 used critical thinking skills through exploring a survival simulation based on the novel *The Night of the Howling Dogs* that they are reading. The other sixth graders on Teams 2 and 3 have been involved in different outside activities with three separate rotations of Alternative Physical Education to learn about high element climbing skills.

Many teachers at **Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** are currently using the workshop model in their mathematics instruction. This model is helpful when differentiating to meet the needs of students with varying academic levels in the classroom. Within the workshop, the teacher guides one center to instruct on the same concept but in ways

specific to the learner. Another center will be used to reinforce the concept taught, while the last center may involve a game previously introduced or technology-based work. Many teachers are using IXL, Front Row Math as well as a number of other great web resources within math workshop. Grades K-2 have all finished their first two units of the newest edition of *Everyday Math* (EDM). Grades 3-5 have all administered their first quarter assessments. During the November professional development day each team reviewed this important data to help inform instruction. Assessment is just one facet to education and must be used to guide to help determine where to go next. Assessment is vital to see what each individual or group needs to promote better learning.

**Newfields Elementary School** (NES) Principal Kate Segal and the teachers are grateful to all parents who have participated in recent discussions regarding “Targeted Instruction” that is currently underway for all NES students. The “Targeted Instruction” model uses academic assessments and teacher observations to place all students in groups for specific instruction in reading, math, and/or communication and problem solving skills. The staff uses every classroom, the library, art room, STEM lab and the multi-purpose room. Students are divided into more than 20 groups, with an average of one adult for six students. The teachers are very grateful to Response to Intervention (RtI) teacher, Ruth Priest, for her tremendous assistance in working with her colleagues in completing assessments, gathering data, and using that data to create groups and inform lesson plans. “Targeted Instruction” group change each month as informed by teacher input and current data. These groups meet for approximately 30 minutes each school day.

The first, second, and third graders at **East Kingston Elementary School** (EKES) have been participating in the NH Ladybug Picture Book Award program. This consists of reading the ten nominated books, evaluating them, and then individually voting on a favorite. Only elementary students in NH are allowed to vote. Therefore, it is truly an award given by the children of NH! The EKES staff considers this a great honor for their students to have this opportunity and it is fun to use a ballot and voting booth! The 2014 nominees are:

*The Frazzle Family Finds A Way* by Ann Bonwill  
*Count The Monkeys* by Mac Barnett  
*Maya Was Grumpy* by Courtney Pippin-Mathur  
*How To Train A Train* by Jason Carter  
*Baby Bear Counts One* by Asley Wolff  
*Cowpoke Clyde and Dirty Dawg* by Lori Mortenson  
*Ben Rides On* by Matt Davies  
*If I Built A House* by Chris Van Dusen  
*The Very Inappropriate Word* by Jim Tobin  
*Outfoxed* by Mike Twohy

The students of EKES have voted and the school winner was, *If I Built A House*! However, the official state winner has not been announced, so stay tuned for the announcement. Happy Reading!



The November In-Service Day at **Main Street School** (MSS) involved a variety of experiences for all members of the staff. The classroom teachers, special education staff, and literacy specialists met with Curriculum Coordinator Karla Putney for a workshop in the morning on effective literacy practices. Karla reviewed materials and instructional ideas used to teach the five elements of literacy historically at MSS as well as introducing new strategies through videos and teacher shares. In the afternoon teachers met in their Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to review student progress in learning reading skills. All of the PLC teams shared their work at the end of the day.

Specialists, such as the nurses, art teachers, music teachers, and physical education teachers met with colleagues from other SAU 16 schools for curriculum discussions and planning.

The paraprofessional staff from both LSS and MSS attended a workshop entitled, “Unlocking your Para Potential” in the morning and then attended a workshop on effective literacy practices with Karla Putney in the afternoon. Using this time effectively has an impact on student learning, growth, and achievement.

### **Reflection**

Be thankful for what you have!

Some people are lonely. Be thankful for your family, your friends and your companions.

Some people are sick. Be thankful for your health.

Some people are homeless. Be thankful for your home, however humble.

Be thankful every day for someone or something!

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**