



Hopkinton School District

March 2006

Reaching for Global Understanding



The group of Hopkinton students and chaperones that went to Honduras this year include: Mary Harb, Sandra Burney, Gery Blue, Pete Powers, Donna Harris, Beth Moore, Rick Murphy, Brian Stevens. Interact students: Elyssa Bairstow, Alison Bartlett, Deacon Blue, Erin Borges, Sara Crane, Patty Dawson, Hollis Gesen, Julia Lynch, Maureen McAuliffe, Doug Meyer, Nate Mosseau, Julia Murphy, Kristen Murphy, Rohan Nobis, Julianne Power. (Photo courtesy of Mary Harb)

Sixteen Hopkinton High School students and six advisors from our school and community recently returned from ten days in Triunfo de la Cruz, Honduras, a village of approximately 600, on the northern coast of Honduras. The community, one of the poorest in the country, is the adopted village of Hopkinton High School's Interact Club. Over the past three years, Hopkinton students and chaperones have joined with Rotarians from Hopkinton to assist the adults and youth of this struggling community in renovating and expanding their eighteen classroom school. The mission and standing commitment of Hopkinton has made a significant difference in the childrens' education in this poor community. Each year the students and adults participating in this project have returned with a greater sense of the global challenge for less fortunate youth and their communities and have a great sense of satisfaction in having made a difference for the adults and youth of Triunfo de la Cruz. This effort would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of Mary Harb, Hopkinton High School Interact Club Advisor. Through the leadership of Pete Powers, the Hopkinton Rotary Club continues to be a generous support for this ongoing effort.

Inside

The School Board recommended 2006-2007 Budget information and Warrant Articles explained pg 2-4

Student Services p 4

School Highlights p 5

Technology p 6

This recent opportunity is one example of the District's teachers and administrators efforts to expand our students understanding of other cultures.

Ongoing programs include the German and French Student Exchanges and the Foreign Language Department trips to Costa Rica and Canada. All of these programs are funded through student and community organizations.

Hopkinton School District 2006-2007 Budget



The Hopkinton School Board and District Leadership Team have conscientiously deliberated in the creation of the 2006-2007 District Budget as represented in the following warrant articles. This zero-based budgeting process has resulted in a budget that maintains the District's current profile in staff and curricular and co-curricular programs. No additional personnel or programs were considered. For further information on the 2006-2007 budget, please refer to the School District website at www.hopkintonschools.org.

Warrant Article #3 **2006-2007 Operational Budget - \$13,973,897**

Below is a list of significant increases and decreases in the proposed 2006-2007 Hopkinton School District operating budget.

2005-2006 Operational Budget	\$13,248,295
*Salary increase for non-union staff	\$28,570
*Special Education costs	\$178,905
*Benefit increases	\$203,848
*SAP Coordinator	\$19,500
*Energy Increases	\$87,564
*Federal Projects and Other Grants/Special Revenue	\$165,295
*Drivers Education	\$68,228
*Vocational Education increase by CSD	\$1,250
*Greater utilization of 22 passenger bus	(\$10,080)
*NEASC accreditation completion	(\$17,478)
2006-2007 Proposed Budget	\$13,973,897
Increase in operating budget from last year is 5.48%	\$725,602
If all warrant articles pass, the budget will increase another 2.91%	\$406,181

The Town Budget Committee has recommended a Budget of \$13,673,897

Warrant Article #2 **Teachers contract increase - \$327,983**

Increase for salaries and benefits over the next 3 years with our current staff would be:

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Negotiated base salary increase	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%
Net contract increase to Budget	\$327,983	\$290,700	\$296,243

Warrant Article #4

Support Staff contract increase - \$92,076

Increase for salaries and benefits over the next 3 years with current staff would be:

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Negotiated base salary increase	3.25%	3.25%	3.25%
Net contract increase to Budget	\$92,076	\$70,764	\$86,428

Warrant Article #6

Custodians contract increase - \$22,642

Increase for salaries and benefits over the next 3 years with our current staff would be:

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Negotiated Increase to base	5%	5%	5%
Net contract increase to Budget	\$22,642	\$10,110	\$18,687

Warrant Article #9

Contingency Fund - \$50,000

This allows funds to be set aside to meet unexpected emergency costs that arise during the year.

