

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16
FEBRUARY 2017

School Board Candidates

Thirteen (13) School Board seats are available when voters go to the polls next month. Candidates for the various independent boards within SAU 16 are listed below. Voting takes place in all districts on **Tuesday, March 14, 2017**. Registered voters will be asked to choose from among the following. Each term is for three years unless noted otherwise.

Brentwood (2 seats available): Allison Higgins and Elza Silva

East Kingston (1 seat available): Don Clark, Melissa Lyons, and James Saucier

Exeter (1 seat available): Dawn Bullens

Exeter Region Cooperative (3 seats available):

East Kingston – Deb Hobson

Exeter – David Slifka

Stratham - Travis Thompson

Kensington (1 seats available): Tim Gailtski and Jennifer Ramsay

Newfields (1 seat available): Thomas Hayward and Todd Wynn

Stratham (3 seats available):

Two seats, each for a three-year term: Jillian Carter, Robert O’Sullivan, and Nathan Stein

One seat for a one-year term: Robert Piotrowski and Eric von der Linden

Coop Budget Advisory Candidates (BAC)

Four seats on the Budget Advisory Committee for the Exeter Region Cooperative School District are available when voters go to the polls next month. Candidates are listed below. **Voting takes place in all districts on Tuesday, March 14, 2017**. Registered voters will be asked to choose from among the following. Each term is for three years unless noted otherwise.

Brentwood: No one filed

Exeter: Roy Morrisette

Kensington: No one filed

Newfields (two-year term): No one filed

School District “Savings Accounts”

Any school district is allowed to set aside funds - with the permission of the voters - for a specific purpose. Over the years, the seven independent school districts within the SAU have done precisely that. The following is a list of the specific “savings accounts” which are called either a “capital reserve account” or an “expendable trust fund.” The amounts listed in each account were the total value of that particular account at the end of the most recent calendar year on December 31, 2016.

Brentwood:

Capital Reserve - Special Education	\$66,411.15
Capital Reserve – Maintenance (as of Nov. 1, 2014)	\$82,431.57

East Kingston:

Capital Reserve - School Building Expansion	\$633,223.25
Capital Reserve - Elementary Development	\$1,604.48
Capital Reserve - Special Education	\$42,247.59
Capital Reserve - School Maintenance	\$16,441.38

Exeter:

Expendable Trust - Unused Sick Days	\$68,232.43
Capital Reserve - Building Renovations	\$169,161.31
Capital Reserve - Coop Building Costs	\$312,253.34
Capital Reserve – Coop Middle School Bond Reserve	\$55,457.61

Exeter Region Cooperative:

Capital Reserve Fund - (Re)Construction	\$398,559.83
Capital Reserve - Special Education	\$513,742.73
Capital Reserve - Maintenance	\$509,981.18
Capital Reserve – Synthetic Turf Replacement	\$100,418.78
Capital Reserve – SST Building Fund	\$756.34

Kensington:

Capital Reserve - Educational Trust	\$8,909.69
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Newfields:

Capital Reserve - School Maintenance	\$35,005.94
Capital Reserve – Special Education Expend Trust	\$30,234.53

Stratham:

Capital Reserve - Special Education	\$526,559.14
Capital Reserve - School Maintenance	\$117,733.22
Trust Fund - Debbie Greenberg	\$4,011.04

EHS Graduation Set

Graduation for the Exeter High School Class of 2017 will be held on Friday, June 16, 2017 at 5:30 pm. The celebration will be held at the William Ball Stadium, weather permitting.

EHS Boys Swim Team Earn State Championship

For the fourth time in the past five years, the Exeter High School (EHS) boys' swimming and diving team recently captured the Division I State Championship. In close competition, EHS narrowly defeated Bishop Guertin High School of Nashua and Bedford High School to achieve this honor.

The EHS girls' team secured a strong third-place finish this year.

SAU 16 Strategic Planning 2017-2022: Implementation

Two important recommendations from the SAU Strategic Plan for 2017-2022 are currently being actively pursued. Over 60 School Board Members, administrators, teachers, staff members, and community volunteers have begun work, and are meeting monthly, on the *Social Emotional and Mental Health Steering Committee* and the *School Day Start Time Task Force*. Approximately 30 volunteers are participating in each group's work.

