



NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT 29

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Wayne E. Woolridge
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September 20, 2011

William B. Gurney
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope that your children have had a successful start to the school year.

Catherine Woods
Director of Special Education
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As you likely know, the Elementary Ad Hoc Advisory Committee worked for more than a year to develop and vet clear recommendations that would reduce costs while ensuring that our first priority remains the quality education Keene residents have come to expect. The committee members used a thorough facilities study completed by Marinace Architects to guide the recommendation process. The committee also sponsored eight community forums. The Marinace report is available on our website: <http://www.sau29.org/keenedistrict27.html>.

Paul R. Cooper
Director of Human Resources
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Based on the recommendation by the Elementary Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, with consideration given to the feedback received at the forums, the Keene School Board voted in August to move from five to four elementary schools. One school will be PreK-1, one school will be K-1, and two schools will be for grades 2-5.

Meredith C. Cargill
Director of Curriculum &
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On **November 22**, the administration will hold a community forum in the Keene High School Auditorium. The forum will begin with an informational presentation regarding the proposed grade span changes and will include the four schools to be reconfigured. This public forum is scheduled to be televised on Cheshire TV Channel 8.

John R. Harper
Business Administrator
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Following the December Board meeting, an Implementation Task Force will be formed. The Task Force will be charged with writing an implementation plan that will include detailed facility renovation plans, attendance lines, bus routes, PTO group configurations, and assignment of personnel. The recommended implementation plan will be presented to the Keene Board in **October of 2012**. A 60% majority vote will be needed in **March of 2013** in order to fund the bonds necessary for the renovations. The building renovations would begin during the summer of 2013 and take two summers to complete. The renovated schools would be ready for the start of the 2014-2015 school year.

Timothy L. Ruehr
Business Administrator - Towns
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Mustafa Zwebti
Director of Technology
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There are several reasons that make this timetable desirable. First, by March of 2013 we will have a clear renovation plan necessary for Keene residents to have the information they need to vote on the bond and to build the consensus needed among parents and the community. Second, we should know by the time of the March 2013 vote if state building aid will be reinstated for new projects. (The Keene Middle School project received a 58% reimbursement from the state. Currently a moratorium exists on building aid.)

To ensure that parents will be part of the process, I will be meeting with the presidents of all elementary Parent Teacher Organizations. I hope you will feel free to approach them with your questions. Following you will find the email address for each PTO president:

Jonathan Daniels: Becky Russell (rrussell@ne.rr.com)
Franklin: Beth Zinn (franklinptc@gmail.com)
Fuller: Kirsten Smith (kfsmith@ne.rr.com)
Symonds: Marty Hennem (hennem@ne.rr.com)
Wheelock: Beth Truman (taylorismommal@mac.com)

The Board and the administration are committed to keeping you informed of the process as we move forward.

Sincerely yours,



Wayne E. Woolridge
Co-Superintendent