SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16 .IUNE 2014

Thank You For Your Service

Sixteen members of the teaching and administrator staffs in the various SAU 16 schools are retiring at the end of this school year. These dedicated individuals represent a total of 352 years of service to their respective schools. Please recognize the excellent work of the following professional educators and celebrate their contributions to their students, families, and the community.

Exeter

Susan Drinker—Main Street School—26 years Richard Keays—Lincoln Street School—36 years Jean Winchester—Lincoln Street School—12 years

Exeter Region Cooperative

Mary Ingham—Exeter High School—20 years
Martha LaPerle—Cooperative Middle School—18 years
Carla Ranks—Seacoast School of Technology—32 years
Amy Vandersall—Exeter High School—18 years
Amy Swiezynski—Cooperative Middle School—16 years

East Kingston

Evelyn Lord—22 years

Kensington

Susan Haug—29 years Barbara Switzer—13 years

Newfields

Marian Prescott—13 years

Stratham

Susan Adler—20 years Sue Ann Megan—32 years Cathy Warner—20 years Lucinda Wigode—26 years

Special Retirement

Rarely does any school district ever have someone who completes over 40 years of service in a paraprofessional role. This year the Exeter Region Cooperative School District acknowledges and celebrates Ms. Renee Morrisette for her unparalleled dedication to the students, teachers, administrators and staff of Exeter High School. Renee is known for her work as a Library Assistant. She retired this year after completing 45 years of faithful and continuous service to the school. Thank YOU, Renee! What a tremendous gift you have given to others!

New Exeter High School Principal Selected

Mr. James Tremblay, currently one of the two Assistant Principals at Merrimack Valley High School (MVHS) in Penacook, NH, has been selected as the new Principal for Exeter High School (EHS) beginning on July 1, 2014.

Mr. Tremblay has been an Assistant Principal at MVHS for the past four years. He earned his BA degree in Political Science and his MA degree in Teaching with a concentration in Social Studies Secondary Education from the University of New Hampshire. He completed his Principal's certification requirements through the Upper Valley Educators Institute in Lebanon, NH in 2009.

In addition to his current position, Mr. Tremblay taught Social Studies at McKelvie Middle School in Bedford, NH for four years and at Londonderry (NH) High School for seven years. He grew up in Derry and lives in Bedford. Congratulations and Best Wishes to Mr. Tremblay!

He replaces Mr. Sean Kiley who accepted a position as the Principal of Winchester High School in Winchester, MA.

New Stratham Memorial Assistant Principal Selected

Mr. David Goldsmith, currently a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and Related Arts teacher at the Horne Street School in Dover, has been selected as the new Assistant Principal at Stratham Memorial School beginning on July 1, 2014.

Mr. Goldsmith earned his BA degree in Economics from Wesleyan University in Middleton, CT. Subsequently, he earned his M.Ed. degree with a concentration in Elementary Education from Lesley College in Cambridge, MA and his Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Educational Leadership from the University of New Hampshire.

Mr. Goldsmith has been a teacher and served in several leadership positions at Horne Street School since 2005. In addition to that professional work he has been teaching college courses for Franklin Pierce University since 2009. Prior to teaching in Dover, he gained other educational experiences in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Washington state. He lives in Dover. Congratulations and Best Wishes to Mr. Goldsmith!

He replaces Ms. Becky Ruel who accepted the Principal's position at Kensington Elementary School.

Lincoln Street School Appoints Interim Principal for 2014-2015

Dr. James Hayes, who is retiring from his current role as Superintendent of Schools for the Newmarket School District, has accepted the appointment as the Interim Principal for Lincoln Street School (LSS) in Exeter. This new role begins on July 1, 2014.

