

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
December 2013

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.

The Exeter School District recently presented this award to **Mrs. Sally Holloman** who has been a kindergarten classroom volunteer at Main Street School (MSS) for the past 15 years. She is a retired educator who is very active in the Riverwoods community, serving on its Education Committee and assisting with its United Day of Caring and Meals on Wheels program. On any given Monday, Mrs. Holloman visits MSS and sits on the kindergarten classroom floor to read with children. At the appropriate time, she also patiently listens when a child is ready to read to her. Each December, “Mrs. H” helps to arrange a visit of the kindergarten children from MSS to Riverwoods where they sing and spread holiday cheer to the residents. Additionally, she also volunteers for the annual PTO Fun Run in Exeter and helps by registering and cheering on the runners, passing out water, and doing whatever she can to help the program run smoothly. Her efforts celebrate children and make her a real gift to the MSS community.

School Board Seats Available in March 2014

Terms of office for some current school board members expire in March 2014. 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 Charles Gargaly and Amy Mitchell in Brentwood; Korrine Bork in East Kingston; Tracy Jeffers in Exeter; Gary Bonitatibus in Kensington; Kirsten Lord in Newfields; Bob O’Sullivan and Eric von der Linden in Stratham; and Kate Segal (Exeter), Dave Miller (East Kingston), Kate Clark (Kensington – 2 year term), and Mark Portu (Stratham) for the Coop. Of the thirty-three total School Board seats in SAU 16, these twelve positions will be available for (re)election. Now is the time for any interested individual 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 2014, must declare their candidacy in writing to the current school district clerk for their respective district **between January 22 and January 31, 2014.**

English as a Second Language

Each year school districts are required to complete documentation to submit to the NH Department of Education regarding the number of students who are enrolled in its schools and whose primary language is other than English. The 2013-2014 report for SAU 16 schools displays some significant information that includes over 25 different languages that span the international community. This list includes: German; Spanish; French; Japanese; Chinese; Cantonese; Finnish; Urdu; Indonesian; Romanian; Russian; Tami; Afrikaans; Bengali; Lao; Vietnamese; Danish; Korean; Ilocano; and Filipino. In many ways, this makes our communities more aware of the need to be open to families and students from other countries and cultures.

Population Projections

The NH Office of Energy and Planning periodically issues population forecasts for each community to help local municipalities and schools plan for changes. The most recent data available for the six towns in SAU 16 appears below and indicates some trends that may prompt review and discussion. It is provided her for information purposes only.

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Brentwood	4,486	5,097	5,789	5,916	6,019	6,071	6,060
East Kingston	2,357	2,622	2,926	2,991	3,042	3,069	3,063
Exeter	14,306	14,169	14,187	14,499	14,751	14,879	14,851
Kensington	2,124	2,208	2,321	2,372	2,413	2,434	2,430
Newfields	1,680	1,718	1,777	1,816	1,847	1,863	1,860
Stratham	7,255	7,603	8,051	8,228	8,371	8,444	8,428

Did You Know?

Mr. Dick Keays, the current principal at Lincoln Street School (LSS) in Exeter has served in that capacity since 1993. Before that, he was the principal at Main Street School (MSS) for four years (1989-1993). That makes him the longest serving principal in SAU 16 history!

The NHIAA is discussing the possibility of adding Archery to the high school sports currently offered. Bass Fishing was the most recent competitive sport made available to NH high school students and Exeter High School (EHS) won the first state championship in that sport!

Contract Negotiations Update

This school year six (6) 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 all of the groups and their respective School Boards. These include the teachers associations in Brentwood, East Kingston, Exeter, Exeter Region Cooperative, and Newfields, as well as the administrators in the Exeter Region Cooperative. A summary of the changes in the financial components (salaries and benefits) of the proposed contracts follows.

The settled contracts will be presented to the voters in March 2014 for action at the Annual School District Meeting of their respective districts.

