

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community High School Student Center
March 2, 2016
Minutes of Meeting

Present: Chair Terri Watson, Vice Chair Melissa O’Neal, Gary Carr, Stephen Hayes (arrived 6:50), Pia Holmes, Trish Jackson, Betty Morrell, Stefan Pakulski, Shawn Roderick, Bonnie Simcock

Members Excused: Jim Marr, Michele Pino, (one vacant position, Mt. Vernon)

Administrators: Superintendent Donna Wolfrom, Principals Jeff Boston, Dwayne Conway, and Janet Delmar, 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, Literacy Coach Barbara Bourgoine

Student Rep: Molly Searway

1. Call to order: Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.
2. Consent Agenda: Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2016
MOTION by G.Carr second by S.Roderick to accept the minutes of February 24, 2016 with one typographical correction. **Motion Carried:** 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (O’Neal).
3. Student Representative Reports:
HS representative Molly Searway reported on the recent fundraising activities at the high school. The School Spirit Challenge raised over 91,500 pounds of food for the Good Shepherd Food Bank. She also reported the high school has added an intro to piano and a new intermediate guitar class. Plans are in place for a movie night next month with 8th graders to introduce them to the high school. Physics projects are due next month; the AP US History class will be visiting the Margaret Chase Smith library; and the spring play will be coming up in April, “Play On”.
3. Citizens’ Comments: none
4. Additions to the Agenda: none
5. Joint meeting with Local Select Boards:
Chair Watson welcomed the members of the Select Boards. The following members were present: Mt. Vernon – Paul Crockett; Readfield – Bruce Bourgoine, Allen Curtis, Tom Dunham, Valarie Pomerleau; Wayne – Gary Kenny, and Town Manager Aaron Chrostowsky.
Technology Director Diane MacGregor provided an overview of the District’s website, focusing on the home page and budget information.
Superintendent Wolfrom reported on some of the strides the district has made to be “a caring community dedicated to excellence”. The graduation rate is climbing, 91.9% for FY15, which is up from 82.11% in FY14; the Board recognized two state champion debaters at the last board meeting; there are over 160 high school students participating in college classes (41% of student body); and for the first time, several of the students will be graduating from Maranacook with an Associates’ degree from Thomas College; members of the ski team have won championships; the district has a cohesive and consistent curriculum from Pre-K to high school in the areas of literacy, mathematics, and science, and staff is hard

at work on the other content areas; test scores are rising in all grades; and the adult ed program has a functioning vehicle and is offering a CDL program that is full to capacity, training adults for a vocation in commercial driving.

In January the board identified a goal statement for the budget process, “promoting student success for all while maintaining fiscal responsibility”, and charged the administrators and directors to develop a budget that meets the needs of the students. The budget process started with a 6.25% increase from FY16, and based on reductions made so far the budget is at a 3.74% increase. As of today the ED279 shows that state subsidy has been cut over \$400,000, which is due in part to a \$12 million increase in education statewide, \$6 million going to Charter Schools, a decrease in statewide property valuations, and an increase in local property valuations. Superintendent Wolfrom urged everyone to contact their state legislators about this reduction (listing provided and posted on website).

She reported that at the last meeting a request was made to look into borrowing options for the larger facilities projects: roofing for Mt. Vernon, Readfield, and Manchester Elementary Schools, and the tennis court repairs. The district’s attorneys were contacted and our only option at this time is to secure a bond through a private company. The bond would have to go through the referendum process and it has to be 5 weeks between when the Board votes and going to referendum. The tentative figures are a \$270,000 bond at estimated interest rates of 2.95% for 5 years, 3.3% for 7 years, and 3.5% for 10 years.

Superintendent Wolfrom reviewed the documents provided, reviewing the decreases made since the last meeting.

Select Board members thanked the Board for the invitation to meet and complimented staff on the packets provided to them as well as the updated website. Discussion ensued regarding the information that was presented. Support was expressed for further investigation of a bond for the larger facilities projects to help reduce the budget. Concern was raised about bringing a budget to voters that presents close to a mil in tax increases. Correction was noted that, at present, the increase represents approximately .4 mil. Superintendent Wolfrom expects more decreases to be made once other figures are obtained (health insurance, possibility of additional state subsidy), as well as other reductions.

Town officials encouraged the Board to pursue bond funding for the larger facility projects. They felt that talking points would be helpful for them as they speak with citizens. Suggestion was made to post a “call to action” on the website to encourage citizens to contact their legislators. They asked for the board to keep communication lines open and continue to get updated information to them as quickly as possible.

MOTION by G.Carr, second by P.Holmes to go out to bond for the 4 projects (Readfield, Manchester and Mt. Vernon Elementary roofs, and the tennis court repairs.)

Discussion followed regarding other projects that could be included in the bond. Concern was raised that some of the larger projects on the 5-year plan did not have costs indicated, as well as items eliminated from the FY17 budget. Suggestion was made to make a decision about going out to bid and then decide on an amount.

Amendment to Motion by S.Hayes to seek a bonding amount up to \$500,000, with the projects to be decided upon once more information is provided. **No second.**

Vote to seek a bond doesn’t mean the Board will spend money they don’t need to spend; having a draw down would help. Looking at authorizing bonding authority not spending money.

Amendment to Motion by S.Hayes, second by P.Holmes to approve the concept of bonding; authorizing the RFP process; to initiate work with bond counsel; for an amount conceivably sufficient to cover capital needs in next 3 years; to start the approval process and have the Superintendent come back to the board with the answers we need.

Vote on Amendment failed: 4 in favor, 6 opposed (Carr, O’Neal, Simcock, Watson, Jackson, Roderick)

Vote on original motion failed: 0 in favor, 7 opposed, 3 abstained (Carr, Hayes, Holmes)

MOTION by S.Hayes, second by G.Carr to eliminate all of the items to consider cutting on the priorities for FY17 Budget listing developed by the Administrative Team for a total of \$57,600.

Motion Carried: unanimous

7. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:

a. Action on Tabled Policy: EEA-EFA, Video Surveillance on School Property and School Buses

MOTION by Carr, second by Jackson to approve Policy EEA-EFA as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

b. Policy Second Readings: BEDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings; GBEC, Drug-Free Workplace; JLCD, Administration of Medication to Students; KCD, Gifts/Donations to the Schools; KE, Public Concerns and Complaints; KFC, Playground Use

MOTION by G.Carr, second by B.Morrell to approve Policy BEDH as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

MOTION by G.Carr, second by M.O'Neal to approve Policy GBEC as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

MOTION by G.Carr, second by T.Jackson to approve Policy JLCD as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

MOTION by B.Morrell, second by G.Carr to approve Policy KCD as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

MOTION by G.Carr, second by T.Jackson to approve Policy KE as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

MOTION by G.Carr, second by T.Jackson to approve Policy KFC as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

c. Policy First Readings: EEA, Student Transportation; IK Student Achievement/Evaluation of Student Proficiency (current Policy IKA); KF, Use of Facilities

Superintendent Wolfrom reported the Policy Committee reviewed these 3 policies at the February Policy Committee meeting (minutes attached). These policies are being recommended for first reading as presented. Please forward any questions/comments to Donna Foster at the Superintendent's Office. The next Policy Committee meeting is Monday, March 7, 6:00 p.m.

8. Informational items:

Discussion on informational items.

9. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

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