

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
November 2012

Tax Rates—2012

Local tax rates for the six towns within SAU 16 are in the process of being set. They will be reported as they become available. Please note that there is some delay in this process this year because of the reduction in staff at the Department of Revenue Administration. The finalized 2012 rates (per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation) are as follows:

Brentwood--\$23.24 (Increase of \$0.23)—Increase of 1.00%
East Kingston—Not yet finalized
Exeter--\$25.92 (Increase of \$0.64)—Increase of 2.53%
Kensington--\$20.08 (Increase of \$1.23)—Increase of 6.52%
Newfields—\$23.02 (Increase of \$0.86)—Increase of 3.88%
Stratham--\$19.31 (Increase of \$0.36)—Increase of 1.89%

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; Luke Pickett in Stratham; and Kate Miller (Exeter), Liz Faria (Brentwood), and Joni Reynolds (Kensington) for the Coop. In addition, Mark Sykas recently resigned from the Stratham School Board and the one remaining year of his term will also be 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, 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.**

NECAP Science Results

The results of the spring 2012 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) science tests were released recently. This test was administered to students in grades 4, 8, and 11 in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont as part of each state's required

assessment program. NECAP results are used primarily for program evaluation, school improvement, and public reporting. Achievement level results are used in the state accountability system required by the federal mandate entitled No Child Left Behind (NCLB). More detailed results are used by schools to help improve curriculum and instruction. Individual student results are used to support information gathered through classroom instruction and assessment.

Assessment results are reported in degrees of proficiency. Each school is provided its results along with a statewide summary.

Grade 4 Results:

State of New Hampshire: 53% Proficient (14,053 students tested)

Swasey Central School, Brentwood: 78% Proficient (65 students tested)

East Kingston Elementary School: 60% Proficient (35 students tested)

Kensington Elementary School: 65% Proficient (48 students tested)

Lincoln Street School, Exeter: 70% Proficient (167 students tested)

Newfields Elementary School: 73% Proficient (15 students tested)

Stratham Memorial School: 62% Proficient (95 students tested)

Grade 8 Results:

State of New Hampshire: 32% Proficient (14,878 students tested)

Cooperative Middle School, Stratham: 49% Proficient (468 students tested)

Grade 11 Results:

State of New Hampshire: 33% Proficient (14,293 students tested)

Exeter High School: 48% Proficient (414 students tested)

Additional information is available at the New Hampshire Department of Education website: <http://reporting.measuredprogress.org/NHProfile/default.aspx>

Free and Reduced School Meals

Each year families may apply for consideration to receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch. Local officials use federal financial guidelines to determine a family's eligibility for this benefit. Application information is extremely confidential. Over the past five years there has been a steady increase in the number of students who are eligible to receive school meals that are either free or are offered at a reduced cost.

For 2012-2013, the following percentages of students have been determined to be eligible:

Swasey Central School, Brentwood—6.03%
East Kingston Elementary School—11.00%
Newfields Elementary School—4.8%
Main Street School, Exeter—16.11%
Lincoln Street School, Exeter—19.58%
Cooperative Middle School, Stratham—11.78%
Exeter High School—9.95%
Tuck Learning Campus, Exeter—30.14%
Kensington Elementary School—4.8%
Stratham Memorial School—8.58%

Total Lunches By Schools in SAU 16

Recent information provided by the New Hampshire Department of Education regarding schools' participation in the National School Lunch Program indicated the total number of lunches served during the 2011-2012 school year. This clearly demonstrates the success of this important nutritional program and is a credit to the hard working and dedicated women and men who strive hard each day to serve our students well-balanced, healthy, and nutritional meals.

Cooperative Middle School—86,085 lunches
East Kingston Elementary School—16,683 lunches
Exeter High School—88,886 lunches
Tuck Learning Campus—10,835 lunches
Kensington Elementary School—18,261 lunches
Lincoln Street School, Exeter—41,504 lunches
Main Street School, Exeter—32,468 lunches
Stratham Memorial School—56,949 lunches
Swasey Central School, Brentwood—30,049 lunches
Newfields Elementary School did not participate in this federal program

Champions for Children

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

In November 2012 the SAU Joint Boards presented this award to **Susan Taylor** who has been a school bus driver for SAU 16 since 1999. She has been “an incredibly caring figure” in the loves of kindergarten, elementary, and middle school students for 13 years. Over these years she has faced many challenges and has always been able to find the right path to take for each individual student. Susie’s dedication to her students is very evident in the way that parents express how important that she is to them as well. Consistently she displays respect, support, compassion, and understanding for the 150 children whose lives she touches each day.

