

## SCHOOL BOARD



*L-R seated: Scott Gross, Chair, Jane Raymond, Ellen Vermokowitz, Sara Ann Sarette, L-R: Keith Allard, Ginny McKinnon, Philip Pancoast. Absent: Tammy Schofield, Dorine Olson, Matt Luby, student rep.*

During this past year, the Goffstown School Board has been hard at work ensuring that our children are receiving a quality education. The year 2003 was both a challenging and rewarding one for the school district. The School Board continued its focus on facilities, curriculum development, improving communication with the public, and dealing with the ramifications of No Child Left Behind and the ever-changing education funding dilemma in New Hampshire.

After many years of planning, the Goffstown AREA High School renovation project was finally completed. Thanks again to the voters for approving this project. Our high school has truly been transformed. From new science labs and art rooms to a larger gymnasium, our facilities are now a perfect match for the pride and enthusiasm that is demonstrated by the students and staff inside the building.

It would have been impossible to complete a project of that size without the tremendous effort of our Building Committee led by School Board member Ellen Vermokowitz. Assisting Ellen on this committee were John Stafford, Sara Sarette, Sue Tremblay, and Charlie Carr. Our community thanks these dedicated people for the countless hours they spent with our construction manager and architect to accomplish a project of this size and scope within the approved budget.

Changes to the high school weren't just to the building. Numerous community groups and athletic booster organizations spent countless hours making our Field of Dreams a reality, as well as a girl's softball complex that is the envy of our Class L competition. Our student athletes are to be commended for their first year in Class L competition, as the bar has certainly been raised.

Another school facility that garnered a great deal of attention in 2003 was our public kindergarten proposal. Unfortunately, our proposal fell 15 votes short of the 60% majority needed for a bond vote. While this was certainly a disappointment for the School Board, it was encouraging to see the strong voter turnout and tremendous support we received from the community. The school district was very pleased to have received a letter from the State Department of Education guaranteeing us 75% kindergarten construction aid in fiscal year 2004-05. This will allow us one final opportunity to obtain 2.2 million dollars in state funds. The school board continues to emphasize the benefits of public kindergarten, and we look forward to presenting another kindergarten proposal in March 2004.

As a School Board we continue to work with our administration, teachers, and parents to refine our curriculum. Providing our teachers and students with the proper resources is critical to our success as a district. Over the years we have made steady improvement in our use of technology in the classroom. Our teachers and students are embracing new technology; some teachers are even experimenting with classroom websites where students are kept up to date with new assignments, homework and other information. Needless to say it will be our obligation to provide the necessary resources in order to prepare our children for a world heavily reliant on technology.

Speaking of technology, the School Board has stepped up its use of the Internet as a means of communicating with the community. In 2003, we redesigned our district website to include a long list of resources. We currently post our agendas and minutes on the site and in the future we plan to enhance this site with even more information. We continue our public communication plan by writing articles in local newspapers and hosting television programs in an effort to provide information to the public.

Changes at the state and federal level continue to create challenges for the education system in Goffstown. As a school board we continue to take a proactive and vocal role in the funding of education. Our Board hosted a forum of legislative leaders in November 2003 to ask the tough questions about education funding.

In 2003 the NH Legislature passed HB 608, which will have a dramatic effect on the money we receive from the state of New Hampshire. As a community we need to be vigilant with what our legislators are doing in Concord and make sure they are keeping our best interests in mind. So while taxes continue to be on the minds of many Goffstown citizens, please keep in mind that you too have a voice in making a difference by speaking with your elected officials and sharing your thoughts.

On the federal level, the school board continues to comply with the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Similar to other federal mandates like special education, NCLB will be a unique challenge as we work toward compliance. Once again, we remain active in voicing our concerns in a manner that serves to advance student learning.

Over the course of 2003, the Goffstown School Board began the process of renegotiating our AREA Agreement with the towns of Dunbarton and New Boston. Based on changes to NH State statutes, the school board expressed a desire to continue its long-standing relationship with these two towns. Our

current agreement was written over thirty years ago and needs to be amended to keep up with all the changes in education that have evolved over three decades. I am pleased to report that after a year of discussions, all three towns have agreed to an amended AREA agreement, which will be brought before the voters in all three communities in 2004. Thanks to the school board members in both Dunbarton and New Boston for all their efforts in writing this amended agreement.

I'd like to give special thanks to my peers on the Goffstown School Board who work tirelessly for the children of our community. It's truly been a pleasure serving on the school board this past year. I've developed a wonderful relationship with the school administrators, teachers, staff, and the various town departments and committees that are integral to the success of our school system.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Gross, Chair, Goffstown School District

## **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Our schools continue to be exciting places to work and learn. On behalf of the School Administrative Unit #19 districts of Dunbarton, Goffstown and New Boston, along with our Boards of Education, school site administrators, dedicated front line personnel – our teachers – and of course the ones for whom we work, the children of our towns, I present the following report.

Dunbarton Elementary School's enrollment went from 206 students in June 2002 to 227 students in June 2003. Enrollment held with 229 students being reported on October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year for grades Kindergarten through six.

Student population in Goffstown is on the rise. The population was 2,828 in June 2002 and ended the year in June 2003 at 2989. October 2003 enrollments continued to climb and reached 3,085 students. Student growth continues to be primarily at Mountain View Middle School and Goffstown AREA High School. Mountain View is once again approaching 1100 students and the high school is over 1200. Goffstown AREA High School joined the ranks of Class L (large school) for athletics beginning in the fall of 2002.

New Boston Central School had 501 students in June 2002. This number increased by only one student to 502 by June 2003. October 2003 enrollment continues to show a leveled off elementary enrollment at 497 students.

Yearly assessments are administered to students across the grade levels in our districts. They include Early Literacy Screening (Grade 1), Writing Prompts (Grade 1-8), Houghton Mifflin Benchmark Assessment (Grades 2-6), Everyday Mathematics Assessment (Grade 1-6), New Standards Reference Examination (Grades 5, 7, 8, and 9), NHEIAP at Grades 3, 6, and 10, and at the high school level AP Exams, PSAT, SAT, ASVAB, and common mid-terms and finals. Due to budget constraints the New Standards Examination will not take place in 2003-2004. Reports on each of our assessments for individual students are shared with

parents. For a review of our School District Profiles including NHEIAP scores you may visit the web at <http://www.measuredprogress.org/nhprofile/>.

The GAHS two-year project of renovations and additions was completed this past summer. You are encouraged to visit the facility and view the improvements. We would like to thank the taxpayers of Goffstown and the many volunteers who have supported this project. Our special thanks to the Field of Dreams volunteers and to the Friends of Softball for the added value they provided to the project through their work. To long-term Building Committee members Ellen Vermokowitz, John Stafford, Sue Tremblay, Sara Sarette and Charles Carr, we are forever grateful for the roles you filled in planning, developing and completing this project.

