

**RSU #16 School Board**  
**Operations Report**  
 John Hawley, Director of Operations  
 February 2018

**FACILITIES**

- Elm Street School continues to experience a periodic and strong sewerage smell in their building. We have made many attempts to fix this problem, spoken with many plumbers, the sanitary district and engineers to help resolve this issue. It continues to elude all of us. We continue to explore other options that have not been previously tried.
- Winter storms (and the windstorm in October) have caused us to use up all of our five allotted storms days at this point. The snow removal and treatments of surfaces have kept our crews busy, which can be challenging at times. We have one sanding unit that has been out of service for most of the season and one of the other two remaining has been unreliable and breaks down frequently. Financially, the plowing/snow removal budgets have been 24% expended. Gary, Tony and Tom have been taking care of the majority of the surface treatments, but the number of hours spent after regular working hours, (nights, weekends, and holidays) has not been calculated to date. Those hours are anticipated to be quite high.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT**

See the recommended funding schedule that I proposed in the memo to the Superintendent. At this point, there is not any new progress on the project as we are timing the architectural work to align with funding availability.

**FOOD SERVICE**

**Food Service - Meal Debt**

| <i>Month</i>  | <b>Total Owed</b> | <b>Total Accts.</b> | <b>PRHS</b> | <b>Accts</b> | <b>WMS</b> | <b>Accts</b> | <b>ESS</b> | <b>Acct<br/>s</b> | <b>MCS</b> | <b>Acct<br/>s</b> | <b>PCS</b> | <b>Accts</b> |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| <i>Aug-17</i> | \$23,143          | 391                 | \$7,250     | 103          | \$3,478    | 56           | \$6,674    | 62                | \$2,108    | 75                | \$3,633    | 95           |
| <i>Sep-17</i> | \$27,082          | 470                 | \$7,445     | 93           | \$4,088    | 59           | \$7,899    | 87                | \$2,579    | 82                | \$5,151    | 149          |
| <i>Oct-17</i> | \$26,635          | 430                 | \$7,258     | 111          | \$4,330    | 46           | \$7,764    | 89                | \$2,581    | 65                | \$4,702    | 119          |
| <i>Nov-17</i> | \$31,783          | 497                 | \$8,194     | 125          | \$4,611    | 60           | \$8,751    | 92                | \$3,638    | 83                | \$6,589    | 137          |
| <i>Dec-17</i> | \$40,492          | 678                 | \$10,491    | 150          | \$5,338    | 79           | \$10,082   | 114               | \$5,001    | 121               | \$9,580    | 214          |
| <i>Jan-18</i> | \$40,616          | 583                 | \$10,786    | 126          | \$5,453    | 64           | \$9,718    | 106               | \$4,874    | 104               | \$9,785    | 183          |

- After what appeared to be an alarming rate of inclining meal debt through December, the holidays have now passed and more people are settling their meal account balances. However, the amount of money that continues to grow in the accounts that folks are not paying on outweighs the declining number of accounts with owed balances.
- Food service meal debt has been in the headlines recently as the Maine Legislators have begun discussions of how to help school districts deal with this nationwide issue of nonpayment. This will be interesting to watch as it develops in August, because the biggest question is who is going to pay for any proposed ruling. An unfortunate culture of ignoring the financial responsibility for student’s meals continues to grow not only here in RSU 16 but in every other school district, as well. This puts an economic strain on the food service department because they rely on meal purchase revenue for operational funding.
- A new breakfast cart that was obtained from a grant has been put in service at Elm Street School. The new cart is being used to offer breakfast items to ensure kids who have come to school without eating breakfast have a chance

to do so. These grab-n-go choices are to entice those kids who may not be willing to go to the cafeteria for breakfast.

- The food service position at the high school/middle school has been filled. We are currently up to full staff, but are always looking for substitutes. We currently do not have any available to us at this time.