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 East Kingston School Board recently recognized **Mr. Ben Darby** for his significant contributions to the East Kingston recreation program because of his volunteer efforts as the Grades 3-4 basketball coach. Nominated by parents, Mandy and Jud DeCew, because Ben "goes above and beyond his basic coaching duties to take the time" to reach each player on his team." They continue to compliment and praise Mr. Darby for the ways that he reached out to help their son, Oliver. "This is the first time our son has shown any interest in an organized sport. Generally the experience with new social activities meets anxiousness and resistance by Oliver...Ben has a team of 10 players but always makes each of his players feel important and valued. He respects Oliver's learning style and personality and give him the time he needs for a 'break' if he is feeling overwhelmed and allows him to rejoin the group when he is ready...Ben is able to teach Oliver the game of basketball through positive reinforcement and patience. Basketball has not been easy for Oliver but Ben has never given up on him and for that we will always be grateful for this experience that he gave our son."

The Exeter Cooperative School Board recently recognized **Tara Holmes Ball** because of her “tireless efforts in the area of suicide prevention the middle school students of SAU 16, as well as students across the state of New Hampshire and beyond, have received training in the Signs of Suicide (SOS) Prevention Program. Having lost her son Connor to suicide in 2011, Tara became a voice of prevention creating the *Connor’s Climb Foundation* with the mission to provide suicide prevention education to the youth and communities of New Hampshire.” Her passion centers on helping students and families so that no one has to experience what she and her family endured almost six years ago.

Ms. Ball serves on the Executive Council of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) New Hampshire Chapter, and she is an American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Field Advocate for the state. Additionally, she sits on the Public Policy Subcommittee of the NH State Suicide Prevention Council. Tara is a certified Signs of Suicide (SOS) trainer and a National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) NH Survivor Voices trained speaker. She was recognized as a 2015 NH Red Cross Hero Award recipient and the 2016 Erik Cogswell Memorial Award for her work in suicide prevention. Ms. Ball works as the Development Coordinator for Seacoast Family Promise, a local nonprofit, serving families with children who are experiencing homelessness.

SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight: Newfields Elementary School

Given the fact that SAU 16 has an excellent reputation for its local schools, each month a different school will be highlighted here as a way of sharing more specific information with the wider SAU and community audience. Each building principal was asked to provide information to be shared with new teachers joining the SAU this year.

Newfields Elementary School – *Kate Segal, Principal*
Home of the NES Hawks: We Fly for Excellence!
9 Piscassic Road, Newfields – 772-5555

Newfields Elementary School is an historical, New England neighborhood school, originally built in 1854 as a two-story academy. Newfields Elementary School (NES) has six grades (K-5) with one or two classes per grade level. We have a professional, effective, and caring staff of 38 servicing 124 incredible students. We continue to create partnerships within our community. We have an active NPTO and collaborate with other Newfields non-profit organizations including Newfields Youth Athletic Association, Main Street Art, and the Paul Memorial Library. In 2013, NES was the recipient of the National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence by the United States Department of Education. Our mission continues to encourage academic excellence in a nurturing environment; empowering students, staff, parents, and neighbors to reach our maximum potential; and continuing to make community contributions to our town, district and SAU. Our school-wide expectations are to: Have fun! Challenge Yourself! Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Take Care of Each Other. We are extremely pleased to

share our Newfields Elementary School Vision, developed and articulated by NES Faculty and finalized through consensus on June 7, 2016. The Newfields Elementary School Vision is “to empower our students to become compassionate, confident, and critical learners of tomorrow with an inner-resiliency to serve others.”

Administrator History: Newfields Elementary School

David Michaud	1970-1971 (Teaching Principal)
Cecile Maranhas	1971-1972 (Teaching Principal)
Louis Doyle	1972-1973 (Teaching Principal)
Eugene Haight	1973-1975 (Teaching Principal)
Mary Lister	1975-1980 (Teaching Principal)
Beth Stevens	1980-1989 (Teaching Principal)
Brent Rogers	1989-1992 (Teaching Principal)
Rose Vetere	1992-1994 (Teaching Principal)
Sheri Polisner	1994-1995 (Reading Specialist/Principal)
Barry Ring	1995-2002 (Principal)
Chet Lee	2002-February 2003 (Interim Principal)
Dennis Dobe	March 2003-2010 (Principal)
Helen Rist	2010-2014 (Principal)
Kate Segal	2014-2017 (Principal)

Did You Know?

