

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16

August 2016

Vision

To provide a rigorous and comprehensive education that will prepare our students for diverse post-secondary educational opportunities, a competitive workplace, and active civic participation.

Mission

To help students gain knowledge and skills that build intellect, character, and a lifelong thirst for learning.

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.

Two Pillars:

1. Professional Learning Communities
2. Student Ownership of Learning

New Professional Staff Members

Summer months bring much excitement to schools because they provide an opportunity to meet many wonderful candidates for a wide variety of professional positions. For fall 2016 the following individuals are joining the SAU 16 community in these positions:

SAU 16 Central Office

Bill Furbush (Assistant Superintendent)

Brentwood

Sue Catanese-Mayo (Kindergarten)
Amy Latini (Pre-School—20% time)
Jill Lizier (Curriculum Coordinator)
Stephanie “Pippi” McNally (Guidance—60% time)
Julie Proctor (Kindergarten)
Rachel Sterner (Grade 1)

East Kingston

Melissa Foy (Media Specialist—50% time)
Steven Tullar (Principal)

Kensington

Heather Antal (Nurse)
Kelsey Miller (Guidance Counselor—30% time)

Newfields

Kelsey Miller (Guidance Counselor—40% time)

Stratham

Kathy Bates (Curriculum Coordinator)
Eleanor Gleason (Special Education)
Meghan McCrillis (Music)
Margaret Murphy (Special Education)

Main Street School, Exeter

Abby Hood (LEA – 30% time)
Jennifer Welch (Grade 2)

Lincoln Street School, Exeter

Abby Hood (Local Education Agency Coordinator—30% time)
Cara McMaster (Speech Language Pathologist – 50% time)
Amy Murdy (Grade 3—one year Leave of Absence)
Katelyn O'Donnell (Special Education)

Cooperative Middle School, Stratham

Samantha Bergeron (Title I Coordinator)
Christine Hodsdon (Art)
Christina King (English as a Second Language—60% time)
Kathryn McSweeney (Nurse—40% time)
Lindsay Pope (English/Language Arts)
Ellen Sargent (Technology Coordinator)
Jaime Sawler (Student Services Administrator—50% time)
Jenna Shackett (Math)
Sonya Roche (Special Education Administrator)
Patty Wons (Principal)

Exeter High School

Kathy Bean (Spanish – 60% time)
Sandra Blanc (Technology Coordinator)
Susanne Bowden (Guidance Counselor)
Adam Braley (Chemistry)
Peter Fisher (Special Education)
Joel Iwaskiewicz (English/Drama)
Nathan Leveille (Special Education)
Rheta Parziale (Special Education—60% time)
Jaime Sawler (Student Services Administrator—50% time)
Justin Tardif (Social Studies)
Kristie Torbick (Student Services Counselor)
Deidra Turmelle (Title I Literacy—50% time)
Brittany Yorkey (Spanish)

Seacoast School of Technology

Pamela Carr (Assistant Principal)
Wayne Demers (Technology Coordinator)
Debra Steinfeld (Culinary Arts)
Samantha Tukey (Recruitment and Retention Specialist)

Another School Year Begins

All schools within SAU will begin the 2016-2017 school year on August 29, 2016. The calendar for the entire school year is available on the SAU 16 website (www.sau16.org).

Eustis Service Award

In recognition of the 53 years of combined service that Joan and Dick Eustis dedicated to teaching, coaching, and administrative capacities, SAU 16 annually recognizes “a district employee who has served students with the distinction that exemplifies an SAU 16 education. ‘Mr. and Mrs. Eustis’ notable and outstanding careers set a positive tone throughout the Exeter area. Together they serve as role models for educators today.

For 2016, **Mrs. Lynne Walker** was selected to receive this prestigious award. Her name will be added to the plaque that is located in the SAU 16 Office. She currently serves as the third grade teacher at East Kingston Elementary School (EKES). In addition to that important role, she has been the Director of the annual musical productions at EKES for at least thirteen years and has been instrumental in coaching girls lacrosse at a variety of levels including the Cooperative Middle School (CMS). This year Lynne is beginning her 20th year of service to EKES.