Warrant Article #10

Withdrawal from School Building Repair & Maintenance Trust Fund - \$55,950

The following items are anticipated expenditures:

Harold Martin School

*Replace two network switches	\$7,000
*Replace 20 year-old electric stove	\$4,000
*Replace 20 year-old double steamer	\$9,000
*Replace 18 year-old warmer (kitchen)	\$1,500

Maple Street School

*Replace classroom desks and chairs	\$3,500
*Replace 2 damaged cafeteria tables	\$2,500
*Replace 25 year-old 3 door refrigerator	\$3,500
*Replace 18 year-old warmer (kitchen)	\$1,500

Hopkinton Middle/High School

*Pads for the gym walls	\$3,950
*Handicap accessible doors for Library and Auditorium	\$5,000
*Replace 18 year-old warmer	\$1,500
*Install parking lot cameras	\$5,000
*Security locks for classroom doors	\$8,000

Total \$55,950



Warrant Article #11

Deposit to School Building Repair & Maintenance Trust Fund - \$50,000

This will maintain a favorable trust fund balance to meet unanticipated facility needs and fund building repairs and replacement of equipment in accordance with the District's Capital Improvement Plan.

Warrant Article #12

Deposit to Special Education Trust Fund - \$50,000

This will continue the process of setting aside funds to assist with unanticipated costs related to Special Education. The District's goal is to set aside funds annually until there is a balance of at least \$150,000.

The Hopkinton School Board encourages your participation in the annual meeting on March 18, 2006 - every vote will be critical in determining the operating budget for our schools.

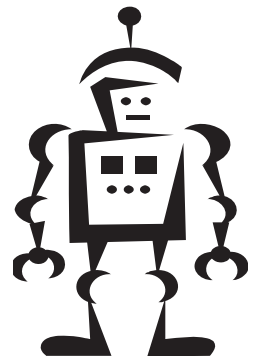
Student Services

This year the Hopkinton School District is participating in the New Hampshire Department of Education Program Approval Process for Special Education. In April, the District will host a visiting team for an onsite evaluation that will include a review of related policies, programs and procedures in Special Education. In preparation for the onsite, a parent survey was conducted which has indicated an overall favorable rating for the District's programs and instruction for students with learning difficulties. In addition, two parent forums will be held in spring 2006. The first forum entitled "Life after High School" will present post-secondary options and supports for secondary students. The second forum will be on "Promoting Positive Behaviors for Elementary Students." Both forums are open to all parents.

Overall, the Hopkinton Schools have been well prepared for the Program Approval Process because of the proactive nature of programs already put into place across the District. The District's current special education population continues to be consistent with the state average of 14%. By identifying and addressing student needs early in-district, we are able to minimize future difficulties and long-term costs. The reauthorization of the IDEA in 2004 has emphasized the need for all students to have access to the general curriculum and has encouraged integration of regular and special education programs. In keeping with this spirit of collaboration, this year Hopkinton teachers and special educators have participated together in a series of workshops focused on literacy instruction funded through a Sliver Grant from the NH Department of Education.

US First

Through a connection developed by participation in Project Lead the Way, Hopkinton High School has joined forces with John Stark High School to create the "Tin Man", a robot entered in the 2006 US FIRST competition. Thirty students, approximately 15 from each school, have worked together for the last six weeks designing, fabricating, assembling and reassembling the "Tin Man." It is exciting to see our goal of having a US FIRST Team become a reality. At the recent New Hampshire competition, our team was recognized as the "Rookie All-Star Team" and, as such, will be competing in the U.S. First Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia, in mid April. Teamwork was an important part of the selection criteria for this award.



2005-2006 HIGHLIGHTS

Harold Martin School

*Teachers are utilizing the new Techpaths Curriculum mapping software .

*Many teachers participated in the Understanding By Design graduate course.

*The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) computerized test was used for the first time.

*Digital Portfolio Initiative implemented to archive student work.

*Committees for full-day Kindergarten and for examining the need for growth of the physical plant were formed.

*Volunteer run "Reaching For The Stars" after school enrichment program serves upwards of 130 students.

*Blue Ribbon Award for volunteer excellence received from the New Hampshire Partners in Education.

*Artist in Residence, sculptor Emile Birch, is working with HMS students to construct a concrete sign for our property.

*New Hampshire author Marty Kelly was our author in residence and he inspired us with demonstrations of how he goes from story idea to publishing.

*Coffee with Carozza

Maple Street School

*Realignment of Social Studies and Science curricula to meet new State expectations.

*The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) computerized test was used for the first time.

*Digital Portfolio Initiative implemented to archive student work.

*TechPaths Curriculum-mapping Software utilized by teachers.