East Kingston Elementary School (EKES) has participated in the University of New Hampshire School/University Collaborative for 14 consecutive years. This partnership provides a direct link between EKES and graduate level education interns who work with classroom teachers for most of the school year. EKES has already been selected to continue that partnership for the 2017-2018 school year and is applying to UNH to continue this important work through 2022.

All seven of the elementary schools in SAU 16 activity participate in *Read Across America Week* and welcome guest readers into their schools during late February and early March. This is a wonderful way to increase community involvement in the schools and to have students learn more from such a variety of guest readers.

Cooperative Middle School (CMS) seventh grader, San Cheng, won the CMS Geography Bee for the second consecutive year. He now moves onto the state level competition.

Attorney Paul Bauer of Newfields, who serves on the Exeter Region Cooperative School Board, was recently selected as one of New Hampshire’s *40 Under 40* for 2017 as identified by the *New Hampshire Union Leader*. This honor is bestowed on young professionals because of their accomplishments and dedication to their profession and to the community. Mr. Bauer works for the Devine Millimet & Branch, P.A. law firm in Manchester.

Strategic Initiatives in Our Schools

SAU 16 *Vision For Our Graduates*....A Compass to Guide Our Work

Each graduate demonstrates engaged learning and citizenship through the ability to solve problems independently and collaboratively with perseverance and resilience, and communicates solutions with confidence and empathy.

The **Lincoln Street School** (LSS) staff has been putting a lot of effort into systems and instructional practices to accommodate for a wide variety of learners. The model being developed is one that is flexible in nature and can provide support and extensions as necessary for each individual child. At a January faculty meeting, staff members were able to celebrate a success that was brought to light as students are completing their middle-of-the-year STAR assessment. The results show that school-wide, 74% of students who need to make “catch-up growth” or “accelerated growth” to “catch up” to their peers on or above grade level are doing so. These are students who are receiving a little extra support beyond their regular classroom instruction. This is wonderful news and it is supportive of all the hard work and dedication that many students, classroom teachers, and interventionists have shown this year. Adjustments to the master schedule, individual classroom schedules, introduction of new classroom instructional systems and practices, flexible grouping students within and between classes, some third grade teachers learning a new reading program, and interventionists learning and implementing new intervention programs are all significant and recent changes that have occurred at LSS. These adjustments are demonstrating positive!

In October 2016, **Kensington Elementary School** (KES) underwent an “Adequacy Site Visit” from the New Hampshire Department of Education. The final report of that visit was recently provided and was very complimentary to the school and noted the cooperation and support of the Kensington School Board. Some specific commendations from the report included:

- *Parents report excellent support services for students with disabilities, that their children are excited about coming to school, and that their children have supportive teachers who hold high expectations.*
- *Student works are displayed throughout the building, and students speak with pride of their contributions to these displays.*
- *The Cultural Passport activity is a long standing tradition that is looked favorably upon by staff, parents and eagerly anticipated by students.*
- *Teachers are commended for their K-2 Mathematics Initiative: Providing Innovative and Individualized Instruction in small groups and supplemented by “DreamBox” Learning to create a blended learning environment.*

The report also included a recommendation with regards to Performance Based Learning Tasks and the KES staff is already actively pursuing this process through professional development.

Newfields Elementary School (NES) fifth grade students have begun a new project-based learning unit this month. Mr. Matt Bennett's students are completing research about the early American exploration/conquest. Topics include events like "Battle of the Spanish Armada" and "Search for the Northwest Passage" as well as historical figures like Queen Elizabeth of England, Henry Hudson, the famous explorer, and Francis Drake (one of the first "real" pirates of the Caribbean).

Mrs. Barbara DuPont's fourth grade math class has also started a project-based learning unit applying competencies in data and statistics. Her students are measuring the heights of NES students, compiling them into categories, and finding the mode, median, and range of the statistics. They will compare and contrast the data from different grade levels. Their final reports will be printed in the school newspaper written and published in Ms. Sarah Rosenbleeth's class.