Dr. Hayes is a native of Portsmouth He earned his BA degree in Mathematics from the University of New Hampshire, and then his Ed.M. degree in Educational Administration and his Ed.D. degree in Educational Leadership from Boston University. Dr. Hayes has been a school administration in NH and MA since 1979, including 11 years in Beverly,

MA before becoming Superintendent in Newmarket in 2010. He lives in Hampstead. Congratulations and Best Wishes to Dr. Hayes!

He replaces Mr. Dick Keays who retired after serving as the LSS principal for 25 years.

Outstanding Technology Awards

The New Hampshire Society of Technology in Education celebrated the accomplishments of two outstanding SAU 16 related educators at the annual EDies Awards in Manchester at the beginning of June.

Ms. Amy Cantone, a fifth grade teacher at Swasey Central School (SCS), received *The Pat Keyes Technology Educator Award* which is given annually to an individual who has developed effective and innovative instructional units using technology. The Award also focuses on someone who has demonstrated improvement in student performance by using educational technology and implementing alternative assessment measures; who has shared ideas/initiatives in formal arenas; and who has promoted equitable access to technology resources for all populations in the school district. Congratulations are extended to Ms. Cantone for doing so much to help students and for representing SCS and SAU 16 so well!

Mr. Tony Baldasaro, former Cooperative Middle School administrator and SAU 16 Assistant Superintendent, received *The Susan Janosz Technology Impact Award* for his leadership role that advocates the use of educational technologies for improving instruction and who has supported technology within the context of school reform and restructuring. The Award also focuses on someone who has demonstrated a commitment to on-going self-education by keeping abreast of emerging technologies. Mr. Baldasaro currently serves as the Chief Human Resources Officer for the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) which has its main office on the Tuck Learning Campus in Exeter. Congratulations, Mr. Baldasaro!

School Board Vacancy

Ms. Kate Segal recently resigned her position as a member of the Exeter Region Cooperative School Board. The Board is in the process of accepting letters of interest from Exeter residents who would be willing to serve in this capacity until the March 2014 school district elections. Letters of interest should include information about a person's background and reasons for wanting to serve on the Board. They should be sent to the Superintendent of Schools at SAU 16, 30 Linden Street in Exeter, NH 03833. The deadline for the receipt of letters is Friday, September 12, 2014.

Champions for Children

Community members and school staff 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.

The East Kingston School Board recently approved the recognition of **Todd and Kim Gibbons** for their "driving force" dedication to the East Kingston Recreation Department.

Todd has devoted much of his personal time to the children of the community by volunteering year round to coach soccer, basketball, and baseball. His outstanding leadership and coaching abilities have allowed the children of East Kingston to not only acquire and develop skills, but to learn good sportsmanship, team building and to just have fun.

Kim has also been a large contributor to the overall successes of the program. From being a team mother to organizing volunteers, she has also helped to raise needed funds through the concessions stand. These funds helped to purchase equipment for the recreation programs. Kim is also noted for her extensive involvement in the East Kingston PTO where she has served as secretary and as a room mother coordinator.

The Champions for Children Award will be presented to Todd and Kim Gibbons at the September 2014 School Board Meeting.

Did You Know?

This year the New Hampshire chapter of the National Education Association (NEA) posthumously honored **Cooperative Middle School** (**CMS**) special education teacher **Ed Pease** with its Champion of Human and Civil Rights Award. This Award was presented to Ed's wife and daughter, Jeanne and Morgan Pease in May. It recognizes a person who is a champion for the rights of others and is someone who is dedicated, selfless, and committed to the cause of maintaining human rights. Ed died suddenly in April and was always known in the District as someone who totally embraced the mission of helping others.

In early May, the **Exeter High School (EHS)** Anti-Bullying Club held a carnival after school at EHS to increase awareness of their cause and to raise funds for many of their bullying awareness efforts at both the local and national levels. Those who were able to participate enjoyed flag football, tug of war, carnival games and raffles for local business gift cards.

Griffin Poutre, president of the junior class at EHS this past year, was the winner of the Seacoast Republican Women's Club 2014 Scholarship Essay Contest that dealt with the topic of "the greatest threat to our national security, internal or external?"

