

# SAU #71 M E M O 4

To: Goshen-Lempster School Community

From: Michele Munson, Superintendent SAU #71

January 5, 2010

Wishing you and your families a happy, safe, and productive new year!

During my fifty days working in the Goshen-Lempster Cooperative School District, I have had the opportunity to meet and to listen to many parents, teachers, staff, and community members, as well as school board members. During these meetings, everyone's main concern has been how we could make the school and the educational opportunity we offer, better for our students.

In that brief amount of time, I have had the opportunity to:

- observe the commitment of our staff to provide a well-rounded educational experience for our students;
- work alongside teachers who spent vacation time learning about ways to update their instruction to increase student achievement;
- see administrators and teachers work to solve the numerous challenges faced by our students and their families; and
- see the concern that parents have for their children.

The Goshen-Lempster School Board has several goals for this year- increase student achievement to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress, align curriculum to state standards, reassess support programs, update school website, develop a comprehensive technology plan, and develop a five year Capital Improvement Plan.

Efforts toward achieving these goals are underway with the work of the development of the Corrective Action School Improvement Committee (CASIC) and our memorandum of Agreement with the NH Department of Education, NWEA Assessment Program, and the community support for our review of building needs. *(Community members interested in being on the School Improvement Committee are invited to the next meeting on Monday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m.)*

Creating a budget to support the school is an annual concern, especially during this time of economic recession. The G-L School Board (GLSB) will begin reviewing the 2010-2011 budget at their meeting on January 5, 2010. They encourage community members to attend with any questions or concerns.

The concern for presenting an acceptable budget prompted review of the high school tuition policy due to a 23% increase in tuition to Newport High School. A special public hearing on a policy change was held on December 16. Approximately 60 parents, students, and concerned community members came with questions based on communication, implications, and next steps. Based upon the public input, the GLSB will not be taking any action on the tuition policy at this time.

As many of you are aware, Mr. Fitzgerald will not be returning to the Goshen-Lempster Coop. School next year. I am looking for community members to be on a principal search committee that will meet one to three times after January 15. Please contact Ms. Cross at 863-2420 if you want to be on that committee. If you would like to be involved, but do not have time to be on a committee, please send me any suggestions you may have for qualities you would like to see in a new principal at 863-2420 extension - 124 or [mmunson@gl.k12.nh.us](mailto:mmunson@gl.k12.nh.us).