In mid-January, **East Kingston Elementary School** (EKES) demonstrated its appreciation for the East Kingston Police Department as part of *National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week*. During the regular Friday All-School Meeting, students and staff members presented baskets full of hand/foot warmers, cookies, bottles of water, gift certificates, and granola bars to the representatives from the police department. The community definitely appreciates the work of its police department and celebrates their many connections to the school!

Health Science Technologies seniors at the **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST) have begun their internships. Sixteen students are at the Rockingham County Nursing Home building skills and earning required hours for the Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) certification, just one of many industry-recognized certifications offered at SST. Once these students complete the internship portion of the LNA, they must take a written exam, and then pass a practical exam, all administered by a third party. Eight other seniors are at internship sites in careers areas ranging from EMT, to occupational therapy to physician assistant in a cancer center. Health Sciences teacher, Anne Pfannkoch, arranges all internships and supervises the LNA training process.

Recent library activities at **Swasey Central School** (SCS) include a visit from Molly B. Burnham, author of the *Teddy Mars* series. Because her book, *Teddy Mars Almost a World Record Breaker*, was nominated for the *Great Stone Face Award* this year, many of the SCS students have read this book. Students in grades three, four, and five prepared for her visit by documenting their favorite world records, just like Teddy Mars did. The SCS Parent-Friend Group (PFG) helped to sponsor this most worthwhile activity.

Two classes of seventh grade students at the **Cooperative Middle School** (CMS) have been working collaboratively to learn about attitudes and actions that led to the injustices committed before, during, and after the Holocaust. They are using informational readings, memoirs, and a variety of primary and secondary sources. Students have made pointillism butterflies as symbols of hope and these are being displayed in the classrooms for others to see and experience.

The **Exeter High School** (EHS) English Department recently hosted its first annual “Black Box Poetry Night.” Students were able to recite their own original poems, or they could choose from published works as well. Several students performed “slam” poems after learning how to write them in their Freshman English classes. This night was designed to give students a chance to perform without being judged or evaluated (like they would be in a contest). Over 100 students, parents, and guests enjoyed coffee, hot chocolate and baked goods while they listened to the performers. Several parents commented on the fact that during the same evening at EHS, a basketball game and poetry celebration occurred! EHS was promoting both the arts *and* athletics!

Exeter Adult Education continues to expand opportunities for students to complete their high school experience. HiSET classes and testing as well as adult high school diploma classes continue. Some students are now trying to shorten the number of semesters they need to graduate by combining traditional evening classes with online courses. The NH Bureau of Adult Education facilitates PLATO online course access. In most cases, students schedule in school time to work online to ensure structure and consistency. In December, the first student to complete requirements through a combination of face-to-face and online coursework graduated, enabling her to get a raise at work. Many adult education learners want to speed things up and think that online may be the way to do that. However, many are finding that face-to-face instruction and interaction with a teacher is important to understanding concepts and maintaining motivation. The Adult Education staff members continue to work with each student to plan which pathway to graduation is most likely to meet an individual’s needs. That requires balancing students’ work, family, home, and community obligations as well as learning styles and skills.

First grade students at **Main Street School** (MSS) are studying cultural diversity as part of their unit entitled “Cruising the Continents.” Recently, the students traveled to the Children’s Museum in Dover to learn more about this important topic. They have also begun to switch classes with each teacher presenting a lesson about one country and continent. This project culminates with a special school-wide assembly before February break.

Almost twenty **Stratham Memorial School** (SMS) staff members have initiated *The Growth Mindset Collaborative*. Its focus is on five research-driven attitudes/stances: optimism, persistence, flexibility, resilience, and empathy. Teachers are sharing with colleagues and working together to explore new resources that will develop and enhance these important attributes throughout the school.

Reflection:

With a new US Secretary of Education (Betsy DeVos) and a new NH Commissioner of Education (Frank Edelblut) in place, some major changes are anticipated for public education at the national and state levels. Because neither of these educational leaders has any “practical” public school experience as a parent, teacher, or school board member, I wonder what will happen. I just wonder... Hold on for the ride!