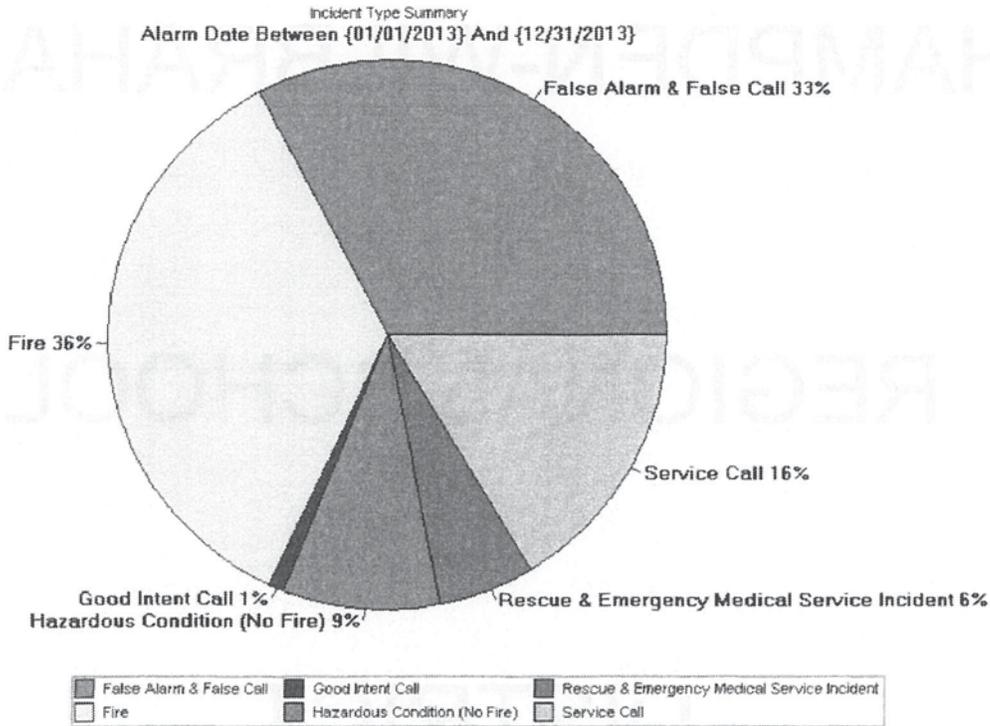


HAMPDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 2013, the Hampden Volunteer Fire Department responded to 111 calls. We report each call electronically to the National and Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System utilizing the following categories for calls and the breakdown is as follows:



Hampden firefighters continue to follow a rigorous weekly training schedule to develop and maintain skills to protect and promote public safety. Additionally 15 firefighters are also state certified Emergency Medical Technicians and continue to update and practice associated skills on a routine basis.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter can find information as well as an application on the fire department page of the Town website.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Gorski
Fire Chief
Hampden Fire Department

HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM

REGIONAL SCHOOL

DISTRICT

2013

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

M. Martin O'Shea, Superintendent of Schools

The vision of the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District is to develop an “interactive learning community of creative, passionate thinkers in a safe and healthy environment, embracing opportunities to contribute to and compete in a global society while valuing honesty, integrity, responsibility and respect for each individual.”

The following reports, I believe, demonstrate our commitment to this vision. Beyond this, the reports provide evidence of the:

- Professionalism and dedication of over 500 District employees.
- District-wide focus on building and sustaining healthy and safe learning environments.
- Commitment to developing HWRSD as a true “community of learners.”
- Emphasis on meeting the needs of all learners by providing a range of academic experiences and services.
- Active involvement of our parent community in the educational process.
- Well-coordinated and aligned program of curriculum and instruction.
- High levels of achievement and accomplishment in the academics, athletics, arts and community service by the students of Hampden and Wilbraham.
- An administrative commitment to working with all stakeholders to provide educational excellence in a cost-effective, efficient manner.

In schools throughout the District, we are particularly excited about new educational technology and its impact on student learning. Interactive projectors, tablet technology, and online learning are beginning to shape schooling in very powerful ways.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of the District, I extend my appreciation for the support we receive from the townspeople of Hampden and Wilbraham.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Beth L. Regalbuto, Assistant Superintendent for Business

The theme for the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District's FY13 budget was “A Focus on District Goals.” The intent for the budget was to develop a goals-based budget that reflects the priorities of the School Committee, aligns the objectives to the District and School Improvement Plans, sustains our commitment to educational excellence and continuous improvement, and realizes efficient and cost-effective programming and staffing in a proactive manner.

Guiding Principles included:

- Protect the mission and priorities of the District
- Develop a cost-effective budget that promotes student well-being and achievement
- Adjust to new economic realities while remaining focused on continuous improvement

- Obtain adequate funding while recommending assessments to the towns that are manageable
- Communicate the effort to systematically align goals and build a budget around these goals

The District has sustained high academic achievement while facing continued challenging economic conditions. The reality of the fiscal situation is that we are charged with the difficult task of developing a budget in a financially constricted environment. Our communities have high expectations for student achievement, but they also experienced reductions in their resources used to fund the school and town programs. Our budget proposal was a balanced plan that incorporated the economic realities of the District and the two towns, while meeting the needs of our schools in a fiscally responsible way. We have supported the request of each community to maintain limited operating assessment increases for several years in a row. These objectives were met by presenting a minimal operating budget increase, going without, using grant funding when possible, and instituting district-wide cost-cutting measures and efficiencies.

The District works closely with its stakeholders to maximize efficiencies and provide the best possible educational experience for the children in our communities by utilizing all resources available. It is the District's hope that Hampden and Wilbraham will continue to sustain the quality of their school system through their continued generous support.

CURRICULUM

Timothy W. Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District designs a rich and rigorous curriculum in order to develop the unique talents of each individual student. The curriculum renewal process is ongoing and ensures continuity and consistency in grades PreK-12. Access to high quality curriculum materials and resources is equitable throughout the District's schools. The level of technology integration across the curriculum has intensified with improvements in staffing, infrastructure, equipment, reliability, and professional development. The focus on differentiated instruction and inclusive practices to meet the needs of individual learners provides all students with an appropriate level of challenge and support.

Below are some highlights from across the curriculum areas:

- The *Responsive Classroom* (elementary level) and *Developmental Designs* (middle school level) programs have been implemented in every classroom in order to create learning environments where children thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.
- The District utilizes a research-based elementary reading and language arts program that incorporates the five components of literacy learning: vocabulary/oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and reading comprehension.
- The *Writing Across the Curriculum* program is a learning strategy implemented at every level in order to enhance the development of literacy, content knowledge, and thinking skills.
- The mathematics curriculum supports the development of conceptual understanding through communication, problem solving, making connections, and meaningful practice.

- The science program advances scientific reasoning as students investigate and solve complex problems using the appropriate tools. Standards-based science units are studied in the classroom and are enriched through regular science labs at the elementary level.
- The history, geography, civics, and economics concepts and skills are addressed through interactive units of study in each grade.
- The arts play a central role in human development for children at all ability levels. Cognitive, language, and social-emotional development are positively impacted by participation in the arts.
- The health and physical education learning opportunities are an integral part of the total educational process and promote a lifelong physically active lifestyle, as well as respect for self and others through a safe school environment.
- The School Resource Officers in both Hampden and Wilbraham have established an important presence in the schools. This asset promotes safe schools and aligns with the principles of prevention research.

Academic Performance

Since its inception in 1998, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) has increasingly become a primary source of information with regard to student achievement, curriculum evaluation, and diagnosis of individual student strengths and weaknesses. The chart below provides a comparison of the District's recent results:

Grade/Subject Tested	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013
	HWRSD	HWRSD	HWRSD	HWRSD	STATE
Gr. 3 Reading	78	79	78	66	57
Gr. 3 Mathematics	81	80	63	67	66
Gr. 4 English Language Arts	69	47	71	66	53
Gr. 4 Mathematics	47	39	64	54	52
Gr. 5 English Language Arts	71	78	62	78	66
Gr. 5 Mathematics	57	64	59	62	61
Gr. 5 Science/Engineering	71	73	70	65	51
Gr. 6 English Language Arts	82	81	79	70	67
Gr. 6 Mathematics	67	68	71	62	61
Gr. 7 English Language Arts	87	81	80	81	72
Gr. 7 Mathematics	71	62	66	62	52
Gr. 8 English Language Arts	91	90	92	89	78
Gr. 8 Mathematics	67	59	58	64	55
Gr. 8 Science/Engineering	52	44	48	44	39
Gr. 10 English Language Arts	88	93	97	98	91
Gr. 10 Mathematics	84	85	89	87	80
Gr. 10 Biology	82	77	84	78	71

In addition to MCAS performance, HWRSD educators use a range of information to monitor student achievement. One example of the data considered to be relevant is SAT scores. Score trends rather than results from any one year are considered most relevant. The table below provides longitudinal SAT results for students graduating from Minnechaug Regional High School.

