



# SCHOOL TALK

This is your staff newsletter. Please send news items to Chris Weeks | [cweeks@sau29.org](mailto:cweeks@sau29.org)

## Dates to Remember:

Feb. 12 – **First Session of the Keene School District Annual Meeting**, 9 a.m., Keene High School auditorium. Only Keene registered voters may attend and vote. It is at this meeting that voters can amend the proposed 2011-2012 budget and other warrant articles. The warrant that results from this meeting becomes the ballot for voters at the polls on Tuesday, March 8. Wards 1, 2 & 3 vote at the Keene Recreation Center, 312 Washington Street, Wards 4 & 5 vote at the First Baptist Church, 105 Maple Avenue.

## KHS

- Jan. 10, 24 & 31 – The National Art Honor Society is hosting Dr. Richard L. and Penelope W. Betz of Hemisphere Antique maps and prints with funding from the Keene Academy Fund's Speakers Series. Adviser Mary Hamilton said, "We will learn about 16th-19th century maps and paint one ourselves." Please visit this website for more information: <http://www.betzmaps.com>. "The cost is \$8 to cover materials and to hold a spot," Hamilton added.
- Jan. 19 – 21- Final exams
- Jan. 22 – KHS Invitational Jazz Festival, 7 p.m., auditorium. Participating bands include St. Joseph Regional School, Keene Middle School, Fall Mountain Regional High School, Conval Regional High School, and Monadnock Regional High School in addition to KHS. Each group will be performing 15 – 20 minutes with a grand finale mass jazz band. KHS band director Eric Anderson said, "It should be loud! The place will be jumping!" Tickets are \$5 for adults, kids under 10 free. Proceeds benefit the Monadnock United Way.
- Feb. 1 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents night in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m. (snow date Feb. 2)
- Feb. 3-5 – NH Jazz All State Music Festival at Windham High School. The following six KHS students were selected by audition to participate: All-State Jazz Band: John McStravick, trombone; All-State Honors Jazz Choir, Maxwell Carmel, tenor; and John Whippie, bass; All-Ste Jazz Choir: Tama Teitelman, alto and Cody Hall, tenor, Peter Hiebert, bass.
- Feb. 5 – Sadie Hawkins Dance from 7 – 11 in the café at KHS

## KMS

- Jan. 21 – Spelling Bee
- Jan. 22 – KMS Jazz Band performs at KHS Jazz invitational at 7 p.m., KHS auditorium
- Jan. 27 – KMS Jazz Band concert at 7 p.m. in the KMS auditorium  
Congratulations to Evan Twarog, Delaney Bilodeau, Madeline Hubbard, and Abby Thornton for being accepted to the New Hampshire Middle School Honor Band Festival in March.
- Jan. 28 – NAEP Testing Grade 8
- WordMasters: Mary Lou Alther reports, "The results from the first round of the WordMasters competition went very well. One-seventh grade student, Canyon Foot, recently won highest honors in the difficult Blue Division of the challenge. Canyon received a perfect score in Round 1 and was one of only 120 students nationwide to do so. WordMasters indicates that any score of 15 or greater per student is impressive. ALL students placing in the KMS WordMasters Challenge achieved a score of 17 or higher. These students in grade 6 were: Dylan Glover, Megan Scholz, Bo Drake Deese, Kyle Sholz, Olivia Guerriero, Eli Browning, Keagen Snowden, Dan Willis, Kristie Martin, Jonathan Allard. Students placing in Grade 7 include: Canyon Foot, Anna Hubbard, Sawyer Hall, Jamie West, Cooper Hall, Bennett Allen, Dan Glover, Reilly Sullivan, John Michael Chase, Nik Champney. Students were coached by Grade 6 and Grade 7 teachers: Joanna Schinler (Gr. 6 English), Eric Stinebring (Gr. 6 English), Patricia Campbell (Gr. 7 English) and John McMahon (Gr. 7 English). The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking that encourages students to become familiar with words (considerably more difficult than grade level) and challenges students to use them to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical

relationships. WordMasters is a national language arts competition entered by approximately 220,000 students annually, which consists of three separate meets held at intervals during the school year. KMS is beginning to prepare students for the 2nd round - which will take place in Feb.

- The KMS Evolution Dance Team will be performing in the MOCO Arts Winter Hip Hop Night on January 22, at 6p.m. at MOCO Arts on Railroad Street in Keene. Guidance Counselor Wendi Campbell facilitates this club.