2013 Collective Bargaining Settlements

East Kingston Teachers	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
Salary		2.90%	2.75%	2.75%	
BC POS (May use this amt for MT HMO)	90%/10%	88%/12%	88%/12%	88%/12%	
MT HMO		96%/4%	96%/4%	96%/4%	
Newfields Teachers					
Salary		1.50%	1.75%	2.00%	2.50%
Health switch to CIGNA HMO	POS 80%/20%	80%/20%	80%/20%	80%/20%	80%/20%
Coop Administrators					
Salary		3%	2%	2%	
BC POS	85%/15%	80%/20%	80%/20%	80%/20%	
MT HMO	90%/10%	90%/10%	87%/13%	85%/15%	
Exeter Teachers					
Salary		1.90%	1.90%	1.90%	
BC POS	87%/13%	82%/18%	81%/19%	80%/20%	
MT HMO	90%/10%	89%/11%	88%/12%	87%/13%	
Brentwood Teachers					
Salary	1.50%	2.30%	2.30%	2.30%	
BC POS-Single-move to \$20 c/p&10/20/45 Rx	95%/5%	94%/6%	93.5%/6.5%	93%/7%	
BC POS-2P-move to \$20 c/p&10/20/45 Rx	85%/15%	84%/16%	83.5%/16.5%	83%/17%	
BC POS-Family-move to \$20 c/p&10/20/45 Rx	75%/25%	74%/26%	73.5%/26.5%	73%/27%	
MT HMO-Single-move to \$20 c/p&10/20/45 Rx	100%/0%	99%/1%	98.5%/1.5%	98%/2%	
MT HMO-2P-move to \$20 c/p&10/20/45 Rx	95%/5%	94%/6%	93.5%/6.5%	93%/7%	
MT HMO-Family-move to \$20 c/p&10/20/45 Rx	80%/20%	79%/21%	78.5%/21.5%	78%/22%	
Coop Teachers					
Salary	2.15%	2.05%	1.95%	1.95%	

BC POS-move to \$20 c/p	84%/16%	82%/18%	82%/18%	80%/20%	
MT HMO	95%/5%	90%/10%	90%/10%	90%/10%	

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 2014. Any resident of Brentwood (current member Elyse Gallo Seeley), Exeter (current member Roy Morrisette) or Kensington (current member Cheryl McDonough) 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 22 and January 31, 2014**. Anyone interested in serving the community in this capacity may contact SAU Business Administrator Amy Ransom at aransom@sau16.org or 775-8671 for additional information.

Did You Know?

In early December, nine Exeter High School (EHS) Latin students participated in the Annual Granite State Certamen competition which includes teams of four students in a quiz bowl format. Questions are based on topics such as Latin grammar and translations, classical mythology, history, culture, and Latin phrases and abbreviations used in English.

The EHS Drama Department is hosting a dinner theater, “Who Poisoned His Meatball?” at Julia’s Kitchen at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST) on Friday, January 10, 2014.

EHS student-athlete Austin Kimball was selected as the 2013 Boys Soccer Athlete of the Year and EHS junior Casey Estey, EHS Girls Soccer star, was named “Overall Athlete of the Year” by the Seacoast Media Group.

Several World War II veterans visited EHS recently and shared their stories of life and military experiences with sophomores in US History Honors classes. Residents from the Rockingham County Nursing Home and the Ernest P. Barka Assisted Living Community participated in this event that was coordinated by Ms. Molly Stevenson, the Social Studies Learning Area Leader and one of the history teachers at the high school.

At its lone home meet of the season that was held recently at Phillips Exeter Academy’s Roger Nelson Championship Pool, the EHS Boys and Girls Swim Teams celebrated their 25 combined senior members. At that event, the Boys’ team won a pair of dual meets while Meghan Gray swam to a school record in the 100 meter freestyle.

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

Just before Thanksgiving, **Newfields Elementary School (NES)** community was thrilled to host Governor Maggie Hassan, Commissioner of Education Virginia Barry, Executive Councilor Christopher Sununu, and many parents and community members to celebrate with all of the children and staff members its designation as a National Blue Ribbon School. The highlight of

the day was the NES students singing “Blue, Blue Ribbon School” to the tune of “Blue Suede Shoes.”

Several key initiatives at **Main Street School** (MSS) involve a variety of the on-going SAU Strategic Planning efforts. These include “Souper Friday” where staff members make soup and sell it to other staff members to support *End 68 Hours of Hunger*; a group of teachers meet monthly as a professional book group—this month they have been discussing a book that summarizes some of the research about what classroom instruction works best for children; the Kindergarten Committee continues to explore the possibility of expanding that program to full-day—this would involve the addition of four classrooms at the estimated cost of two million dollars.

For the eleventh consecutive year, **Lincoln Street School** (LSS) staff and students hosted “The Polar Express” experience on December 18th for students from Woodman Park School in Dover. This year 100 first graders from Dover were bussed to Exeter to celebrate the holidays. They returned on the Amtrak train with Santa as a special guest for them. Four first grade classes from Main Street School (MSS) joined the event as well. Activities included gathering for holiday songs, exchanging gifts with the LSS fourth graders giving a personal bookmark to each Dover child, and the reading of “*’Twas the Night Before Christmas*” by LSS veteran custodian Roger Reeser. This annual tradition has been well celebrated in both communities.