Mean SAT Scores 2003-2013

	District			State			National		
	Reading	Math	Writing	Reading	Math	Writing	Reading	Math	Writing
2003	517	529	n/a	516	522	n/a	507	519	n/a
2004	529	550	n/a	518	523	n/a	508	518	n/a
2005	531	550	n/a	520	527	n/a	508	520	n/a
2006	501	526	509	513	524	510	503	518	497
2007	521	534	522	513	522	511	502	515	494
2008	520	542	526	514	525	513	502	515	494
2009	524	551	527	514	526	510	501	515	493
2010	518	544	523	512	526	509	501	516	492
2011	524	552	519	513	527	509	497	514	489
2012	518	543	523	506	523	500	496	514	488
2013	515	516	534	507	501	522	496	514	488

Using all relevant data, the teachers, administrators, parents, students and communities are working together as effective partners. As a result, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District enjoys multiple opportunities to celebrate the excellent accomplishments of its students.

According to the high school Guidance Department, the graduates of the Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 2013 represented a group of academically accomplished students. Of this class, 91% were accepted to and planned to attend post-secondary institutions of higher education, with 70% enrolled in four-year colleges and 21% enrolled in two-year colleges.

Many of these students were admitted to highly competitive colleges and universities including: Bentley University, Boston University, Catholic University, Colby College, College of the Holy Cross, Connecticut College, Dartmouth College, DePaul University, Fairfield University, Fordham University, Harvard University, James Madison University, Northwestern University, St. Anselm College, Springfield College, Stonehill College, Syracuse University, Tufts University, Union College, Vassar College, and Villanova University.

**MILE TREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades Pre K – 1)
Rosemary Brosnan, Principal**

Mile Tree School is Wilbraham’s Preschool – Grade 1 primary school. At Mile Tree, we challenge our students to reach their academic potential and teach them the joy of learning. Our mission statement values early childhood developmental learning, a safe and supportive learning community, a healthy and supportive school culture and high expectations of all students.

Mile Tree School is dedicated to helping our young students succeed. Our devoted staff works diligently to differentiate instruction and curriculum to meet the needs of all students. In addition, we provide a warm, caring and safe environment. The sense of community is evident throughout the building by the interactions among students, staff and families.

During the year, Mile Tree School has been involved in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation process. During this time, the faculty completed an extensive “self-study” and monthly staff meetings and professional development days were spent doing an in-depth examination of Mile Tree School through the lenses of the NEASC Elementary Standards for Accreditation.

During the Accreditation Committee's visit, the seven member visiting team, all of whom are educators in New England public schools, held meetings with faculty, parents, and students, toured the school and visited classrooms. The NEASC Commission will soon release its final report.

Additional Mile Tree School highlights include:

- Energetic and dedicated PTO
- School-wide family events such as the Family Fun Walk
- A variety of afterschool events, including the Pancake Breakfast, Anything Goes Night and Math and Science night

Mile Tree School's parents and families give tremendous support to the school in a variety of ways. Financial contributions and volunteers who devote countless hours to our school help support enrichment opportunities including field trips, school-wide programs and upgrading technology.

GREEN MEADOWS SCHOOL (Grades Pre K – 4)

Deborah F. Thompson, Principal

Green Meadows School had an enrollment of approximately 260 students in grades preschool to grade four. Our School Improvement Plan focused on two areas: 1) to improve the mathematical skills of all students, teachers will continue to align the current math curriculum with the Common Core State Standards so that by the end of the school year 85% of students will score at or above the criterion on the spring math assessment; and 2) to provide a safe and effective learning environment, Responsive Classroom and Massachusetts Tiered System of Support pilot behavioral tools will be used to create routines and appropriate responses to student behaviors so that office referrals are reduced by 10% by the end of the school year.

To meet these goals, the faculty worked in grade level teams to review the new State Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts. A Teacher Leadership team was formed with representatives from each grade level to lead this important study to determine what needed to be changed in our current curriculum to meet the rigorous goals of these new standards.

To foster a safe and effective learning environment, teachers at Green Meadows participated in a year-long study group to pilot the use of universal screening tools to measure student progress in the areas of reading and math. Students in pilot classrooms were screened using these tools and then appropriate interventions were used to support student achievement. The goal of tiered instruction is to meet the individual learning needs of each child so that those needing additional assistance have access to extra help and those needing enrichment have opportunities to expand their learning experiences. Teachers at all grade levels also participated in the Math Curriculum review, which culminated with the selection of our new math program, enVision Math.

Green Meadows finished its self-study for accreditation through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Teachers worked in teams to evaluate curriculum, instruction and assessment against standards provided by NEASC. The final draft of our Self-Study was submitted to NEASC, their accreditation team visited the school for several days and their final report will be released soon.

The Hampden PTO, School Council and parent volunteers worked hard to support Green Meadows School through fundraising, daily support in the classroom, and contributions to the development of our School Improvement Plan. The fundraising efforts of the PTO were used to support extra-curricular activities such as field trips, field day, Kindergarten and 1st grade Mother's Day Tea, Grade 3 Pig Out and Grade 4 Luau.

STONY HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades 2 – 3)
Sherrill Caruana, Principal

Stony Hill School, built in 1957, refurbished in 1999, and reorganized in 2010, currently educates approximately 320 students in grades two and three. With seven second-grade classrooms and seven third-grade classrooms, Stony Hill strives to make each classroom a true "homeroom". All teachers have been trained in Responsive Classroom techniques and each day begins by celebrating the school community with Morning Meetings.

The focus of our efforts at Stony Hill is summed up in one word: improvement. Our School Improvement Goals are to deliver consistent, standards-based literacy for all students and raise the level of reading fluency for the students who struggle to read. With the adoption of a new math program, enVisions, and the emphasis our teachers place on the Common Core Mathematical Practice Standards, we strive to improve student achievement and enjoyment in math. To achieve these goals, every day we live to our school motto: "Share the brain, share the wealth, share the leadership". We do this in ways that promote teaching expertise, provide a positive educational climate and address the needs of the whole child: socially, behaviorally, academically and physically.

As always, we are grateful for the efforts and support of our outstanding staff, our PTO and School Council. Without their involvement, all the many enriching, educational, fun and memorable events that define us as Stony Hill Elementary School would not be possible.

SOULE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades 4 – 5)
Lisa Curtin, Principal

Soule Road Elementary School enrolls 348 students in grades four and five. Whether they are participating in academic classes, related arts or an extracurricular activity, students are learning and demonstrating the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in the world. Teachers have committed to building an even stronger school community through increased collaboration between teaching teams and grade levels. The entire Soule Road School staff works diligently to provide positive learning experiences while meeting the needs of the individual child.

An active home-school connection is an essential component to a successful school community. The Soule Road School Instructional Leadership Team has begun an initiative to provide opportunities for parents to participate in school more frequently. Not only will parents be invited to special performances and events, they will also be encouraged to participate in daily classroom activities. These opportunities can increase their knowledge and understanding of curriculum and the learning expectations of the school, as well as foster regular parent-teacher communication. Plus, students enjoy having their parents in the classroom!

To teach and foster positive social behavior, Soule Road School has continued its commitment to Responsive Classroom. Teachers begin each day with a Morning Meeting designed to teach and model positive social interactions and to help students learn how to solve school-related problems. In addition, character value lessons are introduced and studied school-wide and culminate in an assembly to recognize individuals who are role models for that character value. As part of the program, specially selected books highlighting a particular character value are shared with all classes throughout the year. The School Adjustment Counselor facilitates the program by reading and discussing the books with each classroom, building a common experience and understanding that can be referenced during future lessons.