Mrs. Walker was chosen because of her total dedication to her students in the classroom and to the student-athletes whom she coaches and inspires every day. A few years ago when EKES did not have an introductory field hockey experience available, she started such an after school club. When the school needed to enhance and supplement its music program, Lynne spearheaded its annual music production for fourth and fifth graders. Each child is strongly encouraged to be involved in the production either as a background character or an actor or a stage hand. Lynne’s primary goal is to have students involved and to be active. Over the last several years, she has directed the children’s versions of *Beauty and the Beast*, *Mulan*, *Aladdin Jr*, and *Willy Wonka Jr*. For each of these wonderful productions, Lynne coordinates a crew of parent, community, teacher, and staff volunteers who build sets, sew costumes, choreography scenes, and do whatever it takes to develop interest and support for the program.

In the classroom, Mrs. Walker has high standards for herself and her third grade students. She works tirelessly to deliver enriching and diversified instruction in all subject areas. She expects her students to perform to the best of their ability and accepts nothing less than that from them or from herself.

Part of the nomination letter submitted by her EKES colleague, Emily Darby who also had a child in Lynne’s classroom, stated: “I have always been in awe of Lynne’s guiding hand, and of the lifetime memories she makes for these kids. As a parent, I will forever

by grateful for it. She brings theater into the lives of hundreds of kids who may not have found it otherwise. My own son tried out in fourth grade and loved his experience of having a speaking part of a mere six words so much, he tried out for a lead role in his fifth grade year because these words Lynne said to him, "You light up on stage, Jack. I believe in you and hope you try out for a big part."

The presentation of this Award was made at Exeter High School on Opening Day for all of the professional staff on August 25, 2016. Mrs. Walker joins an outstanding array of professional educators who have previously been selected for this coveted award. Past recipients include:

2004-2005—Mike Olson—Cooperative Middle School
2005-2006—Sam Bruno—Seacoast School of Technology
2006-2007—Walter Pierce—SAU 16
2007-2008—Angela Lennox—Exeter High School
2008-2009—Robert "Archie" Schroeder—Swasey Central School
2009-2010—Robert Schur—Cooperative Middle School
2010-2011—Judy Lewis—Stratham Memorial School
2011-2012—Anne DeMarco—Seacoast School of Technology
 Margaret Ruggeri—Kensington Elementary School
2012-2013—Kathy Bean and Barbara Egan—Main Street School
2013-2014—Carla Ranks—Seacoast School of Technology
2014-2015—Bill Perkins—Cooperative Middle School
2015-2016—Sue Noseworthy—Lincoln Street School

Summer Retirements

Two dedicated veteran Exeter High School (EHS) teachers submitted their notice of retirement over the summer. The Exeter Region Cooperative School Board is very grateful to Social Studies teacher Sharon MacDonald-Sheedy (39 years) and Spanish teacher Michelle Marnicio (17 years). Individually each has impacted the lives of EHS students for many years.

Edward Pease Excellence in Education Award—2016

Mr. Patrick Joyce, outstanding Special Education Case Manager/Teacher at the Cooperative Middle School (CMS), was presented in late August with the Edward Pease Excellence in Education Award coordinated by the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce.

This Award honors long-time, dedicated CMS teacher, Ed Pease, who died suddenly in January 2014 at 48 years old. Mr. Pease was well known and respected for his marvelous teaching ability and for the way that he fostered positive relationships with students and colleagues. The criteria established for this Award stresses the attributes of Mr. Pease: "a distinguished classroom teacher who has demonstrated engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues, and the community; exceptional educational talent as evident by the effective instructional practices and student learning

results; and individuals whose contributions to education are largely unheralded yet worthy of the spotlight.”

