



Kennebunk Rotary Club

November 12, 2009

Andrew Dolloff, Superintendent of Schools, RSU 21

Dick Sharood introduced his son John, a member of the local school board, and John, in turn, introduced his guest, Andrew Dolloff, our new superintendent of schools. Andrew was introduced as a former teacher, coach, assistant principal, athletic director, high school principal, a former Principal of the Year, and a person who dramatically raised academic achievements in his former positions.



Andrew began his remarks, after reflecting on John's introduction, with "What happens at Kennebunk Rotary stays at Kennebunk Rotary." He was certainly reflecting on the works of our Sergeant at Arms, which happened just before his introduction.

Andrew told us that he was excited to be here; that he was aware of the many challenges that he and the school unit faced, and was ready to meet those challenges, with the help of the Rotary and the community in general. He gave his appreciation for all that Rotary

has done for the students in the school unit and said that his greatest challenge was to find ways to meet the needs of all the students.

He pointed out that there are two parallel studies about to be initiated. One will be done by Harriman Associates and will be a school facilities utilization study. It will include enrollment trends and a full scale assessment of all existing facilities. "Some of our facilities are tired and outdated. We need to gather data from the total community of RSU 21 to update our strengths and weaknesses."

Secondly, we need to develop a strategic planning process to determine where we are headed, and what we need to do to prepare our students for the future. He indicated that we would be assisted in that with the help of the Great Schools Project in Portland, Maine, which is headed by former Commissioner of Education Duke Albanese.

Another major item is the reduction of state aid to education, which is estimated to be close to a million dollars in this school year and more to come in future years. Andrew said, "We will face up to it and we will do what needs to be done."