Through teacher meetings, professional development and curriculum planning, both at the school and district levels, teachers are reflecting on their practice and collaborating with one another to increase student learning. In addition to providing student-centered instruction across content areas, teachers have focused considerable effort on implementing new instructional initiatives in math and writing. Teachers at Soule Road School not only work tirelessly within their classrooms, but also beyond the school day on initiatives such as Instructional Leadership Team, School Improvement Council, Writing Leadership Team, and the Student/Teacher Assistance Team, which are essential to maintaining a supportive learning environment. The goal is to provide students with rich and rigorous educational experiences that will result in proficient readers, writers and mathematicians with the interpersonal skills to successfully navigate the 21st century.

THORNTON W. BURGESS MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 5 – 8)

Noel Pixley, Principal (through 6/30/13)

Peter Dufresne, Principal (as of 8/1/13)

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School had an enrollment of 292 students in grades five through eight. Goals for the year were driven by the School Improvement Plan, developed through the hard work of our School Council. Our focus was not only on improving academic performance,

but also character building. Middle school education is as much about academic content as it is about the quality of character our young people develop as students at TWB.

Goal 1: The goal of the Thornton W Burgess learning community is to provide a safe, nurturing environment. We will ensure that our students are physically and emotionally safe as well as provide the framework for them to make healthy decisions on their own. As part of this goal, the faculty decided to focus on character presentations and celebrations. If we want students to make good decisions, then we need to model those actions. This is accomplished through our commitment to continued training in the Developmental Designs concepts that create a safe school environment through a quality advisory program. We also held monthly character assemblies designed to reinforce good decision making, and students who displayed quality character traits were rewarded with admission in to our “students of character” team building activities.

Goal 2: Thornton W Burgess Middle School will meet the needs of all learners by continued and enhanced implementation of our social curriculum represented by the Developmental Designs practice. Further, TWB will have a parallel implementation of tiered instruction to ensure all students achieve meaningful growth on standardized assessments. We continued to implement a tiered approach to instruction and intervention. This approach allowed us to be more reflective on the growth of our students and gave teachers and students more tools to be productive in closing learning gaps. The data from standardized formative assessments of our students directed how classroom instruction was delivered, which resulted in a better instructional experience for our students.

Goal 3: Thornton W Burgess will develop 21st Century methods of teaching and learning that will assist our learners in the use of the digital tools they need to meet with success in the secondary and post-secondary world. One of the daily challenges we face is to meet all learners where they exist on the learning spectrum, so we strive to ensure that we can meet our students’ learning needs in a way that makes sense to them. Our students are digital natives, having grown up in a world of technology that most faculty and staff are still learning. As we incorporate more technology in to the learning process, it is important that we stay current on these best practices. Therefore, we have developed a Teaching and Learning Council and a Technology Team. These groups discuss the best ways to utilize our current technological advantages, such as our new SmartBoard projection systems, and manage our resources for the betterment of our school community.

WILBRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 – 8)

Daniel Roy, Principal (through 6/30/13)

Noel Pixley, Principal (as of 7/1/13)

The Wilbraham Middle School’s School Improvement Plan focused on three strategic goals in order to make progress and to narrow proficiency gaps. Our first goal was designed to improve the school culture and climate for our students. Through the efforts of faculty and staff and the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant, we provided an environment where students were increasingly comfortable and excited to come to school. Students and staff participated in a

school culture where, in the words of the school motto, “Teachers teach, children learn, everyone grows!”

Our second goal was designed to increase student learning in the areas of Math and English Language Arts. Teachers throughout the building consciously wove mathematical concepts into their curriculum and provided targeted instruction to meet the specific needs of students. In English Language Arts, teachers continued to work on improving instruction and performance across the curriculum. Students in all disciplines engaged in writing assignments, including reflections and open responses in mathematics and longer writing assignments from not only English teachers, but also in classes such as Science, Social Studies and Spanish. MCAS scores showed the same high levels of performance as previous years.

Our third goal was designed to create a more consistent educational experience for all students. Wilbraham Middle School focused on providing an environment that was not only conducive to learning, but also had routines and procedures that remain consistent throughout the building. With all classrooms implementing Developmental Designs, time was spent reinforcing student expectations and desired outcomes. Professional Learning Community time for faculty members allowed staff to identify commonalities and plan accordingly. Creating a consistent school/learning environment provided students and teachers a way to measure growth and reflect on outcomes.

Looking forward, we will be focusing our School Improvement efforts on two specific goals: 1) improve instruction and student learning while transitioning from the MA Frameworks to the Common Core Standards and 2) maintain and continue to cultivate an environment that is emotionally nurturing, developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive.

With these goals in mind, all members of the WMS school community are working on the necessary adjustments to our curriculum and looking at ways to improve school culture to provide a climate that is stimulating, nurturing, safe and developmentally appropriate.

Minnechaug Regional High School (Grades 9 – 12)
Stephen M. Hale, Principal

From **Principal Stephen M. Hale**: Minnechaug Regional High School continues to excel in the academic, social, and physical education of its students. The faculty and administration remain firmly committed to the school’s mission of “providing a safe and academically challenging environment that promotes the growth and well-being of all community members as we become active world citizens who demonstrate integrity, responsibility and respect.” The major goals of the School Improvement Plan developed by the School Council are: 1) to integrate the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) to increase student participation in rigorous reading, writing, and researching specific to each area of the curriculum; 2) to create a minimum of two common assessment tools in every course at Minnechaug, with at least one being a formative assessment designed to evaluate student learning progress and resulting in appropriate adjustments in instruction; and 3) to create rubrics to provide meaningful, formative feedback on instructional practice to teachers from parents and students, using the MRHS Student Learning Expectations (SLEs), Standard 3 “Community and Family Engagement” of the Massachusetts Educator

Evaluation System, and Standard 3, Instruction indicators from the New England Association of Schools as the guide.

The following reports from the various departments highlight just some of the many commendable educational activities at Minnechaug:

The **English Department** continued to offer rigorous, skills-based curriculum for freshmen and sophomores and a variety of rigorous courses for juniors and seniors in preparation for college and career. Highlights in the department included students participating in a summer reading project; exceptional MCAS scores, with a passing rate of 100%; involving the entire school community in arts and culture; students engaging in community service for select courses; Emeralds Literary Magazine winning national awards, including the “Silver” rating from Columbia Scholastic Press Association; and many students being honorably mentioned and awarded for their writing on the local and national levels.

The **Fine Arts Department** had 225 students in the music program and 200 students in a variety of art classes. The band and choirs presented assemblies to the entire school body, performed evening concerts, and continued to play a central role in graduation ceremonies. The marching band presented a half-time show at a football game and marched in several local parades, including the Big E. Music students were selected by audition to the Western Massachusetts MMEA Senior District Festival, and several went on to audition for All-State. Band students took part in the Quabbin Valley Senior High Music Festival, two students were selected to the Plymouth University All-New England band and two took part in the UMASS honor band program. Three choir students were accepted to the American Choral Directors Massachusetts Honor Choir, and one of our seniors traveled to Nashville in October as the only Bari sax player accepted to the National Honors Jazz Band. Our bands participated in the Annual Jazz Showcase and took home the coveted “Espirit de Corps” Award. The music program continues to be highly visible in the community by performing for the Wilbraham Senior Center, the Rotary Club, and at Memorial Day ceremonies. The department held a “250th Anniversary Concert” featuring seven student groups as well as the Old Post Road Orchestra, Wilbraham Men’s Chorus and Wilbraham Community Chorus, and the marching band led Wilbraham’s 250th Anniversary Parade.

The **Foreign Language Department** teachers continually teach and prepare students to live and contribute to a global society through the study of Spanish, French, Latin, and Mandarin. Opportunities and resources are provided for students to learn, connect, and respect other people and cultures. The teachers are dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the learning of languages at different levels and frequently evaluate and revise curricula, assessments, lessons, activities, and teaching materials to reflect 21st century learning goals.

Our teachers regularly receive updated training in the use of the language laboratory in order to develop their technological skills and create innovative lessons. Students utilizing the language lab and the technology are able to foster greater confidence while focusing on communication.

The department has two clubs - The French Club and the International Club with students’ interest consistently increasing due to the field trips and guest speakers. We participated in the FACES Homestay program, allowing French high school students to join our student body for

two exciting weeks. We celebrated National Foreign Language Week with activities that included our foreign language classes and the entire student body and staff in order to make everyone aware of the importance of studying foreign languages.