All three of our districts continued discussions involving long range planning. This involved AREA Review Committees in all three towns, and a Goffstown Kindergarten Study Committee. A formal discussion of the future of the AREA Contract between the school districts began in the spring of 2003 and came to fruition with the presentation of a proposed revision of the AREA Agreement that was approved by the New Hampshire State Board of Education on January 21, 2004. This proposal will now be on the Warrant for consideration in each of our districts. The Goffstown Kindergarten Committee, the School Board and the Budget Committee are in agreement and are supporting the funding of a proposal for a kindergarten building. This issue will be voted upon in Goffstown in March of 2004.

Additional information about our three school districts and our six schools can be found on our website at [www.goffstown.k12.nh.us/](http://www.goffstown.k12.nh.us/), <http://www.new-boston.nh.us/schools/nbcs/>, and <http://www.dunbarton.k12.nh.us/>.

September 2002 was a very busy time as we completed the process of hiring 52 new teachers in our three districts. Eight teachers retired from our schools during the 2002-2003 school year. We send best wishes to Peter Allen, Margaret Blair, Ellen Bostwick, Jennifer Evans, and Pamela Walker of Goffstown AREA High School; Mary Heath of the SAU office; and Maggie Dolbow, Nancy Magdziasz, and Phyllis Manchester of Mountain View Middle School.

Our six schools have felt the impact of the No Child Left Behind Act in several ways. Many of our teachers, particularly at the middle school, are now required to attain "Highly Qualified" status, a designation beyond the typical certification scope. We are working to support these staff members in this endeavor, as we align their professional development goals with the modified legislative language.

The SAU's curriculum, assessment and professional development initiatives are geared toward the mission of Advancing Student Learning for all students, including those who have special education needs. Students with a wide variety of educational disabilities are educated in our schools whenever possible, some with special programming that has allowed them to return from out-of-district placements. The NH Department of Education evaluated the special education services in each of our districts in March 2003. The evaluating team commended the strides made toward providing in-house programs, and noted the decrease in out-of-district placements. The team recommended continuing to build the professional staff, to increase collaboration between special education teachers and general education teachers and to enhance the achievement of students with

special needs in typical classrooms. This recommendation fits with the aim of No Child Left Behind legislation, which is to ensure that every student has access to instruction from teachers highly qualified in their subject areas, and that every student has the support to make adequate yearly progress.

In response to the evaluating team's report, the district has provided documentation of joint special education / general education professional development for teachers, and opportunities for teachers to observe each other's programs, to co-plan instruction and assessments, and to share information on best practices and innovative use of technology. These special education initiatives are completely intertwined with the SAU's overall mission of Advancing Student Learning, and enhancing opportunities for all students.

Over the next two years our districts are required to comply with the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 34, known as GASB34. The pronouncement of GASB 34 by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) will have a major impact on the financial reporting for all Municipal / Governmental agencies. The most notable change for our districts will be the capitalization of fixed assets. This means that all fixed assets (i.e. buildings, equipment & furnishings, vehicles) with a useful life greater than 1 year and a purchase price meeting the School Board's designated threshold will now be capitalized. Yearly depreciation expense will then be tracked for financial reporting purposes.

We thanked several School Board members for their years of service. Members completing Board service during the 2002-2003 year were in New Boston - Joe Constance, in Dunbarton - Theresa Francoeur and Kimberly Belanger and in Goffstown - Chairperson Kerry Steckowych, John Stafford and Michael York. This fall the theater at GAHS was dedicated as the Dr. Craig Hieber Auditorium in loving memory of our past Chairman of the Goffstown School Board.

This summer we welcomed two new Assistant Superintendents to the SAU office, Gail Kushner and Kathleen Titus. Gail's primary focus will be on curriculum and professional development, while Kathi will focus on administration and special education. Please join us in welcoming these new administrators to our team.

In closing, as always, we give thanks to school boards, employees, school volunteers, parents and citizens who have contributed to the past and present accomplishments of our students. Your continued support and cooperation is essential to our students' success.

Darrell J. Lockwood, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
DELIBERATIVE SESSION  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2003**

Moderator, Larry Emerton, called the 2003 School District Deliberative

Session to order at 7:15 p.m. There were 103 registered voters in attendance out of a total of 8,956 registered voters. Claude Laroche, Charlie Carr, Fred Plett, Sherry Hieber, and Kilton Barnard were sworn-in as counters. Representative Richard Fletcher led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in honor of the Shuttle Columbia astronauts and the late Dr. Craig Hieber, former Chair of the Goffstown School Board.

L. Emerton then introduced the Chair of the School Board, Kerry Steckowych, who introduced the following School Board members Vice Chair, Scott Gross, Ellen Vermokowitz, Jane Raymond, John Stafford, Michael York, Philip Pancoast, Sara Sarette, and Tammy Schofield.

Mr. Emerton also introduced Superintendent Dr. Darrell Lockwood. Dr. Lockwood introduced the SAU his staff: Assistant Superintendent Mary Heath; Business Manager Michelle Croteau; Principals Gerry Frew, David Bousquet, and Mark Roth; Assistant Principal Leslie Doster; and Facilities Director Gerry Agate.

Moderator Emerson also introduced Budget Committee Chair John Caprio; Budget Committee School Sub-Committee Chair Sue Tremblay; School District Clerk Jo Ann Duffy; and Assistant Moderator Fred Plett.

Mr. Emerton reviewed the housekeeping rules regarding written ballots. He also advised that there was a typo in Article 2 of the posting, third to last line should read Article 4. Mr. Emerton then read the legal posting for this meeting and the MS-27. A motion was made by John Caprio and seconded by Sue Tremblay to dispense with the reading of Articles 2-4 and take them up separately. This was voted unanimously in the affirmative.

#### **Article 2**

Shall the School District raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed THREE MILLION SIX HUNDRED NINETY-THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,693,000.00) for (1) The construction of a 10 classroom Kindergarten facility, for the payment of furnishings, equipment, architectural and other fees, land acquisition, site development and related incidental and necessary costs for such construction pursuant to the plans and specifications as may be approved by the School Board, copies of which shall be on file with the School Administrative Unit #19 Office in Goffstown, New Hampshire; and to raise an amount not to exceed ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,295,300.00), which equals the project cost of THREE MILLION SIX HUNDRED NINETY-THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,693,000.00) less revenue from Kindergarten aid of TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED NINETY-SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,297,700.00) and Impact Fees from the Town of Goffstown School Impact Fee Fund of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) by the issuance of bonds or notes to the District in accordance with the provisions of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated, the form and terms of said bonds or notes including the time and place for the payment of interest, the rate of interest, and provisions for the sale of said bonds, or notes and all other matters in connection therewith to be left to the discretion of the School Board; and (2) to further raise and appropriate through taxation a sum of TWENTY SIX THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED

SEVENTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$26,179.00) for the initial interest payment and fees on said bonds or notes. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #4, the Operating Budget Article. (Sixty percent vote required.) (The School Board recommends this Article.) (The Budget Committee recommends this Article.)

**MOTION: Kerry Steckowych moved, seconded by Scott Gross to place Article 2 on the Ballot as presented.**

Scott Gross and Tammy Schofield made a Power Point presentation.

