

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 38
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community High School Student Center
January 6, 2016
Minutes of Meeting

Present: Chair Terri Watson, Vice Chair Melissa O’Neal, Gary Carr, Pia Holmes, Trish Jackson, Betty Morrell, Stefan Pakulski, Shawn Roderick, Bonnie Simcock

Members Absent: Michael Apolito, Stephen Hayes, Jim Marr (excused), Michele Pino (excused)

Administrators: Superintendent Donna Wolfrom, Principals Dwayne Conway, Janet Delmar, and Cathy Jacobs, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Nancy Harriman, Adult and Community Education Director Steve Vose, Director of Special Education Ryan Meserve, Finance Manager Brigette Williams, Technology Director Diane MacGregor

Student Rep: Derek Kelly

1. Call to order: Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
Vice Chair Melissa O’Neal reported that Maranacook’s graduation rate for 2014-15 is up to 91.09%. This is up from 86.84% for 2013-14, and 83.96% for 2012-13.
2. Discussion with Victoria Wallack, Director of Government Relations & Communications, MSMA, regarding communicating the budget
Superintendent Wolfrom introduced Victoria Wallack. Ms. Wallack complimented the board on beginning the meeting with good news. She spoke with the board about ways to communicate the school budget to the citizens and complimented the Board and Superintendent on the positive message they already relay to the community. She provided notes to the board and urged them to go through an exercise, asking themselves the following questions: What sets your district or school apart in the marketplace? Why should parents care enough to send their kids to you? Why should taxpayers fund public education?
Other suggestions: talk about why tax payers need to support your schools and talk about this year round; outline your goals, vision, and accomplishments; talk about what the money is going to buy and why you need it; highlight what you’ve done to try to tighten your belt; talk about your efforts to hold the line; have handouts, provide analysis of your trade-offs. She expressed the importance of everyone talking off the same page and keeping things positive; never go negative.
3. Consent Agenda:
 - a. Approval of Minutes of December 16, 2015
MOTION by Carr, second by Simcock to approve the minutes of December 16, 2015 as presented. B.Morrell noted a typographical error on section 2, 3rd paragraph (complimented).
Motion Carried: unanimous
 - b. Request for Out-of-State Travel, Debate Tournament, January 16-18, 2016, Lexington, MA
MOTION by Simcock, second by Morrell to approve the Out-of-State travel request, as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous
4. Student Representatives Reports:
Superintendent Wolfrom noted the middle school representatives, as well as one of the high school representatives are absent due to a Nordic Ski Meet.
High School representative Derek Kelly reported on recent activities at the high school as well as the upcoming Jazz and Chamber Singers concert on January 12th. He distributed information about

the School Spirit Challenge, sponsored by Channel 13, which runs from January 3 to February 26. The students want to make this a district wide community challenge with the goal of collecting 150,000 pounds of food for the Good Shepherd Food Bank. He noted that every dollar donated equals 5 pounds of food. Donations can be dropped off at any of the schools, or you may donate via the virtual campaign at: <https://www.gsfb.org/donate/vfd/523>

5. Citizens' comments:

Principal Dwayne Conway noted that there is another professional development night to continue the discussion of Proficiency Based Education (PBE) scheduled on Thursday, January 14 at 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided as well as babysitting.

6. Additions/adjustments: none

7. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:

a. Vote on Superintendent Donna H. Wolfrom's Administrative Contract

MOTION by Carr, second by Holmes to extend Superintendent Wolfrom's contract by one year to June 30, 2018. Discussion followed. Chair Watson reported that Superintendent Wolfrom's evaluation was exceptional and the Board is very pleased that she has committed to the district for this additional time. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

b. Acceptance of Administrator Resignation due to retirement, June 2016, Cathy Jacobs

MOTION by Carr, second by Simcock to accept the resignation of Principal Cathy Jacobs with regret. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

c. Removal of Obsolete Policy, Second Reading, GBGA, Staff Members with HIV/AIDS

MOTION by Carr, second by O'Neal to remove Policy GBGA, Staff Members with HIV/AIDS.