The **History and Social Science Department** continued to assist students in developing critical thinking skills through research, analysis of primary and secondary sources, and evaluation of events from various points of view in historical context. The department's resolve is to instill the importance of participating in civic literacy, while developing global awareness and effective communication and technology skills, which are vital in the 21st century for college and career readiness. The department hosted several guest speakers who provided first-hand accounts of various historical events and practices, including local veterans from Korea and Vietnam, a police officer, a former student who discussed the fields of psychology, and a psychology professor from a local college. Several classes participated in field trips to destinations such as Springfield Armory and the Armenian Museum, which enhanced the time period and materials studied. The department's clubs, Model Congress and Mock Law, saw a huge increase in membership and enjoyed much success.

Interscholastic Athletics: Minnechaug's student-athletes competed and excelled in 29 athletic offerings, and approached the 1,300 mark for participation over the three seasons. Our program continues to be one of the most competitive and comprehensive programs in Massachusetts. Our new field projects were completed with the construction of baseball, softball, lacrosse and soccer fields, plus our outstanding track and field facility. Community service continues to be a foundation of all athletic teams. We strive to show our student athletes that athletics is a privilege and our athletes strive for excellence in the classroom and understand the importance of a well-rounded education. As always, we appreciate all the fans and parents for their support of Falcon Athletics!

The **Mathematics Department** remained actively involved with curriculum revisions and new lesson plans were developed to focus on the mathematical practice standards and make connections to new curricular topics. The department also worked to create new common final assessments in all courses and these assessments will allow data analysis to be performed on the results in order to provide valuable feedback to best meet the needs of students. All math courses challenge students while developing critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Department members continue to use technology to enrich classroom lessons and materials presentation. All mathematics classrooms have the newest TI-Nspire calculator technology that allows students to interact with the teacher and receive essential feedback through use of the calculator. Eno boards, projectors and document cameras allow for the presentation of online materials or computer software programs within the classroom and have become an integral part of everyday instruction. Four Advanced Placement BC Calculus students represented Minnechaug in the annual WPI Invitational Mathematics Meet and placed in the top third and our Mathletes team completed their season in ninth place. In our Advanced Placement Calculus and Statistics courses, all students who took the Advanced Placement exam earned a qualifying score to make them eligible to receive college credit.

The **Physical Education/Health Department** continues its strong working relationship with local colleges and universities by supervising undergraduate students during their practicum

experience. The department promotes student learning expectations by implementing the skills necessary to maintain personal and community wellness. The department has also developed new curriculum that includes yoga, cross country skiing, and fitness-gram testing. Another new course includes "Fit for Life," which is designed to introduce students to all areas of fitness while implementing a lifestyle conducive to good health and wellbeing. The course will provide an in-depth understanding of how a combination of nutrition and exercise can lead to better health and performance.

The **Science Department** continued to revisit and revise lessons, classroom activities, and assessment strategies to reflect 21st century learning goals and the four student learning expectations as defined by the Minnechaug faculty. This re-evaluation has resulted in a more technologically advanced department, with the inclusion of Vernier Probes in the lab setting. AP Environmental Science was introduced, which is the third AP course offered by the department. We have also begun working on District Determined Measures, which help to ensure continuity within each course offered. We are integrating common labs and projects that are graded using a common performance rubric. One team from the Wicked Advanced Biology Club entered the Region I Science Fair and placed third in the regional competition. As we move forward, the department remains dedicated to creating lessons that are multi-dimensional and take student knowledge and skills to a mastery level.

Student Activities hosted over 55 co-curricular student activity programs with 500 participants gaining experience in fundraising, community service, and academic competitions with state and national awards. Students donated over \$15,000 to local and national charities, provided over 5,000 hours of community service, held numerous food and clothing drives, provided over 250 hours of tutoring, and awarded over \$2,500 in scholarships. The department has seen success in the Peer Mentoring program for all freshman and transfer students, as well as the nationally-recognized Raising Student Voice and Participation (R.S.V.P) program, which provides our student body with the opportunity to create civic action plans to better our school, community, and world.

The Student Council received the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (MASC) Gold Council of Excellence Award, as well as the National Association of Student Councils (NASC) Gold Council of Excellence Award for the second consecutive year, and the 5-Star Award.

The **Business, Computer Science and Technology Education Department** enjoyed another productive year. The Graphics classes produced the Falcon Yearbook digitally with Adobe C.S.-6 software, which enhanced the process so production was more streamlined. Tech Design students had the opportunity to visit the Breakers in Newport to view architecture from the Gilded Age. Business students participated in the annual Junior Achievement Stock Market Challenge. The Management and Marketing classes hosted a Senior Citizen Prom, a 5k Road Race and attended the STCC Women's Leadership Conference. The Business Department introduced a new course, "E Commerce", and students sold new and used athletic apparel in cooperation with the Athletic Department. Computer Science initiated updating of development software in the computer lab by utilizing Microsoft Dreamspark, the AP course successfully recertified and students attended the Western New England University High School Programming Competition. Several of our students attended the Youth Education Series (YES)

at Disney World and learned invaluable lessons from the behind-the-scenes activities and day-to-day operations of the resort.

The **MRHS Counseling Center** continued to offer a variety of programs to our students and their parents. Some of the community outreach services included an Orientation Program for eighth grade students and their parents, a College Night for juniors and their parents, a follow-up program for seniors and their parents, a College Financial Aid Night, and a reception for transfer students. We also hosted a College Fair for juniors and seniors with representatives from over 100 colleges and a Credit for Life Fair for seniors to learn about money management. Many students took online courses and many seniors took college courses through joint admission programs at local colleges. A Guidance Advisory Council was created and parents were invited to participate. The SAT Reasoning and Subject tests, ACT, PSAT, ASVAB and Advanced Placement exams were all administered at Minnechaug. Our Internship program for seniors has grown to over 100 students each semester. Our School-to-Career Specialist and Guidance Counselors cover topics in developmental guidance classes such as transition to high school, career readiness, and the college application process. All our students now use a web-based tool, Naviance, to manage their research for colleges and careers, as well as process their college applications. Our five School Counselors, two Adjustment Counselors and one Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Counselor meet individually with students to assist in developing course schedules, making career and college choices and dealing with personal issues. All Counselors are members of S/TAT, our Student/Teacher Assistance Team, which is a prevention and early intervention program for students.

The **Family and Consumer Science Department** continued to offer hands-on learning experiences for high school students enrolled in the Child Study and Preschool Management. The Minnechaug Child Development Center for preschool is open five mornings a week with 24 preschool students enrolled. The department also offered a Child Growth and Development class to freshmen and sophomores and Life Education to all Minnechaug students.

With the opening of the new state-of-the-art classroom, we offered the new Nutrition and Food Preparation for a Healthy Lifestyle course. The class is designed for students interested in developing healthy food habits, improving their general health and understanding the concepts of nutrition, including the fundamentals of food preparation and nutritious meal planning. Students will employ computer technology for nutrient analysis, prepare nutritious foods, research contemporary issues in nutrition and health, and record their progress in journal writing, podcasting or blogging. This course is designed to take place in both an instructional and laboratory setting.

Adult Community Education and Recreation

Mike Roy, Director

The **Adult Community Education and Recreation Program**, "New Beginnings," provided diverse enrichment activities for all age groups in the community. Our new facility has sparked much interest and new opportunities. Our classes in I-pad, yoga, watercolor, ballroom dancing and lifeguarding continue to be popular. As always, we look for new classes to offer our adult population and will be adding to our course offerings next year. During construction, we were

fortunate to have a great working relationship with the recreation departments to offer programming during the summer, and we will soon be resuming our own on-site summer programming for the younger population.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND STUDENT SUPPORT

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Teri Brand, RN, BSN, NCSN, Nurse Leader

The HWRSD school nurses play a vital role in supporting a District priority: improving student learning and achievement. The school nurses support this goal in their daily work as they assist in the efforts to keep all students safe, healthy and ready to learn. Our nurses provide comprehensive school health services to all as they promote health and safety, intervene with actual and potential health problems, provide case management services, provide first aid and emergency care, manage students with complex health needs, monitor for immunization compliance, perform communicable disease surveillance, perform mandated health screenings, and provide health counseling and education.

The school nurses consult with our School Physician, who provides support to the District and the nurses to meet the needs of individual students and gives advice concerning matters relating to the health of the entire school population.