Scott Gross: During the 2001-02 school year we found that over 50% of first graders do not have basic skills for letter and number recognition. Teachers have to spend up to six months to catch people up. Children who do attend public kindergarten achieve at higher levels, have better reading and math skills, perform better on state assessments, and are better prepared for school. The benefits of public kindergarten show that kindergarten can be the most important year in a child's life; Access to public school programs and services with highly qualified certified educators, Easing transition from home to school. Better home/school communications at an early age, a kindergarten curriculum that prepares children for first grade, a solid public school experience that lays the foundation for the development of academic, social and emotional skills, educational programming offered to all five-year-old children that addresses a range of learning skills, children who are prepared for first grade based on grade level expectation, reduced costs related to remedial costs and retention and fewer children dropping out of school. Kindergarten is an educational investment to support a future generation. New Boston and Dunbarton have implemented kindergarten, accessing 75% NH Kindergarten Aid. They have seen dramatic improvements in the skills of children entering first grade. This would be a ten-classroom school that will accommodate up to 260 children. It is located on Tibbetts Hill Road. There would be space provided for the special education preschool program. We have signed the purchase and sale agreement with the owner of the property. Maple Ave and Bartlett Schools are at capacity. Neither school has land sufficient to build additional classrooms. The existing kindergarten construction aid currently offers school construction aid at a 75% during the year of construction. The total school cost is \$3,693,000.

Kindergarten Aid will cover \$2,297,700. Goffstown will have to raise \$1,395,300. The School Board proposes a ten-year bond in the amount of \$1,295,300. Operating costs will be about \$544,013. Anticipated opening date is September 2004. Anticipated number of students is 200. The school will open as a kindergarten school, but may be expanded, as an elementary school to meet the future population needs of Goffstown's children and families. The estimated tax impact of this project for year one is four cents per thousand. Year two is .26 cents per thousand. The final year is .19 cents per thousand. Only 19 school districts in NH do not have public kindergarten. All Goffstown children need access to public kindergarten.

Jen Foley: If we are at capacity now for an elementary school, when would the need arise for this additional school?

Scott Gross: We have put it in CIP for 2006. If this kindergarten building is constructed in 2004, our preschool can be removed from Bartlett.

Jen Foley: Do we have a back up plan if the funds are not received from Concord?

Scott Gross: Traditionally, they have distributed the funds, but otherwise it would come from taxation.

Liz Dolan: I don't understand the contingency funds bridging?

Scott Gross: Our state budget is approved every two years. The state is on a biennial budget.

Hank Boyle: People have asked me if it is mandatory if the children go to kindergarten?

Scott Gross: It is still their choice. If people want a full-day program, that would be their option to send their child to a private kindergarten. There are many companies that provide after-school care and that is how we would fill the gap.

Ezra Beck: I have no objection to kindergarten, but would you please discuss the three bond issues.

Scott Gross: I don't have those figures right now; I can get you that after the meeting. As each year that goes by, the impact goes down.

Ezra Beck: Last year you were not interested in the amount of children going to the school. Will all the kids in Goffstown go to this school?

Scott Gross: What we have estimated is 200 Goffstown students will take advantage of this. That is our best estimate.

Kilton Barnard: Is the suitability of Tibbetts Hill Road there to handle that extra traffic? It is a blind turn at the bottom of the hill. Is there any preparation in mind to rectify that corner? Also, the road is not the greatest.

Kerry: We had several kindergarten discussions recently. There was a question from somebody about this. I would not expect this area to be treated any differently from any other school zones. They would be posted at 20 mph. Our officers are actively running radar in every school zone during the day. There could be traffic studies done and improvements as far as lighting and traffic control that may be suggested. If that property is sold for homes, you will still have traffic. It won't make that much of a difference.

Kilton Barnard: I think some of the road needs rebuilding. That should be part of the plan if that school is built up there. That road should be redone in places.

Scott Gross: We have looked at Tibbetts Hill Road. It is perfect that it is in the part of town that is growing. The Town has recently reconstructed this road. I am sure we will need to do some modifications. We would have the same problems with other roads. Tibbetts is probably better than the others. If we need to put blinking lights up, we will work with the Town to make sure the kids are safe and we won't ruin the quality of life for the people in that neighborhood.

Kilton Barnard: What is the percolation of the soil for septic requirements? Have you done any tests for the suitability of septic?

Scott Gross: We have been working with ProCon Construction.

Dr. Lockwood: We did go out there and the Town provided us with equipment and we did 11 test pits. This is a very "ledgy" piece of land. We met with ProCon and the architect. This will definitely be a fill. The property is

suitable for septic.

Kilton Barnard: I know MVMS had a lost of cost overruns because of the unsuitability of the soils. Ledge can be a problem where you can have cost overruns, which would make the cost of the land much greater.

Scott Gross: We had a generous allocation for site prep.

Dan DalPra, Pro Con: One of the real gray areas in any construction project is what is under the ground. We did an in-house estimate of what we thought it would cost. Between that and a reasonable construction contingency, I think it is a very reasonable approach that has been taken, and I am very comfortable.

Kilton Barnard: That doesn't answer all my questions, but it did answer a couple.

George Fullerton: I was on the building committee for MVMS. The cost for setting up the septic was over than what was anticipated, but the project was well within budget.

Tricia Wynne: Are children going to be bused?

Scott Gross: Transportation will be provided to school for the morning session and home after school for the afternoon session. We have also been discussing a drop off point to reduce the number of buses needed. All students may go to the elementary schools first, and then be bused to the kindergarten.

Tricia Wynne: There may be a concern with kindergarten students being on a bus with 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Peter Osinki: Can you elaborate on the NH state aid.

Scott Gross: Right now we will get 75% from the State of NH. Those funds will sunset very shortly. It is doubtful they will re-up the money for kindergarten. If we are going to do this, we need to do it now. The state is giving us \$2.2 million. Eventually, if you look at the growth in our town, it is safe to say we will have to think about a new elementary school in a few years. I think this is good planning on our part.

Mr. Emerton: The facts on the financing at the state are we work on a biennium budget. We have four members of the house finance committee from Goffstown. We have saved this kindergarten money for one more year.

Peter Jenkins: I look at this plan and see there is not a bus lane by itself. I know from doing busing, the safest schools are the ones that have a bus lane.

Kurt Lauer: How many acres is the total site, and what is defined as useable acreage, and where would a future school be located?

Scott Gross: It is about 23 acres. We will be able to flatten out the area if we have to expand.

Paul Marinace, Architect: It is 23 acres total. The bulk will be useable, probably about 18 acres. The addition would be where the playground is situated.

Dr. Lockwood: We had not talked about playfields on this property. We talked about a playground. We have no intention, at this point in time, of playing fields.

Charlie Carr: On a personal basis, I realize the value of kindergarten. The educational value is of supreme importance. I went to kindergarten 74 years ago. At that time in MA, only the cities had kindergarten. When the towns realized the city kids were getting ahead of them, they began to have kindergarten. I credit my kindergarten experience that from then on I was among the top 10% in

my classes all the way through high school. The kids of this age will be paying for the social security for people who are in their 40's and 50's now. If we do not do this now, how will Goffstown be able to pay for a kindergarten in the future?

Scott Gross: We live in a great town and this is one of the final pieces of the puzzle. This is what is about our town, it is about progress. There is guaranteed money from the state. We have folks who have been working for two years on the kindergarten committee.