The Cooperative Middle School (CMS) girls' track and field team captured its eighth straight championship in late May. They joined the CMS boys for a sweep of first place finishes this year.

Three EHS seniors who attend the **Seacoast School of Technology** (**SST**) won the state Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competition in April for their video "Do You Recycle?" Allison Belisle, Emma Quimby and Ge-ann Laruan are currently in Nashville, TN taking part in the National Future Business Leaders of America convention competing for the national prize. Accompanying them is their FBLA advisor and digital media arts teacher, Kristine Groleau, who is also an EHS graduate.

Once again this summer, EHS is hosting "Film Camp" for any student entering grades six through twelve. Students will write, direct, act, and shoot a film together. They will create a story, develop characters, and design sets while also learning about camera work and filming techniques. Local film producer Bethany Constance and SAU 16 Educational Channel Coordinator Doug York are hosting this camp during the week of July 14-18.

Twenty-five students will participate in the second annual **EHS Summer Institute**. Three different, two-week, courses are being offered. This competency-based program allows students to earn credit for pass-fail courses which are designed to enhance their learning in various areas of interest. Classes in English, Social Studies and French are being taught this summer.

Seniors who recently completed their respective programs at the **Seacoast School of Technology** (**SST**) have been accepted to a wide range of colleges and universities around the country. These include: Albany College of Pharmacy; Clarkson University; Colorado School of Mines, Emmanuel College; Hofstra University; Ithaca College; Louisiana State University; Purdue University; Rochester Institute of Technology; Suffolk University; University of North Carolina; Virginia Tech; and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

The Cooperative Middle School (CMS) Chamber Choir, under the direction of Dr. Andy Inzenga, competed successfully at Festival Disney in Orlando, FL in May. The Festival included representation from throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and Panama. CMS captured second place at this international level of competition and highlighted the successes of the outstanding music programs in SAU 16. Congratulations to Dr. Inzenga and to all of the students who represented CMS so well!

The **End 68 Hours of Hunger** weekend backpack program ended the school year with providing 80 different children in each of the six towns in the SAU with valuable and needed nutrition from the time that school lunch ends on Friday until school breakfast time on Monday. Although the program does not operate during the summer, donations are still being accepted and may be sent directly to the program at SAU 16.

Throughout the year, many of the local schools and some businesses participated in food drives that directly benefitted the program Over 50 parents and community members are directly involved in this significant volunteer effort that emphasizes 100% of donations go directly to benefit children. Many thanks to all who have so graciously helped with this important program!

Newfields community member **Steve Shope** was the guest speaker at the 2014 Fifth Grade Celebration at Newfields Elementary School. Steve was severely hurt in April 2013 while mountain biking. His injuries included his cervical vertebrae and his spinal cord. His inspiring message to the students was "never give up." Those present recognized Steve's bravery and the importance of his message and gave him a standing ovation. The community's *Trail to Recovery Fund* was established to help the family with the astronomical costs associated with spinal cord injuries.

Swasey Teachers Win National Award for their Oregon Trail Unit

Four Swasey Central School (SCS) teachers have earned the "Outstanding Educator Award" from The Oregon-California Trails Association for their development of an extensive five-week long unit on the westward migration called "The Oregon Trail." Teachers Lisa Brown, Jody MacBride, Robert "Archie" Schroeder, and Amy Wilson collaborated extensively to provide a memorable experience for their fourth grade students. Using a multi-discipline approach, the students used their skills in geography, math, writing, reading, and plant science to learn about the complexities associated with the largest migration in the history of the development of the United States. Students and adults dressed in period clothing as they were guided through different learning stations. Ms. Wilson and Ms. MacBride will travel to Kearney, NB in August to the Association's national conference which was one of the stops along the original Oregon Trail. Ironically, Kearney, NB is also equidistant (1,733 miles) from Boston and from San Francisco. Congratulations to these outstanding SCS educators!