During the school year, there were 46,101 student health encounters for nursing services. Nursing interventions assist students to remain in school, and our calculated return-to-class rate was 95.3%. The nursing staff administered 19,119 doses of medication to students, including asthma medication, psychotropics, anticonvulsants, antibiotics, analgesics, and other over-the-counter medications. School nurses performed 17,126 procedures for student assessment and treatment, such as blood glucose testing, carbohydrate/insulin calculation, auscultation of lungs, B/P measurement, and scoliosis brace care.

Several of our school nurses and school nurse substitutes belong to the Hampden-Wilbraham Medical Reserve Corps. The MRC unit is part of a local collaborative effort that is prepared to assist with small- and large-scale public health events and emergencies.

In collaboration with the Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT) and their Wellness Coordinator, several wellness programs were made available to HWRSD and town employees, including an employee health fair, incentivized health promotion programs, exercise and relaxation programs, incentives for completing health screenings, access to smoking cessation support and a Weight Watchers at Work Program. This year we also partnered with a local pharmacist to provide an on-site flu clinic at each school for district employees.

We are grateful to the members of the Wilbraham Women's Club who volunteer and assist us to complete mandated vision and hearing screenings. We also appreciate all the help we get from parents who assist us in administering the fluoride mouth rinse program for students in selected grades at Mile Tree, Stony Hill, Green Meadows and Soule Road schools.

SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS PROGRAM

Gina Kahn, Director - Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program

The District's emphasis on health and safety is firmly established as one of the defining pillars of our vision for student success. Safe Schools/Healthy Students, initially the title of a federal grant awarded in the fall of 2009, has come to symbolize the District's unwavering commitment to creating the best possible environment for our children to learn and grow, and engaging all sectors of the community in this shared goal.

In the fourth year of this five-year program, we continued with its major initiatives such as the implementation of the *Lifeskills* curriculum in grades 3-9 to reinforce substance abuse prevention efforts, and the *Responsive Classroom* and Advisory models to support school climate and positive behavior. Equally important has been the parallel emphasis on the systemic aspects of the program. In collaboration with our public safety personnel we reviewed emergency management procedures and have expanded training in risk assessment and critical incident response. District administrators, counselors, and health teachers are being trained to implement *Lifelines*, a comprehensive suicide and depression prevention curriculum that emphasizes resilience, problem-solving, and help-seeking skills. With the input of over 550 participants who shared their perspectives in a parent survey, we have launched a series of discussions on important topics such as social media, adolescent brain development, and drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

In tandem with the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative, our federally funded Elementary Counseling grant expanded a model of behavioral support corresponding to the academic components of the District's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework. Through the Elementary Counseling program, teachers have been trained to utilize a common system of screening and progress monitoring.

HWRSD's prevention efforts were highlighted in two articles published by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. We recognize that there is always more to be done to ensure that our students are educated in increasingly safer and more supportive school environments. Our schools and our communities are invested in positive outcomes for our children, thus we are continually seeking new resources and innovative strategies to keep our youth healthy and strong in the HWRSD.

STUDENT SERVICES

Debra L. Tobias, Ed.D., Director

Student Services is responsible for the coordination of all special education services for the District. Our commitment is to provide a full range of interventions for students who demonstrate challenges in learning. In addition to special education teachers and educational inclusion paraprofessionals, Student Services utilizes school psychologists, speech/language pathologists, school adjustment counselors, physical therapists, an occupational therapist and assistant, and several consultants specializing in various areas of educational programming.

Initial interventions for our students begin with general education teachers who are able to provide a continuum of instructional accommodations to assist students with diverse learning styles. Each school has its own Student/Teacher Assistance Team (S/TAT), which is comprised of building professionals dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness of the learning process for each student. In the event that the interventions do not result in the anticipated improvements for the student, the S/TAT will make a referral for a special education evaluation in order to determine if there is an educational disability undermining the student's ability to make effective educational progress. As needed, specialized instruction, support services, and/or specific therapies may be recommended and provided to the student in the least restrictive environment determined.

As a District, we continue to develop and support special education programs within our schools to meet the unique needs of our learners. For all of our special education providers, we continue to investigate new research-based interventions that will provide further learning opportunities for our students, plus we conduct all required training prior to the implementation of new programs. With all interventions, we complete regular progress monitoring, assessments, and data collection in order to discern how individual students are developing, and to make recommendations to the teaching staff. Student progress is communicated through TEAM meetings and/or parent/guardian conference times. Our goal is to continue to seek and implement new and effective educational options for all students in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District.

HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Through May 2013

D. John McCarthy, Chairman
 Lena Buteau
 Marianne Desmond
 Marc Ducey
 Michelle Emirzian
 Lisa Morace
 Peter T. Salerno

As of May 2014

Peter T. Salerno, Chairman
 Lena Buteau
 Marc Ducey
 Michelle Emirzian
 Michael Mazzuca
 D. John McCarthy
 Lisa Morace

SCHOOL COUNCILS

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the School Councils and to thank them for volunteering their personal time to pursue a commitment to the education of young people. We would also like the community to recognize the services rendered by these parents and citizens:

Mile Tree Elementary School	Mary Beth Lanoie
Rosemary Brosnan, Principal	Rebecca Lewis
Patricia Colkos	Virginia McKeon
Marcia Jackson	Eric Panasci
Wendy Labbe	Damion Pisacane

Pamela Pearson	Warren Schoonover
Toni Wall	Amy Shank
Green Meadows Elementary School	Lori Trask
Deborah Thompson, Principal	Wilbraham Middle School
Kelly Closser	Daniel Roy, Principal
Nicole Ferrentino	Karen Anti
Nicole Fyntrilakis	David Boudreau
Christine Jackson	Andrea Cordis
Meaghan McCullough	Dan Handzel
Duane Mosier	Dinabeth Hokanson
Mary Persaud	Liane Kendall
Soule Road Elementary School	Louise Moore
Lisa Curtin, Principal	Kelly O'Malley
Linda DeMarey	Theresa Penna
Cathy Mahoney	Lisa Person
Marguerite Myers-Killeen	Minnechaug Regional High School
Anne Sleboda	Stephen Hale, Principal
Brian Tracy	Kurt Anderson
Stony Hill Elementary School	Cathy Belleville
Sherrill Caruana, Principal	Jamie Card
Laura Creanza	John Derosia
Christine Goonan	Dan Donovan
Cori-Lou & Jason Hanson	Nancy Hunt
Pam Haywood	Mary Beth Laliberte
Julie Kibbe	Tommy Mehlich
Jess Paris	Bill Metzger
Tracy Wietsma	Patty Murphy
Thornton W. Burgess Middle School	David Robinson
Noel Pixley, Principal	Jessica Roy
Mary Bianco	Alex Smith
Karen Burzdak	Nicky Smith
Lynn Byrnes	Lisa Vartanian

RETIREMENTS DURING THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

Sarah Algie
 Marilyn Berrett
 Barbara Bidwell
 Cheryl Canterbury
 Therese Cohen
 Dorothy Crowley
 Kathleen Disa
 Raymond Drury
 Nancy Dugre

Minnechaug Regional
 Thornton W. Burgess
 Wilbraham Middle School
 Minnechaug Regional
 Mile Tree Elementary
 Wilbraham Middle
 Green Meadows Elementary
 Minnechaug Regional
 Minnechaug Regional

Elizabeth Edgett
 Jennie Gerow
 Natalie Jurgen
 Crystal Kofke
 Carolyn Lewis
 Linda Mandolesi
 Maureen McAleer
 Diane Prendergast
 Barbara Smith
 Mary Taft

Wilbraham Middle School
 Wilbraham Middle School
 Stony Hill Elementary
 Wilbraham Middle School
 Minnechaug Regional
 Stony Hill School
 Stony Hill School
 Green Meadows Elementary
 Mile Tree Elementary
 Thornton W. Burgess & Wilbraham Middle

FIVE-YEAR ENROLLMENT HISTORY

Grade	2008-2009			2009-2010			2010-2011			2011-2012			2012-2013		
	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T
K	49	179	228	50	156	206	44	144	188	37	152	189	39	142	181
1	46	141	187	50	179	229	47	154	201	41	147	188	46	156	199
2	71	158	229	53	152	205	49	180	229	46	159	205	40	155	195
3	72	186	258	74	159	233	51	150	201	50	180	230	46	160	206
4	63	199	262	76	193	269	70	157	227	51	156	207	53	186	239
5	69	194	263	67	200	267	73	202	275	75	160	235	50	156	206
6	69	199	268	70	195	265	66	193	259	72	207	279	75	159	234
7	65	215	280	70	210	280	69	187	256	66	192	258	69	207	276
8	70	220	290	65	215	280	68	205	273	66	187	253	70	188	258
9	77	245	322	71	236	307	67	233	300	75	216	291	72	203	275
10	65	220	285	76	225	301	64	219	283	69	225	294	69	216	285
11	67	204	271	67	217	284	76	216	292	66	216	282	69	224	293
12	61	191	252	67	198	265	60	212	272	75	211	286	67	215	282
Other			74			65			60			49			33
TOTAL	844	2551	3469	856	2535	3456	804	2452	3316	789	2408	3246	762	2367	3162

HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTORY

Central Office

M. Martin O'Shea, Superintendent of Schools
 Beth L. Regulbuto, SBO, MCPPO, Assistant Superintendent for Business
 Timothy W. Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
 Debra L. Tobias, Ed.D., Director of Student Services
 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-3884
 Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Green Meadows Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 4)

Deborah Thompson, Principal
 38 North Road, Hampden, MA 01036 – (413) 566-3263
 School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Mile Tree Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 1)

Rosemary Brosnan, Principal

625 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-6921

School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Minnechaug Regional High School (Grades 9 – 12)

Stephen Hale, Principal

621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-9011

School Hours: 7:35 a.m. to 2:05 p.m.

Soule Road Elementary School (Grades 4 – 5)

Lisa Curtin, Principal

300 Soule Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-9311

School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Stony Hill School (Grades 2 – 3)

Sherrill Caruana, Principal

675 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 599-1950

School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School (Grades 5 – 8)

Peter Dufresne, Principal

85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, MA 01036 – (413) 566-8950

School Hours: 7:40 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wilbraham Middle School (Grades 6 – 8)

Noel Pixley, Principal

466 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-9061

School Hours: 7:40 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

HWRSD Center for Health and Safety

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School

85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, MA 01036 - (413) 566-5060

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The year 2013 was a very productive year for the Highway Department. Improvements were made to our roads, buildings and equipment. With the support of the voters, a second infrastructure improvement bond was passed. The first bond, which was passed in 2007, for 1.5-million dollars, provided funding to 25 different construction projects. The new bond, for 2-million dollars, has already allowed for several projects to be completed this year. Those projects and others are outlined below. Another "mile marker" for our town was that the last two dirt roads in town were hardened. This allowed for the sale of the town's 1950 road grader. The small amount of profit from the sale went into drainage repairs. The town also approved several other items related to the Highway Department. Badly leaking roofs were replaced on both the large storage shed and the main garage building. A brush chipper, asphalt roller and lawnmower were also replaced.

Hampden's annual apportionment of Ch.90 funds from the State arrived in two parts this year. It totaled approximately \$257,000, which was level funded from 2012. This was after much debate in the legislature and was a reduction from an earlier commitment by the Governor. The uncertainty in our allotments and the fact that it was released in two parts, resulted in some projects being tabled or approved late in the season. However, in the end, we completed many more projects this year than any other recent year.

Using a portion of the new bond, all of the Ch. 90 State Aid, and some available funds in the annual Highway Maintenance Accounts, the following projects were undertaken and completed:

1. Mountain Road – The entire length of this road was cleaned and resurfaced with asphalt & stone.
2. Genevieve Drive – All structures were adjusted as needed, berms repaired or replaced as needed, the entire road was cleaned, a tack coat applied and resurfaced with bituminous concrete.
3. Rock-a-Dundee Road –The entire length of this road was cleaned and resurfaced with asphalt & stone.
4. Erica Circle – All structures were adjusted as needed, berms repaired or replaced as needed, the entire road was cleaned, a tack coat applied and resurfaced with bituminous concrete.
5. Hollow Road – The entire length of this road was cleaned and resurfaced with asphalt & stone.
6. Glendale Road – Nearly a mile of Glendale Road, which runs from Bennett Road to N. Monson Road, was completely reconstructed. Full-depth pavement reclamation was done, drainage installed as needed, gravel graded, base coat paved, berms installed as needed, top course paved, traffic markings painted and all lawns and driveways adjusted.

7. Main Street – The section of Main Street from the Town Hall to Scantic Road was completely reconstructed. Full-depth pavement reclamation was done, catch basins repaired, gravel graded, base coat paved, berms installed as needed, top course paved, traffic markings painted and all lawns and driveways adjusted.
8. Scantic Road – A section of Scantic Road from Main Street to a point 900 feet easterly was milled off, catch basins repaired, berms installed and paved. Then an additional 1,800-feet (ending at S. Monson Road) was cleaned, tack coated and paved.
9. Glendale Road – Another section of Glendale Road, from Main Street to a point 1,000-feet easterly, was milled, cleaned, tack coated and paved.
10. Echo Valley Drive – A drainage line and catch basin were replaced for a distance of 200-feet and lawn repaired.
11. Sessions Drive – A 200-foot drainage line was replaced and lawn repaired.
12. Bayberry Road – All structures were adjusted as needed, berms repaired or replaced as needed, the entire road was cleaned, a tack coat applied and resurfaced with bituminous concrete.
13. Colony Drive – All structures were adjusted as needed, berms repaired or replaced as needed, the entire road was cleaned, a tack coat applied and resurfaced with bituminous concrete.
14. Highway Department Parking Lot – A section of the parking lot was replaced following the installation of a new leach field.
15. Memorial Park – A 400-foot drainage system and catch basin was installed to replace an old collapsed drain line and correct a water problem.

Normal activities were also performed, consisting of repairing several collapsed catch basins, replacing collapsed culverts, patching of all roads, streets were swept, roadsides were mowed, some catch basins were cleaned and all traffic markings were repainted. Maintenance and repairs were also made to all of the department's equipment. A relatively average winter ended with 16 storms, totaling 60-inches of snow, which was cleared from the roads.

The members of the Highway Department are often are required to work long hours both day and night making the roads safe for the public. I would again like to thank the committed department members; Robert Richards, John Ouellette, Lauren Comstock and Matthew Frederick, along with all the supplemental workers that are used on a regular basis, for their service, support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dana S. Pixley
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE HAMPDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Hampden Housing Authority meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Community Building at 26 Springmeadow Lane. Meetings are posted with the Town Clerk and are open to the public.

The Housing Authority Board consists of five members. Four are elected, and one is appointed by the Governor. The four elected members of the Board are as follows: George Stone, Patricia Clark, Lucretia Hembdt and Benjamin Bump. The Governor's Appointee is Raymond Crowley. The Hampden Housing Authority employs three staff members. Executive Director is Lisa DiFranco; Maintenance Manager, Jim McQuillan, and Maintenance Assistant, John Piechota.

It is the mission and responsibility of the Hampden Housing Authority under Mass. General Law to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing at an affordable rent. Rentals are based on 30% of net income as determined by HUD guidelines. Maximum contract rents are adjusted by HUD annually and are currently set as follows: 1 bedroom-\$591; 2 bedrooms-\$674. All eligibility and occupancy standards are in keeping with the established guidelines and regulations set forth by HUD and the Department of Housing & Community Development. All procedures and records of the Hampden Housing Authority are subject to review by the Office of the State Auditor.

We again extend our sincerest thanks to the Town of Hampden's Highway, Police and Fire Departments for their continued cooperative efforts to ensure the safety of the residents of Centennial Commons.

Applications for our housing program are available at the Hampden Housing Authority office at Centennial Commons OR by calling 566-8157. Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00A-3:00P and Thursday mornings from 8:00A-12:00N. We are closed Mondays and Fridays.

Respectfully,

Lisa DiFranco, Executive Director/Secretary to the Board

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

THE HAMPDEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 2013, The Hampden Public Library continued its ongoing commitment to excellence by providing traditional library services as well as a host of programming options for patrons of every age. Along with the dedicated support from the Library Trustees, Friends of the Hampden Public Library, the residents of Hampden and the State of Massachusetts, the staff has spent the year working passionately to pursue our mission: “The mission of the Hampden Free Public Library is to provide information, entertainment, and education to all members of the Hampden community through a variety of formats including current technology, popular materials, enriching activities, and informative programs. We seek to create lifelong learners by fostering literacy for all ages and

to develop and promote the library as a resource capable of meeting the challenges today and into the future.”

This spirit of collaboration has been critical to our success throughout the year. Thank you to the many volunteers that contributed to the library in many ways throughout the year. They have given generously of their time, talent and resources. Gratitude is also extended to our many town residents who have been supportive throughout the year, with their steady usage, tax dollars and generous contributions to the Friends’ fund raising efforts. Our library would not be able to operate without them!