Don Ambrell, Range Road: Where do you plan on getting water?

Scott Gross: We will do wells. We did do test pits and we don't believe water will be an issue there.

Don Ambrell: I was wondering if anybody would look into that?

Dr. Lockwood: The Purchase and Sales Agreement allows for 120 days beyond a positive vote for the district to do an examination of the property for all kinds of issues. That will be the time when those things are explored.

**Voted unanimously in the affirmative.**

(ARTICLE 2 WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT AS PRESENTED)

**Article 3**

Shall the School District vote to approve the cost items included in the four-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Goffstown School Board and the Goffstown Educational Support Staff Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2003 – 04	\$ 117,135.00
2004 – 05	\$ 129,105.00
2005 – 06	\$ 139,149.00
2006 – 07	\$ 111,303.00

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$117,135.00) for the 2003-04 fiscal year, and to take ELEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$11,487.00) from the Food Service Revenue accounts with the remaining ONE HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$105,648.00) to come from taxation for the purpose of funding the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year. (Majority vote required.) (The School Board recommends this Article) (The Budget Committee recommends this Article)

**MOTION:**

**Philip Pancoast moved, seconded by Scott Gross to place Article 3 on the Ballot as presented.**

Pam Manney: What is the current number of employees in the support staff contract?

Philip Pancoast: About 120.

Pam Manney: What is the current base pay for a custodial employee?

Philip Pancoast: When examining the contract, we needed to present a contract to allow us to be competitive, and to address the increasing health care costs, both of which we achieved.

Scott Gross highlighted the first year hourly rates for the various positions: food service helper \$7.23, assistant cook \$7.99, head cook \$8.74, educational assistant \$7.99, EMT \$9.44, custodian II \$8.64, custodian I \$9.44, principal's secretary \$9.99, secretary \$9.44.

Pam Manney: I make twice that and I am just a laborer. What is the percentage increase that the contract calls for? These people are not paid much for what they do for our students. What is the increase in their base pay?

Philip Pancoast: In each year the matrix increases by one percent.

Pam Manney: How do the rates compare to other towns in the area?

Philip Pancoast: When we look at how we compensate people in similar jobs, we are still trying to achieve parity.

Pam Manney: Who comprises the support staff?

Philip Pancoast: Secretarial, custodial, food service workers, educational assistants, EMT's.

Scott Gross: We have to do due diligence in the community as well as retain quality people. We do try to get as much parody as possible. This district has had four out of six default budgets. We do have issues. We have to pay a competitive wage. However, it really does drive our expenses here.

**Voted unanimously in the affirmative.**

(ARTICLE 3 WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT AS PRESENTED.)

#### **Article 4**

Shall the Goffstown School District raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling TWENTY SIX MILLION NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY- FIVE DOLLARS (\$26,009,185.00). Should this Article be defeated, the Operating Budget shall be TWENTY FIVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY- NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$25,469,258.00) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Goffstown School District or by law. In the event this Article is defeated, the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised Operating Budget only. (The School Board recommends TWENTY SIX MILLION NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$26,009,185.00) as the Operating Budget.) (The Budget Committee recommends this article.)

**MOTION: John Stafford moved, seconded by Kerry Steckowych to place Article 4 on the Ballot as presented.**

Kerry Steckowych: The School Board and the Budget Committee have recommended this. The Budget Committee did not break itself down into a school side and town side group this year, which made their task lengthy, but they had direct information from the building principals. A lot of credit goes to John Caprio for meeting with us in the beginning. If this article is defeated, we will have a default budget. That is a difference of about \$539,000. The only difference would be staffing requests as they sit now. They are driven by programmatic changes at the high school. We are increasing the graduating requirements in science and math. The estimated tax impact is approximately 82 cents per thousand.

Scott Gross: Many of you received the Goffstown enrollments. They have risen. This is one driver of our budget. Our teachers and support staff are the largest component of our budget. Health insurance rates have gone up tremendously. Special Education and transportation costs are also a major component. Our budget is pretty bare-boned and we need your support on the school budget.

Dick Georgantas: I have a question regarding escalated cost of SAU services, administration and guidance.

Scott Gross: Teachers are up at Bartlett due to increased enrollment. Health and physical Ed and Tech teacher have been added at the high school.

Kerry Steckowych: You had costs for personnel that were previously grant funded. Our literacy programs have a cost, which continues to improve the performance of young readers in the elementary schools.

Scott Gross: Function 2120 accounts for \$109,000. There would be a new data entry clerk at the high school. Function 2321 - the SAU fund balance has been used in the past is now depleted. I suggest you check the NH Department of Education web site. There is great information there. Everyone is trying to divest him or herself with economic responsibility, and the grants are going dry.

Pam Manney: Functions 1410 and 1420 - you have stipends for four lead teachers. What is this?

Kerry Steckowych: That is similar to what that used to be called a department head, although it is not a department head responsibility.

Pam Manney: What is the district or state receiving percentage wise for Special Education?

Scott Gross: About 14% -17% is what we are getting from the Federal Government.

Betsy Cranston: Function 2630, why has the upkeep for grounds tripled?

Scott Gross: We have a bigger facility here and new fields. We want to keep what we have built so it will not get run down. We have a field of dreams in the back that will need maintenance.

Liz Dolan: I have a 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grader. I see an incredible amount of waste in my kids' education. Everything is mimeographed. Why not buy a textbook? They have a new math program and it was useless. Then they bought another reading system that the teachers hated.

Scott Gross: In terms of our curriculum, it isn't driven by the administration. It is a collaborate effort. We have open meetings regarding curriculum education. Everyday Math was not just hammered out by the school board or administration. We do background work and discussion. I am sad to hear that

your child did not have a good experience. On the whole, it is a great program. We have never short-changed any student in textbooks or technology. We spend quite a bit of money on textbooks every year. Our curriculum chairperson, Jane Raymond, talks about this and we have review cycles. We can speak with you after the meeting about this. We are very good at managing our resources.

Kerry Steckowych: You are seeing gaps created by default budgets.

Len Stuart: To what extent does this budget start to reflect the costs associated with the “No Child Left Behind”?

Kerry Steckowych: We need to have strong voices with our Federal representatives. There are no costs associated with that in this budget because it is not fully implemented yet.

Scott Gross: The jury is still out on what our district costs will be. The other issue is English as a Second Language. That also has to be addressed. The costs are not well defined right now.

Mr. Emerton: I spent two days listening to the “No Child Left Behind”. It is a 1205 page document with an equal amount of rules to back it up. It is a huge bill that all states will face in the next several years. It is a major change in education. It will affect your budget, probably for the good.

?: Function 2640 equipment maintenance. This drops to \$6,000, what does that mean. Field trip transportation is doubling.

Kerry Steckowych: Field trips were put back in. They were reduced with the default budget.

?: Site improvement is going from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Kerry Steckowych: There are four schools in the district. Each may need their own improvements on site. I don’t have the details on the first question, but it looks like we saved some money.

Bob Wheeler: Could you please respond to the fiscal impact if this article is passed?

Kerry Steckowych: It is less than \$1.00 on the tax rate – 83 cents.