Mr. Patrick Joyce is one such “distinguished teacher and gentleman.” Letters of nomination from his colleagues testify. Former CMS Special Education Administrator Sarah Reinhardt writes: “Although any teacher or student that Patrick works with will attest to his exceptional skills as an educator, it is his exemplary contributions beyond the classroom that motivate students, colleagues and families in the community.”

Speech Language Pathologist Jeanne Civiello states: “When I think of Patrick, I see numerous aspects of his personality that remind me of Ed. I have known Patrick for 11 years. I have had the opportunity to work with him daily as a colleague, but also am grateful to call him my friend. When his colleagues and friends describe Patrick, they describe a man who has pure integrity, morals, values, as well as modesty, humility and selflessness that he displays naturally in any environment he is in.”

Congratulations Mr. Joyce and thank you very much for all that you do for our students, families, and community!

Champions for Children

Community members and school staff will 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 local school board makes the final decision on each award selection. Since 2009, approximately ninety (90) local individuals have been honored in this way. Nominations may be made by anyone in the community and should be submitted directly to the Superintendent of Schools.

School Board Seats Available in March 2017

Terms of office for some current school board members expire in March 2017. Now is the time for interested citizens to consider serving in these capacities. Board Members whose terms expire include Liz Faria and Amy Mitchell in Brentwood; Korrine Bork in East Kingston; Dawn Bullens in Exeter; Dennis Roffman in Kensington; Kirsten Lord in Newfields; Bob O’Sullivan, Eric von der Linden, and one yet-to-be-named Board Member replacement in Stratham; and Deborah Hobson (East Kingston), Denny Grubbs (Exeter), and Travis Thompson (Stratham) for the Coop. Of the thirty-three total School Board seats in SAU 16, these twelve (12) positions will be available for (re)election.

Food Pantries and “End 68 Hours of Hunger” Continue to Need Help

Community service efforts for the new school year will continue to focus on food pantries around the state. They will also focus on “End 68 Hours of Hunger,” the weekend food backpack program that is designed to provide assistance for some of the most needy among us. Many individuals and families struggle to make ends meet and often need to avail themselves of local food banks. The schools in SAU 16 will continue

to find ways to gather food and funds to assist those who are struggling to meet some of the most basic of needs. Please encourage our respective communities to join this effort as much as possible. Private donations to “End 68 Hours of Hunger” may be sent directly to 7 Finn Avenue, Newfields, NH 03856

Contract Negotiations

During the upcoming school year, four collective bargaining groups within SAU 16 will be involved in contract negotiations with their respective school boards. When a settlement is reached between the school board and the association, the results are brought forward to the voters in the community. In March 2017, those registered voters who cast ballots will make the final determination about the proposed contract. In March 2016, less than 20% of registered voters participated in this process.

Negotiations with the teacher associations in Exeter and East Kingston and with the teacher association and the administrator association in the Exeter Region Cooperative will take place this year. The goal is to reach an agreement between the respective association and school board by mid-January 2017. Currently there are twelve (12) different collective bargaining associations within SAU 16.

Seacoast School of Technology (SST)

The Seacoast School of Technology (SST) in Exeter serves students from seven area high schools daily: Epping, Exeter, Great Bay eLearning Charter School (GBeCS), Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional, and Winnacunnet. Some students who are enrolled in private schools, the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS), or home schooled also participate in the program. Students travel to the Linden Street location to participate in one of eleven career and technical educational courses that prepare them for further education and a career. For more information about SST, please access their website at <http://www.seacoasttech.com/> or at www.sau16.org.

Exeter Adult Education

As another school year begins, it is very important for adult learners in our communities to know of the many opportunities that are available through the Exeter Adult Education program. Classes are offered at various times of the day and evening for those interested in academic skills classes, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and High School completion. In addition, an entire series of enrichment courses and one-night workshops are available. Classes are held at the Tuck Learning Campus at 30 Linden Street in Exeter.

