

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16**  
**JANUARY 2013**

**Deliberative Sessions and School District Meetings**

At this time of the year each of the seven independent school districts hosts their respective Budget Hearings, Deliberative Sessions, Voting Sessions, and School District Meetings on the proposed school budget for 2013-2014. This includes a review of any proposed Warrant Articles, such as new master agreements that result from collective bargaining. These meetings are open to the public and residents are strongly urged to attend to become more informed about issues in their school districts.

**Brentwood:**

Budget Hearing: Monday, January 14, 2013 7:00 pm, Brentwood Town Offices  
School District Meeting: Saturday, March 9, 2013, 9:00 am, Swasey Central School  
Voting Day: Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, Brentwood Recreation Center

**East Kingston:**

Deliberative Session: Wednesday, February 6, 2013, 6:30 pm, East Kingston Elementary School  
Voting Day: Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, East Kingston Elementary School

**Exeter:**

Deliberative Session: Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 7:00 pm, Lincoln Street School  
Voting Day: Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm, Talbot Gym, Tuck Learning Campus

**Exeter Region Cooperative:**

Deliberative Session: Thursday, February 7, 2013, 7:00 pm. Exeter High School  
Voting Day: Tuesday, March 12, 2013—Each respective town

**Kensington:**

Deliberative Session, Wednesday, February 6, 2013, 6:00 pm, Kensington Elementary School  
Voting Day: Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 8:00 am to 7:30 pm, Kensington Town Hall

## **Newfields:**

Budget Hearing: Saturday, January 12, 2013, 9:00 am

Deliberative Session: Monday, February 4, 2013, 6:30 pm, Newfields Elementary School

Voting Day: Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, Newfields Town Hall

## **Stratham:**

Budget Hearing: Wednesday, February 6, 2012, 7:00 pm, Stratham Memorial School

School District Meeting: Friday, March 8, 2013, 7:00 pm, Stratham Memorial School

Voting Day: Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, Stratham Municipal Center

## **Blue Ribbon School Nomination**

**Newfields Elementary School** (NES) was recently nominated by NH Commissioner of Education, Dr. Virginia Barry, as one of only six New Hampshire for the 2013 prestigious national Blue Ribbon Award. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of academic achievement. Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education's National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored almost 7,000 of America's most successful public and private elementary, middle, and high schools. The extensive application and review process is labor intensive, but schools who have been chosen in the past indicate that the result is well worth the effort. In 2012, only two NH schools (Canterbury Elementary School and Lisbon Middle School) received this award.

## **Change in Stratham School Board Membership**

Mr. Luke Pickett, one of the five members of the Stratham School Board, recently resigned his seat on the Stratham Board. He was elected to the Board in March 2010 and served the Board for the past 30 months. The Stratham School District is grateful to him for his service and extends him best wishes.

Mr. Eric von der Linden volunteered to replace Mr. Pickett. He graduated from Keene State College and works as an Information Security Advisor in the technology industry. The Stratham School Board approved Mr. von der Linden for this position at its January meeting. He assumed the role of Board Member immediately and will serve in that position until the regular town elections in March 2013. Welcome, Eric! Thank you for your willingness to serve in this important community role.

## **School Board Seats Available in March 2013**

Terms of office for some current school board members expire in March 2013. Now is the time for interested citizens to consider serving in these capacities. Board Members whose terms expire include Linda Garey in Brentwood; Robert Nigrello in East Kingston; Patrick O'Day and Jean Tucker in Exeter; Alice Mower in Kensington; Michael Price in Newfields; Eric von der Linden in Stratham; and Kate Miller (Exeter), Liz Faria

(Brentwood), and Joni Reynolds (Kensington) for the Coop. In addition, the seat on the Stratham School Board currently held by Everett Lamm will also be open for a one-year term. Dr. Lamm recently replaced Mark Sykas who resigned from the Stratham School Board and the one remaining year of that term is also open. Of the thirty-three total School Board seats in SAU 16, these eleven 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.