**Voted unanimously in the affirmative.**

(ARTICLE 4 WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT AS PRESENTED.)

### **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

Kerry Steckowych: It is with a heavy heart that I ask you to think about the late Dr. Craig Hieber, former Chair of the Goffstown School Board. He did a lot to make Goffstown the kind of community we are proud of. We would like to present this plaque to his wife, Sherry Hieber.

We also have some School Board members who will not be returning. It is with a little sadness that we present this plaque to Michael York. Michael has been the chair in the past and he has been a pleasure to work with.

Another member who won’t be returning and who has been a pleasure working with and a wonderful bridge between the Budget Committee and School Board is John Stafford.

Scott Gross: Last but not least is our Chair, Kerry Steckowych. We want to

thank Kerry for his leadership. It was a very trying time for the School Board, and he did a fine job as our leader.

Kerry Steckowych: This board has worked hard, as well as the administration to provide you with a fiscally responsible budget. I appreciate your support and look forward to your support on all of these articles this year.

**MOTION:** Fred Plett moved, seconded by John Caprio to adjourn the 2003 Goffstown School District meeting at 8:46 p.m. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Duffy,  
Goffstown School District Clerk

## ELECTION RESULTS

Goffstown, NH School District  
March 11, 2003

### Article 1

To choose all School District officers for the ensuing years:

To choose three members of the School Board for the ensuing three years.

Keith Allard	2415
Jane E. Raymond	2538
Virginia McKinnon	199 (write-in)

To choose one member of the School Board for a remaining one-year term.

Dorine L. Olson	2672
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To chose three School District Officials for the ensuing three years, namely:

School District Moderator	“Larry” Emerton	2843
School District Treasurer	Helen Skoglund	2870
School District Clerk	Jo Ann Duffy	2766

### Article 2

Shall the School District raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed THREE MILLION SIX HUNDRED NINETY-THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,693,000.00) for (1) The construction of a 10 classroom Kindergarten facility, for the payment of furnishings, equipment, architectural and other fees, land

acquisition, site development and related incidental and necessary costs for such construction pursuant to the plans and specifications as may be approved by the School Board, copies of which shall be on file with the School Administrative Unit #19 Office in Goffstown, New Hampshire; and to raise an amount not to exceed ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,295,300.00), which equals the project cost of THREE MILLION SIX HUNDRED NINETY-THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,693,000.00) less revenue from Kindergarten aid of TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED NINETY-SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,297,700.00) and Impact Fees from the Town of Goffstown School Impact Fee Fund of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) by the issuance of bonds or notes to the District in accordance with the provisions of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated, the form and terms of said bonds or notes including the time and place for the payment of interest, the rate of interest, and provisions for the sale of said bonds, or notes and all other matters in connection therewith to be left to the discretion of the School Board; and (2) to further raise and appropriate through taxation a sum of TWENTY SIX THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$26,179.00) for the initial interest payment and fees on said bonds or notes. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #4, the Operating Budget Article. (Sixty percent vote required.) (The School Board recommends this Article.) (The Budget Committee recommends this Article.)

Yes	2013	Recount Results: Yes	2005
No	1363	No	1364

**Article 3**

Shall the School District vote to approve the cost items included in the four-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Goffstown School Board and the Goffstown Educational Support Staff Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2003 – 04	\$ 117,135.00
2004 – 05	\$ 129,105.00
2005 – 06	\$ 139,149.00
2006 – 07	\$ 111,303.00

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$117,135.00) for the 2003-04 fiscal year, and to take ELEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$11,487.00) from the Food Service Revenue accounts with the remaining ONE HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$105,648.00) to come from taxation for the purpose of funding the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year. (Majority vote required.) (The School Board

recommends this Article) (The Budget Committee recommends this Article)

Yes 2235                      No 1182

#### **Article 4**

Shall the Goffstown School District raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling TWENTY SIX MILLION NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY- FIVE DOLLARS (\$26,009,185.00). Should this Article be defeated, the Operating Budget shall be TWENTY FIVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY- NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$25,469,258.00) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Goffstown School District or by law. In the event this Article is defeated, the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised Operating Budget only. (The School Board recommends TWENTY SIX MILLION NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$26,009,185.00) as the Operating Budget.) (The Budget Committee recommends this article.)

Yes 2110                      No 1293

## **WARRANT**

### **SCHOOL DELIBERATIVE BALLOT DETERMINATION MEETING**

(February 2, 2004)

To the Inhabitants of the School District in the Town of Goffstown qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet on Monday, the second day of February 2004, in the Dr. Craig Hieber Auditorium at Goffstown AREA High School, at 7:00 P.M. for the first session of the School District Annual Meeting, also known as the first Deliberative Session, to act on the following subjects and determine matters which will then be voted upon by the official ballot on Tuesday, March 9,

2004.

You are further notified to meet on Tuesday, the 9th day of March 2004, also known as the second session, to vote on all matters by official ballot. The polls are open on March 9, 2004, at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. at the Central polling district at the Goffstown AREA High School and will open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. in the Fifth District at the Bartlett Elementary School.

#### **Article 1**

To choose all School District officers for the ensuing years:

To choose three members of the School Board for the ensuing three years.

#### **Article 2**

Shall the School District raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed \$3,346,001.00 (Three Million Three Hundred Forty-Six Thousand One Dollars) for the construction of a 10 classroom Kindergarten facility, for the payment of furnishings, equipment, architectural and other fees, land acquisition, site development and related incidental and necessary costs for such construction pursuant to the plans and specifications as may be approved by the School Board, copies of which shall be on file with the School Administrative Unit #19 Office in Goffstown, New Hampshire; said appropriation to be funded as follows:

**\$2,253,030.00 (Two Million Two Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand Thirty Dollars) from Kindergarten Aid, and \$436,769.00 (Four Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars) from Impact Fees from the Town of Goffstown School Impact Fee Fund, and up to \$400,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Dollars) from the unreserved fund balance at June 30, 2004, and \$256,202.00 (Two Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Two Dollars) to be raised through taxes.**

This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 4, the Operating Budget Article. (Majority vote required.) (The School Board recommends this Article.) (The Budget Committee recommends this Article.)

#### **Article 3**

Shall the voters of Goffstown School District adopt the modifications to the AREA Agreement as recommended by AREA School Plan Review Board and approved for submission to the voters by the New Hampshire State Board of Education on January 21, 2004. A copy of the AREA Agreement shall be on file with the School Administration Unit #19 Office in Goffstown, New Hampshire (Majority vote required.) (The School Board recommends this Article.)

#### **Article 4**

Shall the Goffstown School District raise and appropriate as an Operating

Budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$27,135,334.00 (Twenty-Seven Million One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars). Should this Article be defeated, the Operating Budget shall be \$26,436,328.00 (Twenty-Six Million Four Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Goffstown School District or by law. In the event this Article is defeated, the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised Operating Budget only. (The School Board recommends \$27,135,334.00 (Twenty-Seven Million One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars) as the Operating Budget.) (The Budget Committee recommends this article.)

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AT SAID GOFFSTOWN ON THIS 23rd DAY OF JANUARY 2004.

**GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL BOARD**

Scott Gross, Chair  
 Jane Raymond, Vice Chair  
 Tammy Schofield  
 Dorine Olson  
 Philip Pancoast  
 Ellen Vermokowitz  
 Virginia McKinnon  
 Keith Allard  
 Sara Ann Sarette

**Original Copy on File at SAU #19, 11 School Street, Goffstown, New Hampshire 03045**

**OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> PUPIL  
 ENROLLMENT 1999-2003**

<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>BARTLETT</b>	Pre-School	29	29	28	33	40
	Multi-age (1,2,3)	42	42	---	---	---
	Combination Grades ½	---	20	---	---	---
	1	32	37	57	52	42
	2	47	20	57	59	51
	3	36	48	35	53	55
	4	---	---	---	44	46
<b>Total - Bartlett</b>		<b>186</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>242</b>
<b>MAPLE AVE</b>	Pre-School	---	---	---	---	---

Multi-age (1,2,3)	68	66	67	---	---
Combination (2,3)	---	---	---	46	44
1	115		95	107	126
2	120	114	99	110	111
3	108	127	119	97	115
4	25	23	44	144	144
<b>Total - Maple Avenue</b>	<b><u>436</u></b>	<b><u>425</u></b>	<b><u>436</u></b>	<b><u>523</u></b>	<b><u>505</u></b>

<b>MOUNTAIN VIEW</b>	4	214	168	156	---	---
	5	200	232	199	197	191
	6	220	211	239	223	208
	7	305	314	303	331	341
	8	301	310	320	313	343
<b>Total - MVMS</b>		<b><u>1,240</u></b>	<b><u>1,235</u></b>	<b><u>1,217</u></b>	<b><u>1,064</u></b>	<b><u>1,083</u></b>

**GOFFSTOWN AREA HIGH SCHOOL**

	9	240	330	302	314	320
	10	224	243	323	303	325
	11	257	242	259	308	346
	12	219	206	185	245	264
<b>Total - GAHS</b>		<b><u>924</u></b>	<b><u>940</u></b>	<b><u>1,021</u></b>	<b><u>1,069</u></b>	<b><u>1,170</u></b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL 1998- 2002</b>	<b>2,802</b>	<b>2,877</b>	<b>2,899</b>	<b>2,998</b>	<b>3,085</b>
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**GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

	2002-2003 Actual	2003-2004 Appropriation	2004-2005 Proposed School Board	2004-2005 Proposed Budget Committee
Regular Education	9,883,700	10,650,520	11,161,644	11,161,644
Special Education	3,257,655	4,110,303	4,338,997	4,338,997
Co-Curricular & Athletics	343,781	407,588	456,982	456,982
Summer School Programs	0.00	14,384	18,217	18,217
Other Pupil Services	7,325	19,800	18,650	18,650
Adult Education Programs	0.00	0	30,410	30,410
Field Rental	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Guidance	640,429	766,746	827,111	827,111
Health Services	205,193	275,098	274,877	274,877
Speech Pathology and Audio	307,018	335,004	327,641	327,641
Curriculum Development	1,704	3,689	4,003	4,003
Staff Development	31,362	66,000	66,000	66,000
Information Center Services	337,814	358,608	396,334	396,334
Educational TV	1,727	3,800	3,800	3,800
Technical Support Services	278,191	170,211	167,007	167,007
School Board	28,651	30,119	32,319	32,319
Treasurer	2,515	2,624	2,624	2,624
District Meeting	1,046	3,445	11,712	11,712
Audit Services	4,500	5,000	6,000	6,000
Legal Services	35,144	10,000	10,000	10,000
SAU Services	814,051	939,588	1,011,621	1,011,621
Administration	1,277,150	1,412,383	1,747,577	1,747,577
Other Student Support Services	154,301	168,711	20,864	20,864
Building Operations	1,498,757	1,554,375	1,712,398	1,712,398
Care and Upkeep of Grounds	22,517	69,115	43,365	43,365
Equipment Maintenance	20,199	6,004	6,003	6,003
Transportation	747,646	766,552	785,380	785,380
Special Needs Transportation	398,437	529,211	483,946	483,946
Skills Center Transportation	26,368	28,458	29,160	29,160
Athletic Program Transportation	47,119	52,200	59,700	59,700
Field Trip Transportation	7,612	24,140	25,540	25,540
GESS Course Reimbursement	5,601	8,000	8,000	8,000
Site Improvement	10,971	20,000	13,000	13,000
Debt Service	2,180,010	2,108,195	1,958,918	1,958,918
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>22,583,497</b>	<b>24,924,871</b>	<b>26,064,800</b>	<b>26,064,800</b>

Federal Grants Fund	642,824	487,029	331,101	331,101
Capital Projects Fund	740,569	0	0	0
Food Service Fund	716,789	714,420	739,433	739,433
<b>Goffstown School Dist. Total</b>	<b>24,683,679</b>	<b>26,126,320</b>	<b>27,135,334</b>	<b>27,135,334</b>

## Note\*

The proposed fiscal year 2004 –2005 columns equal the operating budget warrant articles

## REVENUES

	2002 - 2003	2003 - 2004	2004 - 2005	2004 - 2005
	Approved	Approved	Proposed	Proposed
	MS 24	MS 24	School Board	Budget Committee
<b>REVENUE FROM STATE SOURCES</b>				
Adequacy Grant	5,501,613	5,189,850	4,002,444	4,002,444
School Building Aid	505,303	505,303	530,775	530,775
Area Vocational School			5,800	5,800
Catastrophic Aid	170,808	216,161	294,502	294,502
Child Nutrition	12,850	12,850	12,850	12,850
<b>REVENUE FROM FEDERAL SOURCES</b>				
IASA, Chapter I and II	104,937	487,029	333,894	333,894
Child Nutrition Programs	80,700	80,700	80,700	80,700
<b>LOCAL REVENUE OTHER THAN TAXES</b>				
Tuition	2,970,000	3,600,000	4,150,000	4,150,000
Driver Education Program Receipts	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Earnings on Investments	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Food Service	603,009	620,870	649,933	649,933
Medicaid	50,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
Reimbursement Spec. Ed.	50,000	158,400	130,137	130,137
<b>SUBTOTAL REVENUES &amp; CREDITS</b>	<b>10,084,220</b>	<b>10,971,163</b>	<b>10,291,035</b>	<b>10,291,035</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>				
Sale of Bonds				
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>				
General Fund Balance	397,595	607,834	1,000,000	1,000,000
Reserved Fund Balance	537,746			
Less Fund Balance Reserved for			(400,000)	(400,000)
Fund Balance Applied to	935,341	607,834	600,000	600,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES AND CREDITS</b>	<b>11,019,561</b>	<b>11,578,997</b>	<b>10,891,035</b>	<b>10,891,035</b>
DISTRICT ASSESSMENT	8,418,506	9,915,040	12,668,395	12,668,395
STATE ASSESSMENT	4,528,470	4,632,283	3,575,904	3,575,904
<b>APPROPRIATIONS *</b>	<b>23,966,537</b>	<b>26,126,320</b>	<b>27,135,334</b>	<b>27,135,334</b>