Consider just some of the variety of offerings:

As part of the Academic Skills Program Path: Writing and Reading

Adult Diploma Classes: English, Foundations of Math, Algebra I,

Chemistry, Biology, American Democracy

HiSet Preparation and Testing for the High School Equivalency Program

Enrichment Classes: Introduction to Excel; Google Drive; Tai Chi; Ballroom Dancing; Chair Caning and Rush Seating; Rug Braiding; Conversational Spanish, French, or Italian; Baking the French Way; Italian Cooking.

For more information call (775-8457) or visit 30 Linden Street in Exeter, Door D.

Median Home Value Index of SAU 16 Towns

According to research completed by Exeter High School (EHS) Science teacher, Catherine Thorn, as part of summer graduate school course work, the Zillow Median Home Value Index of SAU 16 towns increased significantly over the past four years.

	<u>2012 value</u>	<u>2016 value</u>
Brentwood	\$302,000	\$359,700
East Kingston	\$270,000	\$334,400
Exeter	\$222,000	\$283,700
Kensington	\$322,000	\$360,100
Newfields	\$356,000	\$400,100
Stratham	\$301,000	\$356,400

Why is the school in Brentwood called the Swasey Central School?

Swasey Central School (SCS) is named after John Fall Swasey, Sr. and his wife Christine Currier Swasey. The Swaseys raised 10 children on their Brentwood farm and were active in Brentwood town affairs; Mrs. Swasey served as town treasurer, and Mr. Swasey served as a member of the building committee for the new central school, town moderator, selectman, and chair of the Brentwood School Board.

Mr. Swasey was also a Trustee of the Sanborn Seminary in Kingston, Director and Vice President of the Rockingham National Bank in Exeter, and a member of the Star in the East Lodge, F&AM and Orient Chapter, OES in Exeter. He served for several terms as a Representative to the NH Legislature. The Swaseys were members and officers of the Keenborough Grange in Brentwood and the Brentwood Congregational Church.

At the 1949 Town Meeting, Mr. Swasey stated that it was the intention of his wife and himself to donate a sizeable sum to the school fund with the stipulation that the school be built in Brentwood with a basement under the entire structure; the basement would later be used for town meetings. Swasey Central School opened its doors on January 8, 1951 to 96 pupils and four teachers. With the building of the new school, an era of four separate buildings with eight grades in one room ended. This united the Town in the common purpose of providing the best possible education for each child.

Brentwood teacher and resident Lisa Zack-Swasey provided this information.

The iconic Bandstand in downtown Exeter is formally known as “The Swasey Pavilion. It was donated to the Town by William Swasey in 1916—100 years ago this year!

The Seacoast Media Group which publishes the *Exeter News-Letter* recently announced its 2016 Spring Athletes of the Year. Exeter High School (EHS) student-athletes captured three of the eight awards: Cody Morissette—Baseball; Jackie Gaughan—Girls Spring Track; and Sean Penna—Boys Lacrosse. Congratulations to each of these outstanding representatives of EHS athletics!

The *Richard F. Drew Playground* at Kensington Elementary School (KES) was dedicated in 1991 to Richard “Dick” F. Drew (1/14/35-11/19/00), owner of Drew Construction Company and a US Air Force Veteran who served during the Korean Conflict. Mr. Drew was a 31-year member of the Kensington School Board and was recognized by former Governor John Sununu for his many years of service to the Town of Kensington. Wendy Lawler, Mr. Drew’s daughter, is a teacher at KES today.

Reflection

With another school year beginning, I can’t help but think back to my early teachers in Berlin who developed and nurtured a love for school in me. There was Mrs. St. Hilaire in kindergarten at Marston School, then Sr. Miriam, Mrs. Moreau, Sr. Charles, and Sr. Richard at St. Patrick School. Mr. Lawlor at Notre Dame High School inspired me to be a social studies teacher and Sr. Gabrielle planted the seeds in me to later be a school counselor. I will be forever grateful to them and to all of those educators who helped me find my way to what is now my 46th year in serving students and families in school.

I am confident that our colleagues today are inspiring children every day to be the best that he or she can be. Who knows? In 46 years (2062), one of them may be the Superintendent of one of the best school systems in New England.