Motion Carried: unanimous

d. Policy Second Readings: IMDC, Observance of Religious Holidays; JJIBA, Hiring and Evaluation of Coaches (current Policy GCFC)

MOTION by Carr, second by Morrell to accept Policy IMDC, Observance of Religious Holidays, as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

MOTION by Morrell, second by O'Neal to accept Policy JJIBA, Hiring and Evaluation of Coaches (current Policy GCFC) as presented. Superintendent Wolfrom noted one change to the policy since the first reading, removing the sentence stating that coaches' job descriptions will be approved by the Board. This is not current practice.

Motion Carried: unanimous

e. Policy First Readings: ADC, Use of Tobacco on School District Premises Prohibited; EEAEFA, Video Surveillance on School Property and School Buses (new); JICH, Drug & Alcohol Use By Students

Superintendent Wolfrom reviewed the recommended changes from the Policy Committee on the first reading policies. Trish Jackson expressed her concerns about the Video Surveillance policy, requesting more information on the location of the video surveillance cameras and how they are monitored. The policy implies that the cameras can be used for monitoring. Superintendent Wolfrom asked that she submit her questions/concerns in writing for the Policy Committee to review at their next meeting. Any comments/questions on the three first reading policies can be submitted to Donna Foster at the Superintendent's Office. The Committee will be reviewing the policies at their next meeting on Tuesday, January 12th.

f. Fiscal Year 17 Budget Review/Goals

Superintendent Wolfrom provided the Board with a listing of the interventionists' schedules/student numbers as requested at a previous meeting.

Chair Watson reported that last year, in coming up with a budget goal, the board defined where they wanted to be and talked about the goal from 2 years ago. Last year the board decided to go with a statement that says we want to do what is necessary so we can be sure every student succeeds. She added, that every time the board examines what we do, we have to think about the stakeholders, but hope we go in the way of meeting our mission as school board members.

M.O'Neal liked the process last year. The administrators presented their perfect budget, putting in what was needed and then the board worked backwards from that. G.Carr agreed.

B.Simcock added the importance of showing the cost efficiencies.

Superintendent Wolfrom noted the Board has always had a slogan that can be used in the updates and to refer to constantly. The first goal of the Strategic Plan is a good thing to reflect on; people have heard it a lot; it is a good message to be sending out this budget season, with being fiscally responsible to our citizens.

Last year's statement was, "providing support for students in order to promote academic success." Perhaps have a snappier statement that says, "Success for all students," with an added statement, "fiscally responsible to our taxpayers." Another suggestion, "Promoting student success for all while maintaining fiscal responsibility."

Chair Watson asked board members to think about the message they want to send. There are a few members absent tonight and it is important to have everyone's input on the message they want to send to the community. This item will be added to the next agenda.

Questions were asked regarding the data provided on the interventionists' sheet: how many of the 42 students noted in the high school as not receiving literacy services are failing? What do you want the school board to do about the 42 student this year? Principal Conway responded that some students are receiving spotted service through RTI, but he would like the interventionist next year to help them more fully. What about peer tutoring and AmeriCorps? Principal Conway responded that the peer tutoring is great at helping students on individual topics. AmeriCorps hasn't worked out in the past. Maranacook was approved two years in a row but then the positions were not able to be filled. This past year we did not apply.

9. Executive Session to discuss administrative salaries pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A)

MOTION by Carr, second by Roderick to enter Executive Session to discuss administrative salaries pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A). **Motion Carried:** unanimous.

The Board entered executive session at 8:14 p.m. and returned to public session at 9:28 p.m.

MOTION by M.O'Neal, second by B.Morrell to raise Dr. Wolfrom's annual salary to \$110,000, with the addition of a 30 sick day buy-out clause upon retirement, not to exceed \$10,000, and the addition of 3 personal days per year. Discussion followed. **Motion Carried:** 8 in favor, 1 opposed (Carr), 0 abstentions.

MOTION by G.Carr, second by S.Roderick to raise Brigitte Williams' annual salary to \$66,000, and to raise Ryan Meserve's annual salary to \$82,000. **Motion Carried:** unanimous.

10. Adjournment: Motion and second to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna H. Wolfrom, Superintendent/Secretary
D. Foster, Recorder