\* Note: In FY 2003 - 2004 this number equals the proposed operating budget we

**DEBT SCHEDULE**

As of June 30, 2003

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>
2003-04	1,330,000.00	722,146.66	2,052,146.66
2004-05	1,341,775.00	617,142.91	1,958,917.91
2005-06	1,330,000.00	575,852.50	1,905,852.50
2006-07	1,320,000.00	534,092.50	1,854,092.50
2007-08	1,305,000.00	491,530.00	1,796,530.00
2008-09	1,285,000.00	447,798.75	1,732,798.75
2009-10	1,275,000.00	402,605.00	1,677,605.00
2010-11	1,210,000.00	356,315.00	1,566,315.00
2011-12	900,000.00	314,300.00	1,214,300.00
2012-13	600,000.00	281,300.00	881,300.00
2013-14	600,000.00	252,800.00	852,800.00
2014-15	600,000.00	224,150.00	824,150.00
2015-16	600,000.00	194,750.00	794,750.00
2016-17	600,000.00	164,750.00	764,750.00
2017-18	600,000.00	134,750.00	734,750.00
2018-19	600,000.00	104,750.00	704,750.00
2019-20	600,000.00	74,750.00	674,750.00
2020-21	600,000.00	44,750.00	644,750.00
2021-22	595,000.00	14,875.00	609,875.00
Total			
Outstanding			
Bonds	\$17,291,775.00	\$5,953,408.32	\$23,245,183.32

<u>Bond</u>	<u>Principal Balance</u>	<u>Interest Balance</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>
MVMS & Elementary Bond*	5,896,775.00	759,633.32	6,656,408.32
GAHS Renovation/ Addition	11,395,000.00	5,193,775.00	16,588,775.00
Total			
Outstanding			
Bonds	\$17,291,775.00	\$5,953,408.32	\$23,245,183.32

\*Note:

The MVMS & Elementary Bond was refunded in August 2003 resulting in a savings of \$341,879 in interest cost over the life of the Bond.

## Principal's Reports

### **BARTLETT ELEMENTARY**

**David A. Bousquet, Principal**

During the past year, Bartlett Elementary School has continued its focus on improving student achievement in literacy and math. Bartlett is in its third year of participation in the Literacy Collaborative initiative through Lesley University. This initiative, funded through the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Project, is a school-wide reform program which enables us to provide intensive professional development and instruction in literacy. The primary staff completed 50 hours of professional development in effective literacy instruction. I am confident that our involvement in this initiative will have long-term positive effects on the literacy learning of our students.

There are many events and programs that take place at Bartlett Elementary School over the year. Some of the programs that help create a positive environment while fostering learning include monthly All-School Meetings, Lunch With the Principal, McDonald's Student of the Month, Grandparents' Luncheon, Red Ribbon Week, Halloween Parade, Kids Voting, Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday, Memorial Day Program, Project Night, Bartlett Bash and the Fourth Grade Farewell. Students at Bartlett Elementary School are called to the office on their birthday and receive a "Birthday Book" chosen especially for them. This program is sponsored by the PTA and is once again coordinated by Mrs. Audley.

In March, Bartlett Elementary School, along with the other schools in the SAU, participated in a Special Education Program review. A team, representing the NH Department of Education, visited the school to review case studies, interview parents and staff, and to observe programs. This was a valuable learning experience for our staff and we received excellent feedback on our programs.

In the spring, Bartlett's guidance counselor, Candice Roux, received a Career Awareness and Exploration K-8 Award in recognition of her Elementary Career Guidance Program. This ABC Award Recognition Program is sponsored by the NH Department of Education.

During the summer, Bartlett Elementary School provided programming to better meet the needs of our students. Besides having a summer program for special needs students, we also offered a Summer Literacy and Numeracy Program. During the summer, our school library remained open three mornings each week so students and their families in the Pinardville area could borrow books for summer reading.

School opened in the fall with several additions and changes to the staff at Bartlett Elementary School. We were very excited to have the following staff members join us this year:

Becky Forrestall – Special Ed. Facilitator  
Nick Zeras – Physical Education Teacher  
Andrea Rounds – Special Education Teacher  
Ann Kelley – Art Teacher

Jill Plamondon – Grade 3 Teacher (from Special Ed.)  
Heidi Feudner–Paraprofessional  
Amy Loveren – Paraprofessional  
Jennifer Francis – Speech Pathologist  
Carol Atteberry – Teacher of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

In the fall, we received word that Bartlett Elementary School would once again be presented a Blue Ribbon Award for recognition of our excellent volunteer program. Special thanks go to our volunteer coordinator, Lisa Lambert, for doing a tremendous job finding volunteers to meet a wide variety of needs.

In addition to continuing the Literacy Collaborative initiative, Bartlett began implementing the Risk Watch program this fall. Risk Watch is a child safety program that deals with the major causes of childhood injury including fire prevention, car safety, bicycle safety, and swimming safety. Bartlett Elementary continues to increase its partnership with St. Anselm College. We provide their students a place to fulfill some of their learning obligations and services. They provide us assistance in numerous areas, including volunteers, babysitting, academic support and student assistance. St. Anselm College has also involved our students, especially those in Mrs. Crete's third grade class, in the Digital Divide program. This program joins the students with area senior citizens in learning technology. Due to our participation in this program, St. Anselm College has provided us with technology including a projector system, digital cameras and a digital video recorder.

In November 2003, the Bartlett school community was deeply saddened by the loss of third grader, Timmy Begin. Timmy was a very special boy who bravely fought cancer for four years. Timmy's courage in facing his illness, his deep love of learning and school, and his ever-present smile were a positive example to us all.

In the coming year, we look forward to providing an excellent learning environment to the children at Bartlett Elementary School. If you have any questions, please contact us at 623-8088.

## **MAPLE AVENUE ELEMENTARY**

**Marc Boyd, Principal**

Giordano Bruno once said, "If the first button of one's coat is wrongly buttoned, all the rest will be crooked." And that is basically what we strive for at the Maple Avenue Elementary School. We strive to make sure that all of our children's "educational" coats are correctly buttoned from the get go. We do this through an intense course of study, rigorous instruction, warmth, compassion, collaboration with parents and guardians and the understanding that enthusiasm is essential if a child is to achieve.

We started the 2002/2003-year with a festive "First Day" celebration that included the welcoming back of the entire Fourth Grade Class from the Mountain View Middle School. Their return increased the school's population by 100 students and added a portable classroom in the front of the school. They also added a wonderful addition to the student body.

We also welcomed the following new staff members Mrs. St. Gelais & Mrs. St. Jean-Loi in first grade, Mr. Tateosian in fourth grade, Mr. Knott as our music teacher and Mr. Brooks as our physical education teacher.

The 2002/2003 academic year was again devoted to the continuation of the advancement of literacy (the instruction of reading and writing) and math instruction at the school. In literacy we continued our Reading Recovery program while beginning staff training in literacy instruction through our Literacy Specialist. Suzanne Pyszka, who previously taught first grade at the school and trained for a year at Lesley University became our Literacy Specialist. In this role she provided direct training to the staff and services to the children.