## Daniels

- Jan. 19 – Guiding Good Choices (Parenting Program)
- Jan. 20 – Math Beyond The Dots - Kim and Reggie Harris Perform Underground Railroad Songs
- Jan. 26 – Guiding Good Choices (Parenting Program)
- Jan. 27 – Math Beyond The Dots
- Jan. 28 – Project Eye-To-Eye
- Feb. 02 – Guiding Good Choices (Parenting Program)
- Feb. 03 – Math Beyond The Dots
- Feb. 04 – Project Eye-To- Eye
- Feb. 07 – Elf Training/Owls: Silent Predators of the Night

## Franklin

- Jan. 24 – Gr. 3 Bully Proof program
- Jan. 25 - Student Council/Basketball Intramurals
- Jan. 26 - Math Beyond the Dots/Gr. 2 & 4 Bully Proof program
- Jan. 31 – Feb. 4 - Gr. 5 to Nature's Classroom
- Jan. 31 - Gr. 3 Bully Proof program/Gr. 4 to Stonewall Farm
- Feb. 1 - Student Council/Basketball Intramurals
- Feb. 2 - Math Beyond the Dots/Tutor training/Gr. 2-4 Bully Proof Program
- Feb. 4 - Cabin Fever Night
- Feb. 7 - Gr. 3 Bully Proof program
- Feb. 8 - Popcorn/Pencil sale/Student Council/Basketball Intramurals

## Fuller

- Jan 19 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Jan 21 - Assembly
- Jan 26 - Math beyond the Dots
- Feb 2 - Math Beyond the Dots
- Feb. 7 - The Vermont Institute of National Sciences will present am ELF (Environmental Learning for the Future) program to all students featuring two live owls.

## Symonds

- Jan. 19 - After school Guitar Club/PTA Meeting at 7 p.m.
- Jan. 21 - After school Ski Club at Granite Gorge
- Jan. 25 – After school Chess Club
- Jan. 26 - Day One Assembly/Afterschool Guitar Club
- Jan. 28 – After school Ski Club
- Feb. 1st - After school Chess Club
- Feb. 4th - After school Ski Club

## Wheelock

- Jan.19 – Math Beyond the Dot's/Wednesday Assembly/ Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Jan.21 - Mr. Singer of KMS visits 5th grade
- Jan.25 – Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Jan.26 - Math Beyond the Dot's/Wednesday Assembly/Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Jan.31 – Feb. 4 - Grade 5 at Nature's Classroom with Franklin School
- Feb. 1 - Grade 1 visits Stonewall Farm/Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Feb. 2- Math Beyond the Dot's/Wednesday Assembly/ Big Brothers/Big Sisters PTA meeting at 6:15 p.m. with KMS Parent Group

*The mission of the Keene School District is to provide students with the tools to become productive and responsible citizens in an ever-changing world.*



# BOARD NOTES

Informational Bulletin from the Superintendent's Office | [cweeks@sau29.org](mailto:cweeks@sau29.org)

## Just a Handful of Citizens Turn Out for KSD Public Hearing

Not counting school and board personnel, just four citizens turned out last night for the public hearing on the Keene School District Warrant, which includes the proposed \$61.17 million budget, labor agreements with the district's teachers and paraprofessionals, and articles dealing with the sale of the current middle school and SAU administrative offices at 34 West Street. The hearing lasted less than an hour and there was only one question about enrollments. After the hearing the board reconvened its meeting and approved the \$61,166,567 budget as presented. The budget and the 9 other articles on the warrant will now move on to the First Session of the Annual Keene School District Meeting on Saturday February 12, 2011 at 9 a.m. in the KHS auditorium. Only Keene voters will be able to attend and vote. It is at this meeting that voters can amend the budget and other warrant articles.