*Internet Safety Course was added to Life Skills curriculum.

*"Opening Doors" program created through community partnerships.

*Artist-in-residence, Emile Birch, is working with students to design sculptures for the MSS playground

*Volunteer run "Expanding Horizons" enrichment program is in its second year providing opportunities for 60+ children.

*Literacy Lunch during March and April will give students the opportunity to hear the "Great Stone Face" books read aloud to them by volunteers.

*Legal Eagles class won the New Hampshire Bar Association's Mock Trial competition.

*Received the Partners in Education "Blue Ribbon" award for volunteerism.

Middle High School

*Nationally recognized as a NCLB Blue Ribbon School for consistent excellence in academic performance.

*Teachers and students recognized for excellence -- Treat Award nomination, NH "Edy" Award winner and Presidential Scholars are just a few of the examples.

*Hosted New Hampshire's Executive Council meeting on Governor John Lynch Day.

*Students performed thousands of hours of voluntary community service both locally and globally.

*Increased student and staff safety by installing classroom door locks and discreet panic alarms.

*Established Federal Challenge as a credit-bearing course in conjunction with the national Fed Challenge competition.

*Students raised thousands of dollars to support programs, athletic teams, and clubs, as well as our student support fund.

*Our students participated in the French Exchange, German Exchange as well as a cultural visitation to Puerto Rico. The school community hosted exchange students from Russia, Venezuela, Egypt, Indonesia, and Germany.

DISTRICT CURRICULUM INITIATIVES

(The following curricular programs are being considered within the current program and staff profile)

- * Comprehensive Guidance Curriculum
- * Restructuring of Social Studies to include World History Instruction Gr. 8
- * U. S. History Course for 9th and 10th Grades
- * Integrated Middle and High School Science Curriculum
- *Development of Interactive Web-based District Curriculum Information
- *Creation of Digital Student Portfolios
- *Single-gender High School Physical Education Course
- * Senior Seminar in Civic Education

Technology Update

District-wide we have been using two new solutions to digitize our curriculum: TechPaths and CurriculumMaker. Creating digital access to curriculum allows teachers and administrators to view curriculum comprehensively, to access nationwide resources to enhance curriculum development, and to plan effectively for a variety of instructional and assessment strategies. This tool supports our efforts to provide a seamless curriculum PK-12.

A pilot project of digital portfolio creation has been successfully growing at HMS and MSS, with teachers learning how to create and archive student work digitally. As we have looked at our assessment strategies, it has become clear that the use of digital portfolios creates an easy-to-access, comprehensive overview of student work. This kind of overview will assist teachers with understanding a student's academic history, strengths, and areas of need. Additionally, as this project grows, students will become active participants in creating and accessing their own digital portfolios, encouraging all students to learn about their own academic strengths and areas of need.

We have replaced an aging server in our financial system which has brought added functionality to our systems, supporting efficient work flow for our administrative office. This year has been our first year to fully implement our NWEA testing done via computers. The immediacy of availability of these test results has been helping to drive instruction, as teachers are able to quickly and specifically target individual students' areas of need based on comprehensive test results.

A focus on internet safety has resulted in classes being taught to all 4th and 6th graders this year on how to remain safe online. At HMHS, Detective Jim McLaughlin from Keene was featured as a speaker on internet safety for students and parents during the fall of 2005.

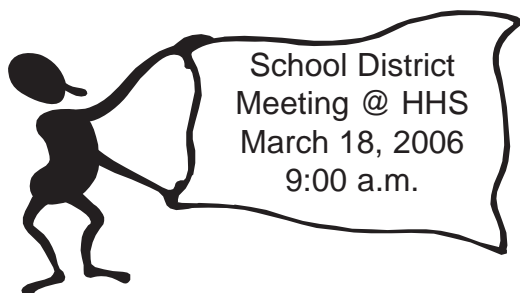
With new state requirements for reporting of data, and new state technology standards for students, we have begun looking at our internal data systems to support the most efficient organization of data for storage, access and reporting. As we move forward, new software and hardware systems to support the new requirements will be reviewed.

A Note from the School Board Chair

On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank Dr. Ayers for the service, leadership, and vision that he has provided the District during his nine year tenure. There is no doubt that he has helped us advance as a District in terms of both educational quality and operational efficiencies. Educators across New Hampshire today look to Hopkinton as being in a leadership position, and we wish to recognize Dr. Ayers' pivotal role in advancing us to this point.

Thank you, Dick. We wish you well in your future endeavors.

Larry Donahue



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