Programs and Resources for Everyone

FISCAL YEAR 2013 CIRCULATION STATISTICS

Total Circulation for FY 2013	25,295
Interlibrary Loan Circulation:	
▪ Received from other libraries	3,354
▪ Provided to other libraries	4,679
Registered Borrowers	2,521

This past year saw the library offering many new programs and some old favorites as well! For our adult patrons, the library hosted several sessions of the Adult Knitting Club, Book Clubs, Meet the Author events and Summer Reading and celebration party. The Library also provided e-reader support, as the demand for digital books has continued to grow! Our library also is home to an ever changing art gallery, with original artwork provided by local artists from the Hampden Art Guild and students from Thornton Burgess Middle School. Always looking to provide the latest information about our newest materials and news from the publishing world, the Library continued to provide two services to our patrons. *The Book Page* - a monthly newspaper connecting patrons to great book reviews and author interviews is available free of charge to our patrons. Also, we offer an automatic email update called *Wowbrary*- which enable our patrons to receive messages as soon as our new materials are catalogued and ready for circulation!

For our youngest patrons, the Library hosts weekly Preschool Lunch Bunch Story time, infant & toddler Play & Grow Activity Group and monthly seasonally themed literature programs. The children & adults alike enjoyed trick-or-treating throughout town hall in their Halloween costumes. Local musician & children's author David Hyde

Costello entertained an enthusiastic crowd and Gwendolyn the Graceful Pig returned for a standing room only performance.

Additionally, we continue to welcome our middle school students to our Homework Club three days per week. We've enjoyed providing a quiet study area, homework assistance and opportunities for the students to meet for group project work and report research. Seasonally, the Library hosted a variety of special child and youth friendly events such as the ever-popular Summer Reading Program, Red Cross Babysitting Certification Course, Key Club and National Honor Society Volunteer projects. The Rochford Reading Room was officially dedicated in the fall with a grand reception. Thank you to the Friends of the Hampden Library for all of their hard work and support with this endeavor. The Holiday Crafts & Santa visit was a fun filled and exciting day for the library. Youth Community service day projects included making blankets for the Linus Project, Food drive to benefit the Survival Center and Mitten Tree to benefit The Gray House. It was heartwarming to see the youth of our community generously give of their time & talents to help others.

Welcoming New Staff

Ellen Moriarty began as the Director in October after Dianne Regnier resigned in September. Chanda Williams began as the Youth Services Librarian in November after

Ellen Henry resigned in October. We also welcomed Stephany Burzduk as our new library assistant. Ellen, Chanda and Stephany hit the ground running and bring great energy, enthusiasm and love of libraries to their new positions. We are grateful to Cindy Rowley, cataloging & circulation librarian, and Doria Porcello, library assistant, for their continued hard work and dedication to our library.

Looking Ahead

The new Evergreen software continues to provide opportunities for resource sharing,

reporting and circulation. The Hampden Free Public Library will continue to operate as an essential resource for our residents. While providing information, entertainment and support for all patrons, the Library serves as an important cornerstone institution for the cultural and educational needs in the town. Next year, we plan to continue focusing on our mission to provide the community with excellent services and relevant collections. We are looking forward to growing our patron usage and sharing all that your public library has to offer!

FISCAL YEAR 2013 OPERATING BUDGET

Total Operating Budget	\$113,771.00
Revolving Fund	- \$1,000.00
Trust and Endowments	- \$1,000.00
MEG (Mass Equalization Grant)	- \$4,300.00
Appropriated Budget	<u>\$107,471.00</u>
Additional Appropriation at Town Meeting	\$6,219.00
Total Final Appropriated Budget	<u>\$113,690.00</u>

Respectfully submitted by the Trustees of the Hampden Free Public Library:

Beth Burger, Chair

Kathy Hutchison

Kirsten Lipkens

Parks & Recreation Commission

The Parks & Recreation Commission was able to complete the three part restoration project at Memorial Park, and expand the accessibility of the lower field area by adding a secondary bridge over the brook.

The commission bid farewell to their Chairman, Jay Ray, as he decided not to seek re-election. We would like to thank Jay for his dedication and years of service. The commissioners welcomed newly elected member Terry Ford. Rich Joseph resigned his seat due to relocation, and David Paradis was appointed to fill the open seat until the next election. Fred Frangie was appointed as Chairman, and Michael Cronin was appointed as Vice-Chairman

The commission was able to purchase a landscaping equipment trailer to transport field maintenance equipment to improve and maintain our fields in town. Work has already begun on two batting cages that will be added to Memorial Park in the spring.

Our Summer Recreation Program at Memorial Park was expanded to six weeks this year. Over 150 children attended, and many youth from town worked as counselors-in-training and counselors at the park, under the guidance of new program director Joey Varney. This year we were able to include programs from Mad Science and the Home Depot as well as walking school bus field trips to the Hampden Public Library to take advantage of their educational summer programs.

The goal of Parks and Recreation is to offer a wide array of age and skill appropriate programs that will develop sportsmanship and skills in a positive, nurturing atmosphere. We thank our coaches and individual sports coordinators for the support and time they give to the youth of our town. Because of them, hundreds of Hampden children participated in our baseball, basketball, soccer and softball programs this year.

We could not sponsor the programs we do without the assistance and support of the Recreation Association of Hampden. RAH's committed volunteers raise much needed funds that are integral to the growth and stability of youth sports in Hampden, and we are thankful for their involvement.

If you would like to get involved, please join us at our meetings, we welcome anyone with an interest in our youth sports programs and encourage your volunteerism.

In closing, we are pleased with where we have been in 2013 and look ahead to an even more successful 2014.

Respectfully submitted:

Fred Frangie, Chairman

Michael Cronin, Vice Chairman

Marty McQuade

Terry Ford

David Paradis

Cindi Connors, Administrative Asst.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee is appointed by the Board of Selectmen and in 2013 consisted of five active members as follows: Donald Collins, Chair, Thomas Argenio, Richard Ayers, Carol Fitzgerald and William Gouzounis, Secretary. The committee ended the year with one vacancy with the departure of Thomas Argenio. The primary function of the Personnel Committee is to advise the Board of Selectmen on proper personnel practices within the Town. During the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 the Personnel Committee met at six publically posted meetings, February 13, 2013; March 26, 2013; May 28, 2013; July 15, 2013; August 20, 2013 and September 23, 2013, respectively. Additionally, Committee members participated in direct presentations with the Board of Selectmen to report on activities and receive direction on five occasions January 14, 2013; January 28, 2013; April 16, 2013; June 3, 2013 and December 16, 2013, respectively.

The committee's principal activities during the period consisted of:

- Reviewed employee salary rates for Fiscal Year 2014 and provided recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee for final approval.
- Drafted a memo for management staff with accompanying pay rate for discussion during the budget meetings held with department heads
- Finalize and issued the updated Policy and Employment Guidelines Handbook and provided for distribution to Town Managers and employees.
- Reviewed and made recommendations on the position description and the salary rates for seven positions as submitted by various departments.

At the request of the Selectmen, the Personnel Committee activities for Fiscal Year 2014 include:

- Develop and submit for approval employee salary rates as they relate to Fiscal Year 2015
- Develop and submit for approval a Senior Tax Abatement Program for volunteer work of eligible town citizens to be implemented in FY 15,
- Develop and submit for approval a proposed vacation scheduling policy for town employees.

Respectfully submitted:

Donald Collins, Chairman
Richard Ayers
Carol Fitzgerald
William Gouzounis

PLANNING BOARD - 2013

There were no new subdivision plans submitted to the Planning Board in 2013. The Board continues administering one active subdivision approved in 2004, Scantic Meadows.

The Board continues to adjust their meeting schedule to align with the demands of the town. As the demand goes up, the Board will adjust the schedule appropriately to meet the needs.

The Planning Board continues to work with other boards in town to update the zoning maps based on the maintenance schedule.

The Ridgeline and Hillside committee continues to be administered admirably by John Matthews. The PVPC representative is Judge Robert Howarth, and the CPA representative is Charlie Dolben.