### **Filing Period**

Any resident over 18 years old may be a candidate for any school district office, including school board member, school district clerk, school district treasurer or school district moderator. Terms of office vary depending on the position. Those interested in having their names on the ballot in March 2013 must declare their candidacy in writing to the current school district clerk for their respective district **between January 23 and February 1, 2013**. The front page of the SAU 16 Website ([www.sau16.org](http://www.sau16.org)) has a listing of where the declarations can be made for each school district.

### **Coop Budget Advisory Seats Available in March 2013**

Terms of office for some current members of the Budget Advisory Committee of the Exeter Region Cooperative School District expire in March 2013. Now is the time for interested citizens to consider serving in these capacities. The following seats are available in March 2013: Three-year terms for any registered voter in Exeter, Newfields, and Stratham; One-year term for any registered voter in Kensington. Those interested in having their names on the ballot in March 2013 must declare their candidacy in writing to the current school district clerk **between January 23 and February 1, 2013**. This may be done at the SAU 16 office at 30 Linden Street in Exeter.

### **Meeting with Police Chiefs within SAU 16**

On Wednesday, January 23, 2013 the SAU will host a luncheon meeting with the six police chiefs who serve the six communities within SAU 16. The major purpose of this meeting is a review of the procedures and protocols of dealing with emergencies within a school building. This is a direct result and follow-up to the horrific tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. It is important to note each of the police departments with the SAU have been extremely cooperative and helpful in dealing with the aftermath of this event. This meeting is designed as an important step in being as prepared as possible to deal with such emergencies.

### **Champions for Children**

Community members and school staffs continue to recognize and celebrate the dedication of School Administrative Unit (SAU) 16 individuals by nominating them for a local Champion for Children award. This award is given to persons 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.

This month the Newfields School Board presented this award to Alyssa Caggiano for her outstanding service to the entire school community. Alyssa actively participates in many school and community organizations including the Three-Day Breast Walk for Cancer, the Newfields Parent-Teacher Organization, and the Newfields Youth Athletic Association. Occasionally, she substitutes for staff members who are absent and she goes above and beyond the call of duty—always offering to do something extra for someone. Alyssa is very sensitive to the needs of others and never wants anyone to go without. She is one to ask if a child needs a snowsuit or a Halloween costume, or a Christmas present. The school community celebrates this wonderful lady who is caring, patient, good-hearted, flexible, generous, and dependable!

### **Did You Know?**

In late December, the Seacoast Media Group, announced its “2012 Fall Athletes of the Year.” Among those Exeter High School student-athletes selected for this outstanding honor are Tyler Grant as a Football “Co-Athlete” of the Year and Kanoe Eichholz as the Girls Soccer “Athlete of the Year.” Congratulations to each of them!

Two Exeter High School (EHS) seniors have received nominations to US Military Academies. **Ariel Fleisher of Kensington and Ian Smith of Stratham** received nominations from two US Senators and one US Representative. Ariel has applied to the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and Ian has applied to the US Military Academy at West Point, NY. Formal decisions on their applications will be made later this school year.

### **Honoring the Past in SAU 16--Exeter High School (EHS) Principals**

Donald Harriman (1945-January 1955)  
Edward Roundy (January to June 1955)  
William Rogers (1955-1957)  
Edward Roundy (1957-1963)  
Burton G. MacArthur (1963-1972)  
Richard C. Bergeron (1972-1976)  
Dr. William Allard (1976-1978)  
Walter A. Borkowski (1978-1994)  
William C. Clancy (1994-1996); Mr. Clancy also served as SAU 16 Superintendent during  
this time  
Susan Ratnoff (1996-1999)  
Gary Heald (1999-2005)  
Victor P. Sokul (2005-2012)  
Sean F. Kiley (2012-Present)

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

The staff and administration at **Newfields Elementary School (NES)** have already begun work on the transition of fifth graders to the Cooperative Middle School (CMS). This is

such an important endeavor for each of the elementary schools within SAU 16, but it is of particular significance to NES because it has the lowest enrollment of any of the elementary schools within the SAU and the staff there is committed to making the transition to the much larger CMS as smooth as possible.

**Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** and **Kensington Elementary School (KES)** were among statewide schools that actively participated in the National Geographic “Geography Bee.” This always proves to be an exciting time in the schools because students in all grades prepare for the completion that usually involves each class/grade having a winner and then a “playoff” is held in front of a large audience to select a school champion. The winner of the “Geography Bee” in Stratham was fifth grader Charlie Venci. The winner of the “Geography Bee” in Kensington was fifth grader Connor MacLaughlin.

In December, 125 first grade students from Woodman Park School in Dover traveled by train to Exeter. Somewhat simulating the book, “The Polar Express,” these students were hosted by students and staff from **Main Street School (MSS)** and **Lincoln Street School (LSS)**. Together the children sang holiday songs and were treated to hot chocolate to celebrate the season. This community outreach is a wonderful example of making connections with other schools and teaching children about welcoming others in a “good citizenship” way.

For its Artist-in-Residence program this year, **East Kingston Elementary School (EKES)** is hosting puppeteer Andrew Periale. The residency will begin with a school-wide assembly. Over a two-week period, Andrew will meet with each class of students to engage them in art, writing, and performing.

Similar to efforts in other communities, **Lincoln Street School (LSS)** has initiated a special project for January entitled “One School, One Book.” The professional staff members are reading the book, “Wonder” by R.J. Palacio. Classroom teachers are using this book as a read-aloud to their students. A culminating event is being planned for the end of the month.

The Book of the Month initiative at **Swasey Central School (SCS)** continues to be very successful as it supports Language Arts development in the classrooms. Each month a new book is presented and shared by every member of the school. All classrooms create exciting lessons and activities that support the book of the month. “This is the Dream” by Diane Z. Stone and Jessica Alexander is the feature this month.

The students in the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** Digital Communications program are working with a new 24” Graphtec Vinyl Cutter Plotter. Students are able to prepare a design for the cutter using different pieces of software in conjunction with each other and produce and assemble the final product in the production studio. With this new piece of equipment, students can experience the entire process of designing a piece from start to finish. Additionally, students can create branding-related products including

stickers, artwork, signage and packaging to just name a few. This is just one example of the state-of-the-art opportunities offered to students from many area high schools.

**Exeter High School (EHS)** sophomores and juniors had the opportunity to take the College Board's Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in October. This test helps to prepare students for some of the major tests for college/university admissions. This was the first time that EHS students took this test on a regular school day and 413 juniors (94.29% of the class) and 64 sophomores (15.2% of the class) availed themselves of this opportunity. Students received their individual results in mid-December.

The PTO Enrichment Committee and **Kensington Elementary School (KES)** staff members are sponsoring the Cultural Passport Program. This year the students are "traveling" to France because a local family who has been living in Kensington is from France and has been living in the community for the past three years. At the opening assembly the mother of the family and her two girls (grades 2 and 5) shared an outstanding Power Point presentation for all KES students and staff. They shared information about their country, their home town, and places that they have traveled to in France as a family. For the next two weeks, all the students will be studying, drawing, and building structures of famous buildings. This includes some of the unique architectural structures such as the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. During Art classes they will also study famous French artists such as Matisse and Van Gough. They will be singing French songs in Music classes and during Library they will be learning French vocabulary, reading French books and watching the movie, The Red Balloon in grades 4 and 5. A visiting mime will spend a day in all Physical Education classes. The students will also be trying different French foods such as crepes, croissants, cheeses, and bread during lunches. The final celebration will be in the evening on Thursday, January 24 in the KES multipurpose room. The audience will be able to sit at the café and watch a "fashion show" of famous people from France. The students will also share all the work that they have completed during the month-long event.

The "ropes course" at the **Cooperative Middle School (CMS)** continues to emphasize experiential and adventure-based education. Team building activities among the various groups in the school utilize the challenge course to expose students to various skills to develop and to help them develop trust and confidence with their peers. At the middle school level, in addition to the emphasis on academics, it is very important for students to develop and nurture relationships and communication skills with each other.

### **Personal Reflection**

My dad was a public school janitor in the North Country for over 25 years. He taught me so much about helping others and being of service. One of his favorite pieces of advice: "Remember that someone has to hold the ladder so that other people can climb. Make sure that you hold that ladder firmly!" May we always find a way to be of service to those around us!