In math, we received a grant from the Walker Foundation that will ensure the continuation of professional development for the staff. The focus of this grant is to enhance our skills in the instruction of "Everyday Math" and communicating with the parents and guardians so they better understand the program.

The children who attend the Maple Avenue Elementary School receive a remarkable education experience. We are blessed with a dedicated, committed and professional staff. We are also extremely fortunate to have a caring and supportive community and parent/guardian group known as the PFT (Parent Faculty Together).

I would like to thank our long term PFT President, Kathy Stoye, who is moving on to lead the Mountain View Parent group for all the work she has done for the school. It would be next to impossible to list all the individuals who have made all the successes and happenings at the school possible this year. Let me collectively thank our PFT and its volunteers, the community of Goffstown and public departments, the Superintendent's Office and the students and staff, who all work so hard to make Maple Avenue Elementary School such a special place.

## **MOUNTAIN VIEW MIDDLE**

**ROSE LAROCHELLE-COLBY, Principal**

Communication, curriculum, culture and climate—three areas in which the Mountain View Middle School community has made a strong commitment during the school year. Over one hundred and fifty parents participated in the First Day program at M.V.M.S. this year to welcome our 1075 students (from Goffstown, from New Boston, and from Dunbarton). Through this program, our newsletter and weekly notices customized for individual grade levels, we are able to more effectively communicate with parents and students.

In the area of curriculum, grade seven and eight teachers partnered with Goffstown Area High School ninth and tenth grade teachers in a summer curriculum institute whose goal was to fashion a coordinated curriculum across the four grade levels. Work of the institute continued through the school year in the four content areas to design common assessments based on the curriculum design. In grades five and six, teachers have participated in the district initiative in the Everyday Math program and reading and writing workshop development in Language Arts.

Mr. Fred Deppe, our new Assistant Principal and Ms. Lena Vitagliano our new Special Needs Coordinator, have brought a great deal of experience and expertise to their roles. As a result, Project Second Step, a violence prevention program, has had a genuine positive effect on the culture and climate of our school. Students and staff ‘caught caring’ for each other are recognized in daily announcements and a weekly ceremony. Daily quotes in the morning announcements emphasize one of the ten attributes in the “steps to respect” throughout the year.

This year we chose to celebrate the month of the adolescent in October by celebrating the artistic, creative, and academic achievement of our students. A quiz bowl in each curriculum content area at each grade level followed the weekly art and poetry contests during the month. Thanksgiving brought the first annual Turkey Trot. It was quite a sight to see over eight hundred students, teachers, and parents run or walk the two-mile course.

This year we have been able to offer more opportunities for students to participate in our athletic teams. “B” level teams were added in several sports, expanding the offerings in the popular sports with an emphasis on skill development by students in all grade levels.

As we work to develop smaller learning communities through our commitment to middle level education, Mountain View Middle School will continue to develop our communication, curriculum, and school culture and climate with students, parents, staff, and the greater Goffstown community.

**GOFFSTOWN AREA HIGH**  
**Mark Roth, Principal**

Last year I wrote about the completion of phase one of the building project. In that report there was mention of the new art and cafeteria kitchen, as well as the first floor façade and the gym was rearranged, refurbished and refreshed. Now I can write about the project in its totality. There is a complete change in the space used to teach science, every lab/classroom has been redone with floor to ceiling and wall-to-wall rehab. There are classrooms that have seen paint, new floors and ceilings. There is a SMART room where we can do distance learning, as well as conduct classes, conferences and other technology based teaching and learning opportunities for students and staff, a lecture hall with seating for 72 that will have a large screen and technological capabilities as well. The library has been refurbished and includes a new circulation desk.

The building project was the effort of diverse groups, sometimes with different interests. The community owes a debt of gratitude to the building committee who insured that the project reflected the wishes of the voters in both substance and intent; and the result is a facility that consists of many fine touches that make this a cost effective community resource.

GAHS sports continue to be successful in our transition to Class L competition. The classification committee of the NHIAA has finished its reclassification for the next two years and with over 1200 students GAHS will remain in Class L. Winter track, wrestling, swimming, winter spirit and fall spirit, boys basketball, the alpine ski team, boys soccer, golf, field hockey, softball, outdoor track and field, cross country, and the girls tennis team all participated in NHIAA tournaments. In fact, our girls alpine ski team hosted the Class L meet at Pat's Peak Ski Area, our home course. This year, the hockey team moved into the brand new Sullivan Arena on the campus of St. Anselm College for all of our practices and games. The football team hosted the first annual Thanksgiving Day football game with a victory for the Grizzlies. The baseball team finished the regular season as the top seed and earned a berth in the final four at the state tournament. For the second year, the volleyball team finished first in the sportsmanship balloting in Class L. Our golf team was fortunate this season to have Stonebridge Country Club as their exclusive home for both practices and matches.

This year the Drama Society was dedicated to student involvement, students came together to build sets and design key elements; our spring production's set was a testament of their abilities. The added element this year was student designed blocking, sound, and movement. Our festival show was completely student directed and half the cast received awards for Excellence in Acting. The fall production of *Alice in Wonderland* was a smashing success, our largest audiences ever. The students worked collaboratively to write, block, and costume Lewis Carroll's classic story.

It was an unbelievable accomplishment for the troupe. With four years of training students in the rudiments of theatre, the students successfully used their skills to create and explore together.

The students in the art department have represented our school in many regional exhibitions and competitions during 2003. In January of 2003, 42 student works were selected for the prestigious New Hampshire Scholastic Art Awards Program; 33 students received recognition with 6 receiving Gold Keys and they went on to represent New Hampshire at the national level. In February

12 student works were selected for the State Youth Art Month Exhibition; this exhibition was part of a national program. In March 6 juniors were selected to be part of the New Hampshire Allstate Art Festival; this competitive program is sponsored by the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester. Only 60 students statewide are selected to be part of this annual 2-day experience. Our students had success in numerous other programs. The high school was well represented in the Congressional Art Competition with 4 student works selected. Seth Roma's illustration was selected to grace the cover of the New Hampshire Wildlife Calendar and Sara Richard was also selected to have work included in the calendar. A number of recent graduates have continued their post-secondary education in art and have been awarded significant scholarships. Jackie Baker, a former student, returned as a student teacher in the art program.

The past year ended with some changes in personnel that bear note for the long-term impact they had on the community. They include, Margaret Blair, Ellen Bostwick, Pamela Walker, Jennifer Evans and Peter Allen who were not here this September for the first time in 34 years. These people represented years of teaching in Goffstown and had an impact on parent and child alike. Their contribution to the community and school was inestimable.

The Parent Council group meets monthly and continues to provide a welcome perspective to the principal. We spend our time in discussion about what is working and what is not working at the high school and about the direction the school should be considering. This along with a newly created leadership activity has given the school a new sense of student governance.

As you can see Goffstown Area High School is a vibrant and exciting environment in which to work and learn. There is much going on in classrooms, and in extra and co-curricular activities. This is a facility to be proud of and these are students to feel proud about. There are many exciting and rewarding programs that are the mainstays of this fine school. Ultimately the building is a building and the school is much more.