

**ANNUAL REPORT
SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR
2008-2009**

The 2008-2009 school year has enjoyed its successes and faced its challenges. Our students continue to achieve academically as demonstrated on state-wide and national test scores. The NECAP scores for 4th, 8th and 11th grade are significantly above the NH state average. Our staff continues in its efforts to improve differentiated instruction at all grade levels. Dr. Dean Cascadden has been busy collecting and sharing data about the district, all presented in his "District Report Card" which is available on our website under the SAU bucket.

In an effort to increase communication, the School Board hosted its first "Coffee with the School Board" in October at the Baker Free Library. Another session is scheduled for the spring with the date to be announced. This is an opportunity to converse with a Board member in an informal setting.

The responsibilities of the School Board are to work with the Superintendent and Business Administrator, oversee policy adherence, and work to align the needs of the Bow School District with the ever-changing economic climate. This includes working on a budget that meets the needs of district while being fiscally responsible to the community that supports education. The stewardship of Dr. Cascadden and Mr. Duane Ford, along with the oversight of the School Board, has enabled us to carry out the primary mission of educating our students.

This year, the requirements of the State Board of Education for all high schools to have policies in place for identification of competencies for each course offered has been accomplished. These competencies refer to the skills and content knowledge demonstrated by all students successfully completing a course. This was dovetailed with effecting policies outlining credits earned by alternate activities (Extended Learning Opportunities - ELO's). This was no small feat for the Bow High School staff and they are to be commended on their hard work.

Also this year, the research leading to the implementation of the International Baccalaureate Program (IB) was discontinued because of a lack of community support and a vocal opposition to the program. This spurred the creation of the High School Review Committee, which is an advisory committee made up of community members, High School staff members, and facilitated by Dr. Cascadden. With the 10th anniversary of the opening of Bow High School, we are re-evaluating what works, what doesn't, and how we may improve instruction. The committee is, tentatively, scheduled to report its finding to the Board at the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

This year also saw the creation of a District CIA committee. As covert as it sounds, this is actually the Curriculum-Instruction-Assessment committee that is open to all staff from all three schools. It is a venue where educators can share ideas and processes and is proving to be a valuable educational community tool.

Last year the District purchased a communication program (AlertNow) that enables us to contact parents, in the event of an emergency, through automatic phone calls and blast emails. We never imagined that we would be using this system town-wide until the ice storm hit on December 13th and much of the town was without power for an extended period. We were able to open Bow High School to community members without power or water for a shower and internet access during this time. Grateful community members will no doubt never forget returning to high school, if even for a short period.

Our teachers, administrators and support staff work together to provide an environment within our schools that is safe, caring, supportive and academically appropriate for all students. This task is entirely made possible by the support of the Bow community. Our schools are an investment in our future; we sincerely appreciate your support.

Contact information for all School Board members can be accessed at: www.bownet.org/bowschoolboard/. We encourage all community members to attend monthly meetings, the spring "Coffee" or to contact any Board member. Our goal is to facilitate open dialogue with the community and to work together collaboratively to achieve academic and fiscal success.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb McCann

Chair, Bow School Board