As always there are opportunities for interested citizens to get involved in Board-related activities and sub-committees. Community input is always welcomed and encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

Cornelius Flynn, Chair
John Matthews, Vice Chair
Judge Robert Howarth
Joseph Dolben
James Quackenbush
Richard R. Green

Joanne Fiore, Adm. Assistant

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

I SUBMIT HEREWITH, THE Annual Report for the police department for the year ending, December 31, 2013.

During the year, the Police Department received 8,976 calls for service. Most of the calls received by this department were for assistance, complaints and for reporting crimes or accidents. The following are some of the types of complaints received and investigated by this department.

Call Action Breakdown

Call Action	Total	Call Action	Total
Building Checks	1,442	Motor Vehicle Stops	994
General Services	630	Special Attention	2,480
Medical Assist	369	Suspicious Person/Auto	279
Animal Complaints	170	Alarm Calls	300
Assist Other Agencies	129	Hazardous Condition	46
Assist Citizen/Motorist	450	Disturbance General/Domestic	69
Assist other PD	54	Vacation Checks	107

During the year we had 433 total offenses committed, with 146 total arrests and 6 juvenile arrests. Offenses included in these numbers are 27 incidents of vandalism or malicious destruction of property; 23 incidents of Burglary/Breaking & Entering, 31 incidents of Larceny, 21 incidents of Harassment/Annoying Calls, and 9 incidents of Missing Persons.

We had 82 motor vehicle accidents this year. There were a total of 950 citations issued during the year with a total of \$24,460.00 in fines. The town has received \$10,710.00 from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, which represents the town's share of fines on tickets written. Of the citations issued 25.5% were civil infractions, 52.2% were warnings and 3.5% resulted in criminal charges. There were 498 Radar Posts and 994 Motor Vehicle stops. The average speed limit in Hampden is 34 MPH; the average speed of vehicles that were issued citations was 52 MPH or 18 MPH over the speed limit.

During the year \$18,704.15 was turned over to the Town Treasurer for firearms identification cards, pistol permits, alarm fees and various report fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Farnsworth
Chief of Police



Report of the Police Department

2013 was a year that we saw a few changes in the Police Department, Senior Sergeant Joe Henry retired and moved to warmer weather! Joe served our community with distinction and is missed by the residents and his co-workers. The resulting open Sergeant's position was filled by promoting Officer Seega, who has assumed the duties of third shift Sergeant. Benjamin Tucker was hired to fill the open patrol position and is also working the third shift. We also have our first full time detective. Officer Scott Trombly has been assigned to the position of Detective effective 1/1/2014. We are now able to much more effectively investigate incidents. Detective Trombly will also be handling all evidence work, which has become very time consuming as a result of changes made in our state laboratories and he also will be working on the increasing demands on the police departments by our court system.

After a number of years of steadily increasing calls for service we have seen our call volume stabilize at just over 9000 calls per year. New technology is being added on a regular basis in our dispatch center as we prepare for the state's implementation of the Nextgen E911 as it has been termed by the state. We now have active mapping of all E911 calls.

We continue to review our option for a new police facility. The study of our current station was completed by Kaestle Boos, Associates and found that we are extremely lacking for space which is hindering our current ability to service our town to the best of our abilities. Expansion within the town hall is not an option. We are looking for the most cost effective way to house a new police station and allow proper access to all residents with sufficient room for our current police operations to run efficiently and effectively.

I would ask all home and business owners to log onto the police departments website and download an alarm sheet and ensure that we have the most current information so if need be we can contact you. I would also like to remind everyone that our by-law allows for three (3) false alarms a year, each false alarm after that is \$25 each.

Please also remember to sign up for our emergency notification system, Connect-CTY, you may sign up at WWW.Hampdenpolice.com. You can enroll you home phone and/or cell phone to receive emergency notifications from the town.

In closing I would like to thank all the men and women of the Police Department for their continued dedicated service to our residents. Also a special thanks to the Hampden Volunteer Fire Department and the Hampden Highway Department for their continued support this past year.

Jeff W Farnsworth
Chief of Police

RIDGELINE AND HILLSIDE COMMITTEE

The Ridgeline & Hillside Committee is a subcommittee of the Planning Board. Its function is to act in an advisory role, perform site reviews for the applicant, and make recommendations to the Planning Board and Building Department. The Ridgeline & Hillside District includes steep slopes averaging 15% or greater for 200 feet, and any land at an elevation of 600 feet or more above sea level. Please see Section 6 of the Town of Hampden Zoning Bylaws for more details. The Zoning Bylaws can be found on the Town website at www.hampden.org.

If you have questions as to the applicability of the bylaw to your property, please see the Ridgeline and Hillside District overlay map located in the hallway of the lower level of the Town Hall or in the Building Department office. If your project falls within the Ridgeline & Hillside District, you must file an application for review of the project. The application can also be found on the Town's website.

Respectfully submitted,

John Matthews, Chairman

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

SCANTIC VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

During 2013, the Scantic Valley Water District (SVWD) pumped 377,240 gallons of water from two (2) wells on Massachusetts Audubon Society property, off Main Street in Hampden. There are nine (9) active water services in the SVWD, providing drinking water to eight (8) homes and one (1) Laughing Brook property. The SVWD is a registered community based Public Water System (PWS ID #1120023) in the Commonwealth and is regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Water Supply.

The 2013 DEP water sampling schedule for the SVWD was accomplished with twelve (12) Coliform, five (5) Lead and Copper, one (1) Nitrate and one (1) Volatile Organic Compounds samples taken at various locations in the distribution system and the source tap for Wells #1 and #2. All water quality sampling results for 2013 indicate excellent water quality, meeting or exceeding standards set by the DEP. Documents filed with the DEP by this PWS for 2013, include the water quality laboratory state form reports, Annual Statistical Report and Consumer Confidence Report and monitoring waiver application.

The following items occurred at the pump house: the four (4) cylinder Ford motor that powers the standby generator had it annual oil and filter changed and once a month the 3,000 gallon underground pneumatic water tank was flushed and the master water read. The nine (9) residential water service meters were read twice, once in June and then again in December.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Jalbert
George Bouchard
Ed Hatch

Michael Framarin, Water Operator

TAX COLLECTOR

As in the past, I'd like to remind taxpayers of several exemptions available to resident homeowners. If you are over the age of 70 and you have limited income and assets, or you've been deemed legally blind, or you're a disabled Veteran, you may qualify for a reduction in real estate tax. Another option for resident real estate tax payers over 60 is the senior tax work-off program approved by the Town in 2010. Participants are given the opportunity to reduce their tax obligation in exchange for work done for the Town. If you qualify, either can certainly help to ease your tax burden.

A growing number of taxpayers are taking advantage of our Unipay Gold on-line bill payment service. Unipay offers a secure website that gives taxpayers the opportunity to pay taxes at their convenience from the comforts of home. Visit "hampden.org" and click on "taxes" in the upper right hand corner of the screen to see why this is becoming popular with so many people.

The tax rate for fiscal year 2014 was set at \$18.00 per thousand dollars of assessed value, representing an increase of \$.55 over fiscal year 2013's tax rate of \$17.45. The one recurring reason for higher taxes is, like individual residents, the Town faces the ever increasing costs involved in meeting our daily expenses.

Calendar year tax collections for 2013:

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax:	687,486.09
Personal Property Tax:	322,246.23
Real Estate Tax:	9,287,079.79
CPA:	57,031.66
Interest:	29,084.17
Fees:	14,847.94
<u>Total</u>	<u>10,397,775.88</u>

TOWN CLERK

Money remitted to the Treasurer in 2013:

Dog Licenses	833.00
Certified Copies	2045.00
Publications	100.00
Marriages	210.00
Trade Names	440.00
Miscellaneous	<u>1236.00</u>
	4914.00 Total

* Because of changes made to the method of issuance, the Town Clerk's Office no longer offers Massachusetts hunting or fishing licenses.

Available in the Town Clerk's Office:

Dog licenses \$ <u>4.00</u> spay/neuter, <u>OR</u>	10.00
Marriage Licenses	15.00
Trade Name in Business (D/B/A)	20.00
Subdivision Control Law	7.00
Zoning By-Laws	10.00
Zoning Map	20.00
General By-laws	5.00
Certified Copies (vital records)	5.00
Street List	10.00
Voter's List	10.00
Voter's List on diskette	10.00
Voter Registration Card	5.00

Vital Statistics recorded in Hampden:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Births	29	23	27	23	29	30	21	20	22
Deaths	70	84	67	65	68	82	70	71	86
Marriages	11	14	15	16	14	18	13	13	14