Technology Educator of the Year—2013

Mr. Steve Gagnon of Stratham Memorial School has been selected to receive the 2013 Pat Keyes Technology-Using Educator Award from the New Hampshire Society of Technology Educators. This prestigious honor is given annually to a teacher who provides direct instruction to students and who integrates technology in a regular classroom setting. Mr. Gagnon is well-known in SAU 16 for his leadership in professional development for other educators and for applying various types of learning experiences for his students. He will be presented with this award during the upcoming Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference in Manchester at the end of November.

State Champions—EHS Girls Soccer

For the fourth consecutive year, the Exeter High School (EHS) Girls Soccer team captured the Division I State Championship by defeating third-ranked Bedford High School, 5-1. Guided by their outstanding leader and coach, Megan Young, the 2012 girls' team ended the season with an undefeated record of 19-0. Four seniors have the distinction of having played on the varsity team for all four years: Maggie Couett, Allie Day, Kanoe Eichholz, and Abby Short. The EHS Girls Soccer team may now boast that it has captured a State Championship in 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012—six times in the past seven years! Congratulations, Coach Young and all of the members of your team!

State Champions—EHS Football

For the second consecutive year, the Exeter High School (EHS) Football team captured the Division I State Championship by defeating second-ranked Pinkerton Academy, 31-21. Guided by extraordinary veteran coach, Bill Ball, the 2012 team ended the season with an incredible record of 11-1. The EHS Football team may now boast that it has captured a State Championship in 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2011, and 2012—fourteen times in the past 57 years! Congratulations, Coach Ball and all of the members of your impressive team!

Change in Stratham School Board Membership

Mr. Mark Sykas, one of the five members of the Stratham School Board, resigned recently because he was relocating out of the community and would not meet the residency requirement that is necessary to serve on the Board. Mr. Sykas was elected to the Board in March 2011 and served the Board enthusiastically for the past 19 months. The Stratham School District is grateful to him for his service and extend him best wishes as he leaves Stratham

Dr. Everett Lamm, a local pediatrician, educator, community leader, volunteer, and coach volunteered to replace Mr. Sykas. The Stratham School Board approved Dr. Lamm for this position at its November meeting. Dr. Lamm assumed the role of Board Member immediately and will serve in that position until the regular town elections in March

2013. Welcome, Dr. Lamm. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this important community role.

SAU Joint Board Meeting—November 19, 2012

Because Hurricane Sandy forced the rescheduling of the regular meeting of the SAU Joint Boards in late October, the third annual meeting with area legislators took place on Monday, November 19, 2012, at 7:00 pm at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST) in Exeter. The primary purpose of this meeting was a discussion with local state senators, state representatives, and community members dealing with the impact of state downshifting of costs to local school districts and municipalities. In particular, this impacts mandatory employer contributions to the NH Retirement System, reductions in funds for career and technical education, catastrophic aid, and potentially building aid. Always a concern is funding for state adequacy grants which are dependent upon the Legislature.

This year approximately 80 current state representatives and senators, as well as those who were vying for office on the Executive Council and for the Governor's seat, were invited to attend this meeting. Area superintendents and Board Members in adjacent communities were also invited. Approximately 40 guests were able to join us and participate in a worthwhile discussion which will be broadcasted on Channel 13 over the next few weeks.

Coop Budget Advisory Committee

Two vacancies currently exist on the nine-member Budget Advisory Committee that serves the Exeter Region Cooperative School District. Any resident of Exeter or Kensington is welcomed to apply for a seat on this Committee to fulfill the unexpired term of recent members who chose to resign. Anyone interested in serving the community in this capacity may contact SAU Business Administrator Amy Ransom at aransom@sau16.org or 775-8671.