Technology continues to play an important role in supporting learning at **East Kingston Elementary School** (EKES). On a daily basis, students have access to the Internet through a variety of tools such as netbooks, Chromebooks, and iPads. The integration of three important elements is needed to facilitate this process: network access; professional development for staff; and student navigation of the network and the use of learning tools and opportunities. The EKES Technology Committee continues to explore ways to provide all of these elements to the school community. Teachers have bi-weekly professional development meetings, one-to-one mentoring, and technology coaching. Students in first, second, and third grades meet weekly with their technology teacher to focus on fundamental skills, while students in grades four and five integrate these skills into their world language studies.

In the spirit of the holiday season, a group of fifth graders at **Stratham Memorial School** (SMS) worked very hard to create and sell dog biscuits with all proceeds going to the Stratham SPCA chapter. The group also sponsored the “Mitten Madness” project which challenges every student to complete one or two chores at home for \$1.00. Each child then decorates a “mitten” which is hung in the main entryway to the school. All donations go direct to the Exeter Children’s Chamber Fund. In lieu of holiday gifts to teachers this year, the Stratham Teachers’ Association asked that donations be made for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry in Exeter.

This month’s issue of *The Beacon* published by the **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST) features ten stories of SST alumni who are serving our country as members of the military or who are spouses of service members. This includes individuals who are in the US Army, the US Marine Corps, the US Navy, as well as the Navy Reserves and the Marine Reserves. One feature highlights Brendan Podszus, a Biotechnology graduate from 2008 who subsequently graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point in 2012. The entire issue is worth reading and may be found at www.SeacoastTech.com.

Band and Chorus students at **Exeter High School** (EHS) continue to excel and be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments at statewide festivals. This fall, 18 students auditioned for the New Hampshire Music Educators Association All State Music Festival and the following students received recognition: Orchestra - Aubrey Harris, second highest score for double bass in the state; Ethan Vander Woude, third highest score for trumpet in the state; Camden Ward, highest oboe score in the state; and Denzil Leach, highest percussion III score in the state; Band - Wyatt Merrill, second highest score for clarinet in the state; Simon Lazev, Gregory Bond, and Joseph Winslow, fifth highest score for alto saxophone in the state; Mixed Choir - Margaret Leach and Rachel Zampini; Women's Choir: Jennifer Elwell and Katherine Zampini. These successes set a record for Exeter students in this competition.

Two physical education teachers from the **Cooperative Middle School** (CMS), Cathy Clermont and Eileen Cuell presented a workshop dealing with their “Alternative Physical Education Model” to approximately fifty of their statewide colleagues at the annual fall New Hampshire Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (NHAHPERD) at Waterville Valley, NH. The purpose of the ALT PE program is to meet the physical education needs of students who are not accessing the current curriculum to their fullest potential. The goal of the program is to encourage all students to be physically active regardless of their abilities. Often the success of the program comes from partnering students both with and without disabilities to provide the ways and means to achieve a more active lifestyle both now and in adult life.

Second graders at **Swasey Central School** (SCS) have been studying the Earth's seven continents. This has included reading about each continent, finding them on a map, singing songs about them, and then constructing a salt and flour dough map of the world. This lays the foundation for the children to learn about the various holidays from around the world which culminates in a trip to the Children's Museum of Dover. Fourth graders have been very busy working on multi-digit multiplication and long division strategies. This assists the students in completing their first major performance-task math project—Thanksgiving Dinner!

Exeter Adult Education has announced its Winter and Spring schedule that includes programs in Basic Literacy, Adult High School Diploma, Computer Courses, High School Equivalency Preparation and Testing, programs for those who want to learn English, and a wide variety of Enrichment courses and workshops. The Adult Diploma Program includes courses in Chemistry, US History, Algebra, Biology, and Workforce Math. Some of the Enrichment classes offered include Ballroom Dancing, Fly Tying, Italian Cooking, PowerPoint for Storytelling, and Conversational Spanish. A complete listing of courses may be found at <http://adulthood.sau16.org>

The professional staff at **Kensington Elementary School** (KES) continues to meet weekly in grade level teams to review various curriculum works including Star Math and Reading assessments that are designed to check student levels in those disciplines. They are also spending time reviewing and working with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in Math and Literacy so that they may better understand what they are expected to teach at each grade level. These meetings have also given them the opportunity to study samples of the upcoming Smarter Balanced computer-based assessment and review test questions that are being developed so that they may prepare their students for this new assessment tool.