Exeter Adult Education Graduation

Three students distinguished themselves by giving speeches at the annual **Exeter Adult Education** Graduation held in early June at Exeter High School. One graduate from East Kingston who overcame a major fear of obstacles in his life spoke about his passion to help; his passion to guide; and his passion to say: You can do it!" A second graduate had been out of school for 41 years and completed her GED after working with various tutors. She overcame the "impossibles" in her life and no longer feels "like a loser." The third graduate, an Exeter resident, switched from the GED to the adult diploma program because English is his fourth language and he needed the in-depth study required in the diploma program rather than the "quick test" option that is available at Exeter Adult Education.

EHS Girls Tennis Team Captures First-Ever State Championship

For the first time in its history, the Exeter High School Girls Tennis Team captured the Division I State Championship in early June by upsetting previously unbeaten Bedford High School. The outstanding Blue Hawk comeback gained statewide attention because of the strong performances of Rachel Salzman, Abby Aleska, Katie Wood, Melissa Wood, and Kate Lietz. Coach Lisa Packard praised the girls because of their dedication, passion, and persistence throughout the season. This championship will certainly be one for the EHS history books! Congratulations to the entire team and to Coach Packard for representing EHS so well!

Fifth Graders Moving On

Almost 440 students in SAU 16 celebrated the completion of Fifth Grade and are preparing to move to middle school this fall. The vast majority of these students will be attending the Cooperative Middle School, but a few will be moving out of the area or enrolling in a charter school or a private school. Each of the six elementary schools within SAU 16 honored and celebrated the accomplishments of their fifth graders in their own respective ways. Notice the different sizes of our fifth grades—listed here from smallest to largest:

Kensington Elementary School—30 students Newfields Elementary School—34 students East Kingston Elementary School—36 students Swasey Central School (Brentwood)—71 students Stratham Memorial School—123 students Lincoln Street School (Exeter)—177 students

TOTAL—471 students

Population Changes

In late May 2014, Seacoast Sunday published information relative to local population changes between the 2010 national census and 2013 census figures in Rockingham County communities. Note the following changes for SAU 16 towns, especially in comparison to the overall county figures:

Brentwood: 4,492 (2010) to 4,693 (2013)—Increase of 4.5% East Kingston: 2,360 (2010) to 2,383 (2013)—Increase of 1.0% Exeter: 14,299 (2010) to 14,531 (2013)—Increase of 1.6% Kensington: 2,122 (2010) to 2,127 (2013)—Increase of 0.2% Newfields: 1,680 (2010) to 1,697 (2013)—Increase of 1.0% Stratham: 7,258 (2010) to 7,338 (2013)—Increase of 1.1%

Rockingham County: 295,325 (2010) to 299,134 (2013)—Increase of 1.3%

SAU 16 Receives 2014 School Emergency Preparedness Award

The NH Department of Education and the NH Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, recently recognized the successful accomplishments of the SAU 16 Safety and Security Committee with its first-ever *School Emergency Preparedness Award*. This honor was presented by Governor Maggie Hassan and bestowed on the active 40-member Committee that was created two years ago to bring key stakeholders together to formulate a comprehensive plan that would facilitate significant protocols to enhance how each school can keep its building and grounds as safe and secure as possible for students, staff, and visitors. The Committee includes local police chiefs, school board members, school administrators, school nurses, and SAU transportation officials. The Award complimented SAU 16 "for exhibiting the highest standard of excellence, dedication and accomplishment in the field of school emergency preparedness."

Personal Reflection

Summer is a time for rejuvenation. Summer is a time to enjoy long, warm days. Summer is a time to watch the crops grow and to enjoy the many beauties of nature which surround us. Summer is a time to spend with family and to realize how precious being together is. Summer is a time to put things into perspective. Summer is a wonderful time. May we never lose sight of that gift that is so close to us!