



*"Towards Excellence"*

# School Committee NEWS

Fall 2004

## School System Administrative Changes by Mary Murray Superintendent of Schools

As a result of the search undertaken this past winter and spring, the Nock Middle School begins this school year with a new principal, Jayne Rotsko. Jayne comes to this role with twenty-six years of experience in education prior to coming to Newburyport as a middle school House Coordinator five years ago. During the move necessitated by the high school construction project, she served as House Coordinator/acting Principal for fifth and sixth grades housed at Nock North. For the last two years she has served as Kelley School Principal and District Title I Director. Jayne is assisted in her role by two House Coordinators. The House Coordinator for Fifth and Sixth Grade, Debra Phinney is not a new face at those grade levels, but is new to the position. Debra taught at the fifth and sixth grade levels at the Nock Middle School for the past eleven years.

Kristina Davis, formerly Director of Curriculum for the school system has taken on the role of Interim Principal at Bresnahan School for this school year. Her appointment to

this position followed an extensive but unsuccessful search for a new principal for the school. Prior to becoming Director of Curriculum, Kristina served as the Middle School's Curriculum and Special Education Coordinator. She also has fifteen years experience in the classroom as a Library Coordinator, Special Education, sixth, fifth and third grade teacher in Newburyport and in Windham, NH.

Colleen Tierney has returned to Newburyport as the interim Director of Curriculum following a seven year absence. For the past seven years Colleen has been working with teachers and administrators across New England, providing training and consultation in curriculum development and instructional strategies and techniques. She will fill the Director of Curriculum's position on an interim basis for this school year.

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## Major Budgetary Effects By Andrea Jones

Due to a request for a level funded budget for the 2004-05 school year, some substantial changes have been implemented throughout the school system. A total of 11 full time equivalent positions were eliminated to a present budget that was a slim \$200,000 above the 2003-04 year, a bare 1% increase in a year where contractual agreements will drive costs up more than 4 %, with utility costs rising, and grant monies decreasing. Several very noticeable and painful changes were implemented.

Increases for both athletic fees and class fees were voted. The Athletic fees will help to maintain Freshman and Junior Varsity sports which would otherwise have fallen to the budget ax. Class fees will continue to help support class activities.

Bus and transportation fees have been implemented to align with state guidelines. Massachusetts' mandates bussing students from more than two miles at grades K through 6. Registration was held this summer and bus routes were developed to support

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## Major Budgetary Effects (con't)

Newburyport Public, Charter and Immaculate Conception Parochial Schools for all children who registered for transportation. Bus fees are applicable for those who live less than two miles from their schools or are in any grade above the sixth. Any family wishing to purchase a bus pass can do so regardless of how close their child is to his or her school. A single Principal will administer the two smaller elementary schools, the Brown and Kelley. A team of administrators, made up of nurses, counselors, and teachers has been assembled by the Superintendent at both of these locations. This team will provide on

site supervision at all times in both schools. The Principal in charge of the Brown and the Kelley, Mike Jacobsen will float between both locations. The Bresnahan School will retain its full time Principal and Assistant Principal, however the assistant will dedicate 20% of his time to Title One duties. There are no supervisory changes in the duties of the Principals, Assistant Principals, and House Head at the Middle or High Schools. There are additions to staff at the High School to provide additional electives such as: Exploring Industrial Technology, Aviation, and Set Construction. These will be taught by the added two full time equivalent employees. This

addresses a concern about High School Electives, which was raised during the budget process by some community members and some City Councilors.

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