

Winfried Feneberg, CAGS
Superintendent

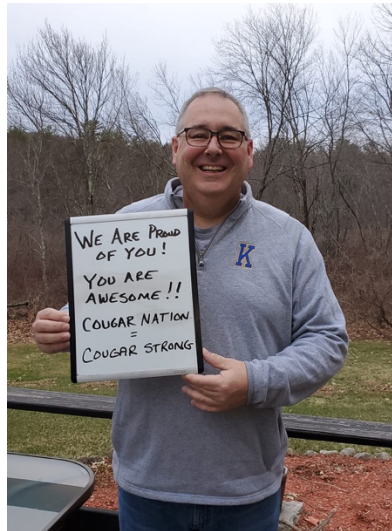
Michael Bessette, CAGS
Assistant Superintendent



Lawrence LeBoeuf, BS
Business Administrator

Lawrence Elliott, M.Ed.
Director of Student Support Services

The Kearsarge Regional School District Remembers Former Principal Robert Bennett



Sutton, NH – The Kearsarge Regional School District is saddened to acknowledge the recent passing of former teacher, coach, and administrator, Robert Bennett, on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 after a battle with cancer.

Bennett started in the Kearsarge Regional School District in 1994 as a paraprofessional at Kearsarge Regional Elementary School in New London and Kearsarge Regional Middle School. He later became a beloved social studies teacher at Kearsarge Regional High School (KRHS) before taking on an administrator role as the first Student Assistance Coordinator at KRHS in 2006. In 2012, he became assistant principal at the high school, then interim principal for the 2014-2015 school year, before being named principal in 2015. In 2020, Bennett left Kearsarge after more than 25 years and took on a position as principal at Laconia High School in Laconia, New Hampshire.

“I first met Rob during my interview for the Assistant Principal position here at Kearsarge almost eight years ago. It was immediately evident that Rob’s passion for Kearsarge ran exceedingly deep. No decisions were made in isolation and every conversation always circled back to what was best for kids,” Laura Newman, Assistant Principal said, “Anyone that knew Rob well, knew that behind his seemingly unflappable exterior, what he cared most about was his family, his school (also known as his Kearsarge family), and his community. Rob never failed to recognize my efforts and he challenged my thinking. As such, he has shaped who I am as a school administrator. I feel so grateful to have known him and to have had him in my life.”

Though he possessed a strong passion for education and helping students, he had an equal love of sports. Bennett coached a variety of sports for KRHS as well as Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire. Most notably, for many seasons he coached field hockey, baseball, girls’ basketball, and

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was assistant coach for boys' basketball and football. In 2012, he led the Kearsarge Cougars girls' basketball team to the NHIAA Division II championship game as well as many other tournament appearances in both field hockey and baseball. For 9 years, Bennett was the assistant women's basketball coach at Keene State College.

"The world has lost a true champion for kids with Rob's passing. In whatever role he played here at Kearsarge, and there were many, it was the students that always came first," Peter Bianchi, KRHS math teacher said, "Whether they were the valedictorian or they had to be convinced to come to school each and every day, Rob was there for them, quietly supporting them with whatever they needed to be successful. Cougar Nation was lucky to have Rob Bennett among its ranks for as long as it did. He will be missed."

Bennett loved seeing students succeed, whether it was in a class, sport, extracurricular activity, or a life milestone. Many will remember him for his infectious laugh, school spirit, and dedication to the student body.

"Rob Bennett was the consummate Kearsarge person and he championed students, families, and this school district," KRHS counselor Peter Angus said, "[He] led by example and was willing to tackle any job that needed to be done as evidenced by his many roles in our school district. Rob's commitment to Kearsarge was only exceeded by the love he had for his family. The sacrifice and devotion that he had for his community will be felt for years to come."

Bennett leaves behind his wife Koreen and daughter Olivia, who are both part of the Kearsarge community, and daughter Courtney of Franklin, New Hampshire.

Counseling services are available for students and staff through the counseling center at the high school.

Service arrangements have not been made public at this time. The SAU will update the community when details become available.