Average Teacher Salaries for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013

Please note that the following figures only include teachers. The professional educators who serve in such positions as administrators, guidance counselors, school psychologists, social workers, and other support positions are not included in these averages.

Brentwood--\$64,187 and \$65,534
East Kingston--\$58,669 and \$60,643
Exeter--\$68,760 and \$69,864
Exeter Region Cooperative--\$64,670 and \$66,345
Kensington--\$64,934 and \$66,830
Newfields--\$59,194 and \$60,514
Stratham--\$73,049 and \$73,545

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

Students at **Newfields Elementary School** (NES) collected over 300 non-perishable food items during the month of October for National Make a Difference Day. All of the donated food was delivered to the Newfields Police Department who will use these items in holiday baskets that it provides to residents in need during the holidays.

Very much in concert with the SAU 16 Strategic Plan, the staff at **Kensington Elementary School** (KES) continues to change and update their website. Their main purpose is to keep the community informed about the many wonderful and exciting activities taking place at the school. Staff members worked together during the recent in-service day at KES to develop class pages and draft individual bios and take pictures for the website. Technology mentors Rebekah Prince, Amy Steinberg, Tammy D'Agostino, and Jen Friden coordinated much of this activity and shared their expertise with other staff members.

The recent in-service day at **Lincoln Street School** (LSS) provided an opportunity for Director of Instruction Julie Lambert to present a workshop for the staff dealing with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). This included a schedule for the implementation of various program components over the next three years. On the same day, Technology Coordinator Bev Tabet, presented a workshop dealing with webpage design. This included information about both the Moodle and Google platforms for staff webpage creation. On that same day, paraprofessionals attended a workshop with Dr. Susan O'Connor dealing with an introduction to CCSS as well as information about reading comprehension strategies.

Under the direction of Director of Instruction Karla Putney, parents and children at **Main Street School** (MSS) were treated to Family Math Night in early November. This outstanding opportunity was designed to bring families together to learn more about math games and ways to engage young children in learning more about this important curriculum topic. Mrs. Putney was assisted by many volunteers including MSS staff members and students from Exeter High School, Phillips Exeter Academy, and the University of New Hampshire. Students and families from the Exeter Developmental Preschool also participated in this event.

Similar to the event at MSS, the Brentwood Teachers' Association also hosted Family Math Night recently at **Swasey Central School** (SCS). This event focused on math games that facilitate learning as well as hosting an event for family fun. Participants contributed non-perishable food items to donate to the local food pantry.

The implementation of the math component of the Common Core State Standards was the major focus of the recent in-service day at **Stratham Memorial School** (SMS). Betty Erickson, a consultant from the Southeast Regional Education Service Center (SERESC) in Bedford, facilitated the day-long program. This included showing the differences between the current Grade Level Expectations (GLE's) developed by the NH Department of Education and the CCSS guidelines. She also worked with the teachers

about key math components (e.g. Numbers and Operations, Algebraic Thinking Measurement, Data, and Geometry) and showed how the assessments for the CCSS differ from those required by the GLE's.

The annual College and Career Fair held at the **Seacoast School of Technology (SST)** recently welcomed 52 representatives from colleges, universities, branches of the military, and local organizations with internships and career opportunities. Students were given a list of attendees prior to the event so they were able to set priorities based upon their own personal plans for the future. Teachers made suggestions to students about which schools/organizations might have opportunities in line with specific student goals. Every SST student attended the event and all were ready to write answers to their prepared questions on clipboards provided to each student.

One of the most challenging transitions in school is entering kindergarten. This transition is equally hard for students and parents alike. To help ease the challenges of coming to public school for the first time, **East Kingston Elementary School (EKES)** offers the following supports for families:

- In January of each year, school officials conduct a search of prospective students and send out a letter to parents outlining the registration process and the paperwork required.
- An evening parent meeting is held in April to collect registration packets and to present parents an overview of the program. This is usually a great question and answer session.
- In June, the teachers host an Open House during the school day to give the students their first experience in the classroom.
- In June, the teachers along with the special education team, conduct a comprehensive one-on-one screening of each student. This initial screening helps school officials to “red flag” at-risk students and assists in the development of heterogeneous groupings.
- In early August, families receive a welcome letter from the school principal and one from their classroom teacher outlining the opening of school.
- On the Friday prior to the opening of school, the teachers host an Open House for families so the students can see their classroom and meet their teacher.