## Proposed Budget Highlights

Voter approved 2010-11 budget	\$60,585,464
Proposed 2011-12 budget	<u>\$61,166,567</u>
Net increase	\$ 581,103 (+ 0.96%)

## Major Budget Decreases

- \$1.1 million reduction in special education budget primarily due to fewer out-of-district placements
- \$260,000 reduction in staff early retirement stipends

## Major Budget Increases

- \$791,579 net debt service increase (all middle school)
- \$301,152 increase in NH retirement contribution
- \$194,367 in salary and benefits for 3 special education teachers in autism programs at KMS and KHS who were previously funded under a federal grant
- \$95,961 to restore a 5<sup>th</sup> elementary principal
- \$85,000 for Gifted & Talented K-8 initiative
- \$24,067 increase in student transportation

## Negative Impact on Property Taxes

Budget \$61,166,567 - 0.96 % - 92¢ - 0.06 %

## KEA Highlights

- 3-year agreement with district's 359 classroom teachers, specialists and nurses

### • Compensation

- Year 1** - Salary increase of 1.63% (Total compensation up 1.45% - health insurance contribution level funded)
- Year 2** - Salary increase of 2.52% (Total compensation up 1.63% due to increased employee health contribution)
- Year 3** - Salary increase of 2.30% (Total compensation up 1.94% due to increased employee health contribution)

### Health Insurance

**Year 1** – KSD & KEA Contributions stay the same

JW	80%/20%
POS	85%/15%
HMO 1	85%/15%
HMO 2	90%/10%
C2500	90%/10%

**Year 2** - KEA Contributions increase on current plans

JW	78%/22%
POS	83%/17%
HMO 1	83%/17%
HMO 2	90%/10%
C2500	90%/10%

**Year 3** - KEA Contributions increase on current plans

JW	75%/25%
POS	82%/18%
HMO 1	82%/18%
HMO 2	90%/10%
C2500	90%/10%

### Other provisions:

- **Workshop days** reduced from 10 to 6
- **Employment incentives:**

**1. Student loan repayment fund** up \$2,000 each year of the agreement

Year 1 to \$32,000

Year 2 to \$34,000

Year 3 to \$36,000

**2. Tuition reimbursement fund** up

Year 1 to \$45,000

Year 2 to \$47,000

Year 3 to \$50,000

**Funding the KEA agreement will require a 2011 - 2012 budget increase of \$382,558 with a Tax Impact of \$20.11 increase on a \$100,000 House**

## Highlights of Para Agreement

- 4-year agreement with district's 101 Paraprofessionals, which is divided into 3 broad categories

-75 instructional Paras who provide direct classroom support primarily in reading and math

-10 non-instructional Paras including KHS hall monitors, preschool and elementary school office aides

-16 Specialists including computer technicians, truant officer, in-school suspension monitor, COTA (certified occupational therapy aides), LPN (licensed practical nurse)

The vast majority of Paras work just the school year and their average salary is \$23,740

Of the entire group 16 Paras are paid under a Title 1 federal grant at no cost to district

### Salary

**Year 1** - Total compensation of salary & benefits up 2% (3.79% avg. salary increase offset by increased employee health contribution) For the average para that means 50¢ more an hour

**Year 2** - Total compensation of salary & benefits up 2% (3.72% avg. salary increase offset by increased employee health contribution)

**Year 3** - Total compensation of salary & benefits up 2% (3.65% avg. salary increase offset by increased employee health contribution)

**Year 4** - Total compensation of salary & benefits up 2% (3.64% avg. salary increase offset by increased employee health contribution)

### Health Insurance (HMO1 driver toward POS, HMO 1 & 2, C2500)

**Year 1** - Employee contribution increases from 5 % to 7½ % of HMO 1

**Year 2** - Employee contribution increases from 7½% to 10 % of HMO 1

**Year 3** - Employee contribution increases from 10 % to 12½ % of HMO 1

**Year 4** - Employee contribution increases from 12½ % to 15 % of HMO 1

### Employment incentives:

- **Tuition reimbursement fund** increases:

Year 1 - \$16,000 (up \$1,525)

Year 2 - \$17,500 (up \$1,500)

Year 3 - \$19,000 (up \$1,500)

Year 4 - \$20,500 (up \$1,500)

• For the 10 employees who do not receive benefits but work between 990 – 1199 hours annually the agreement increases:

– Paid holidays to 5 days in Year 1 and to 6 days in Years 2 – 4

– Paid sick days to 7 in Years 3 & 4

**Total budget increase of \$66,150 in 2011 – 2012 to fund Para Agreement with a Property Tax Impact of \$3.48 on a \$100,000 House**

**TOTAL Impact on Taxes of Budget, KEA and Para + \$22.67 on a \$100,000 home**

*The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Keene Board of Education will be held on Tuesday February 8, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the LGIA at KHS.*