

Hampton Falls School District News

2010-2011 School Year
September-October 2010

School Board Goals

At the July board meeting, the Hampton Falls School Board adopted three goals for the upcoming school year. While developing the goals, the Board considered the feedback that was provided during the community and staff focus groups held as part of the hiring process for the principal position.

Both the community and LAS staff were interested in ensuring that the students in Hampton Falls had a safe and effective building space that supported the instructional programs offered. In response to this common desire the Board intends to *develop a plan of action to resolve issues such as the status of the Kensington Road property, the space issues within the school building and formalizing a Capital Improvement Plan.*

The second goal is to *complete a systematic analysis of all programs in relation to student needs and growth.* Many people provided feedback to the Board that they would like to be sure that the programs offered at LAS are meeting the needs of all students at every level of learning. The information gathered will help evaluate the effectiveness of our current programs and will assist the staff in program development going forward.

The Board is committed to providing accurate and timely information to the Hampton Falls community. The third goal was developed to facilitate this process. During the school year, the Board will *conduct an agenda audit and administrative process review* to look at the effectiveness of the format of the Board agenda and the process used to develop the agendas and make them available to the public.

A Note from the Principal

Last spring I was honored to be named the new principal of the Lincoln Akerman School. I would like to share some of my impressions of

both the school and this community since my arrival in late June.

I would be remiss if I didn't publically acknowledge the efforts, over many years, of my predecessor Judy Deshaies. It is clear to me that Judy was devoted to the students, parents and staff of this school and much of the credit for the amazingly positive reputation of Lincoln Akerman can be attributed to Judy's efforts. It is also important to note that she was most generous and gracious in assisting me with my transition into LAS.

As mentioned, LAS is held in very high regard throughout the region and is considered an outstanding educational institution. I see the staff here as a talented, committed group who maintain a genuinely positive, optimistic outlook toward their students and their profession. It is particularly pleasing to observe their willingness to commit to their continued growth as educators and interest in embracing new concepts and techniques to improve their instructional delivery to students.

The Lincoln Akerman parents are unique in their level of involvement with the school as well as their strong support for the students and programs. They hold high aspirations for their children and advocate for the school to have the means and motivation to facilitate the acquisition of all students' goals. The LAS PTO is a strong, generous organization that seeks to enhance the environment of LAS in a very positive manner as well as aiding the school in acquiring programs and materials that cannot be extracted from the operating budget. Their tireless work over the course of the year, sponsoring a wide variety of events, adds tremendously to the excitement and culture of this institution.

The Hampton Falls community can be very proud of the students that attend Lincoln Akerman. They are an inquisitive, energetic group that performs strongly in their academic endeavors, are committed to setting appropriate, productive long-range goals and contribute to a school atmosphere

that is open, compassionate and accepting. Even in my short time here at LAS it is clear to me that the students are on the road to becoming the type of engaged citizens we know will serve themselves, their families and their community admirably.

Finally, while my vision has been rather short term in duration, I do see an involved community, aligned with the core values and principles of this school. Through a volunteer Facilities Committee, I have witnessed evidence of enormous energy and commitment focused on making recommendations to the Hampton Falls School Board regarding the state of the LAS physical plant and the disposition of the adjacent Merrill property. The work this group has completed would, in other communities, cost large sums of money but this group, its community spirit in full display, has diligently worked to provide cogent, well-considered information to this process. I am told that this type of active citizenry is not unusual in Hampton Falls and it is exciting to be connected to a community with this level of involvement.

The Newest Member of the LAS Teaching Staff

Lincoln Akerman welcomes Kelly Trottier to the staff beginning this fall. Kelly will become the new 5th grade teacher at LAS. She comes to LAS after spending four years at the Bakie School in Kingston, NH where she serve as both a 4th and 5th grade teacher. Kelly received both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the University of New Hampshire and comes with the full endorsement and positive recommendation of the LAS Screening Team.

Welcome Kelly to Hampton Falls and Lincoln Akerman School!



Technology Changes at LAS and Room Changes for LAS Music and Mr. Cutting's 4th Grade

Space for programs and classrooms is an on-going challenge at LAS. Every available inch of space is being utilized for classrooms, labs, resource centers, storage and necessary office space. Looking to move to a different delivery model, the LAS Technology Program will become much more mobile and change from being anchored to a lab to becoming more focused on consulting with classroom teachers and delivering its curriculum and educational experiences within classrooms. As part of that change, LAS will be looking to add significantly to its availability of laptops for students, giving both students and teachers an increased opportunity to utilize technology as an important component to daily/weekly instructional practices. The old LAS Computer Lab has been dismantled and that space will now be used to house the LAS Music Program. Mr. Cutting's 4th grade, last year housed within the LAS Library, will move into the classroom that has previously been used for music in the original wing of the building. All of these changes have been made with consideration of what serves the students of LAS best.

Current Hampton Falls School Board Members

Ellen Christo, Chairwoman	echristo@sau21.org
Thomas Baker	tbaker@sau21.org
Robin Moyer Ratigan	rratigan@sau21.org
Wayne Skoglund	wskoglund@sau21.org
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The Hampton Falls School Board usually meets on the first Thursday of each month. Hampton Falls residents are encouraged to attend meetings. Information about meeting dates and times, agendas and minutes are available on line at www.sau21.org.