Coming to school for the first time is very exciting, but also a little scary. The EKES kindergarten team understands this and has a good plan in place that welcomes and embraces all new families.

The National French Honor Society at **Exeter High School (EHS)** sponsored “La Semaine Nationale du Francais et de la Francophonie” for eight days in November. During that time, students hosted French-speakers to talk about their countries of origin and the importance of the French language in society. Representatives included individuals from France, Quebec, Morocco, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Belgium, Switzerland, Lebanon, and the French Consulate in Boston. The Honor Society also sponsored a fundraiser to help impoverished children in Dubre, Haiti. EHS students are creating textbooks in French to send to the island nation that was devastated by an earthquake in 2010.

Earlier this month the **Cooperative Middle School** (CMS) hosted over 500 parent conferences. Nearly 80% of these involved student participation because of the belief that no one is more important to be at a parent-teacher conference than the student. This is particularly true in middle school so that the student begins to take “ownership” in his/her total learning experience. Participation in this process—instead of being an outsider—involves the student in taking responsibility in the entire educational process and creating a plan to consistently improve.

Did You Know?

EHS alumnus Jake Bullock, who also attended Kensington Elementary School, enrolled in the Columbia University School of General Studies in January 2012. From 2003 to 2011 he was a member of the US Navy and completed his training as a Navy SEAL. He served three tours of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan.

CMS sixth-grader Lexi Buswell was diagnosed with Lupus in 2011 and since then has become a “warrior” to raise awareness and funds to help with finding a cure for this terrible disease. Lexi is now in remission, but her efforts recently, including the “Walk for Lupus Now” event in Boston in October raised over \$12,000 for this important cause. You can see updates on her journey on Facebook (even if you don’t have an account) by visiting her team page: www.facebook.com/LexisLupusWarriors

In 1929 Jeannette Talbot Baxendale gave money to Robinson Seminary in Exeter in memory of her mother. Those funds were given to the Exeter School District in 1954 to allow it to construct the “Talbot Gym” which stands today as a wonderful gift to generations of local students.

EHS junior William Bradley was nominated by the Social Studies Department for the prestigious and highly competitive United States Senate Youth Program.

EHS hockey coach, Jim Tufts, was recently inducted into the NH Legends of Hockey organization. He holds the record of the coach with the most wins with a NH high school hockey team—444 victories—all of them at EHS! Congratulations, Coach Tufts! What an honor for you, your family, and for EHS!

In preparation for national, state, and local voting earlier this month, Exeter Adult Education utilized a “Voter Education Wall” that including information about the voting process, branches of government, and details about state and federal candidates. Over 80% of eligible Adult Education staff and students, including four new US citizens, voted on November 6, 2012.

A Little History: SAU 16 Superintendents of Schools

SAU 16 was formed in 1915

1915-1919—Maro S. Brooks
1919-1945—Clifton A. Towle
1945-1948—Aura W. Coleman
1948-1968—Raymond A. Hoyt
1968-1972—Dr. Edward A. Adamo
1972-1974—Jerome F. Melvin
1974-1983—Frederick B. King
1983-1987—Wayne Gersen
1987-1997—William Clancy
1997-2008—Dr. Arthur L. Hanson
2008-Present—Michael A. Morgan

Reflection

November mean Thanksgiving!

Without a doubt, Thanksgiving is my most favorite holiday. It is a time to pause from the routines of daily life—even for just a few minutes—to truly reflect on the many gifts that each of us has.

Far too often in life, we take things for granted. This could be our families, our freedoms, our jobs, our health, our religion, our form of government, our servicemen and women, our educational opportunities.

This year think about our postal workers, our medical service personnel, our police and firemen, our teachers, our toll takers, our construction workers, our waiters and waitresses—all of those people who touch our lives daily. Be thankful for them!

Be thankful for all the blessings of life. We never know how long we will be able to enjoy them! Happy Thanksgiving!