

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wayne Elementary School
October 18, 2017
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Chair Betty Morrell, Vice Chair, Gary Carr, Wendy Brotherlin, Jon Caron, Cathy Jacob, Kaleb Pushard, Shawn Roderick, Lucas Rumler, Thomas Sneed, David Twitchell, Adam Woodford, Alexander Wright

Member Excused: Melissa O'Neal

Administrators: Superintendent Donna Wolfrom, Principals Jeff Boston, Dwayne Conway, Janet Delmar, and Rick Hogan, Assistant Principal Kristen Levesque, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve, Technology Director Diane MacGregor, Finance Manager Brigette Williams, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Nancy Harriman, Literacy Coach Barbara Bourgoine, Math Coach Sarah Caban, Adult and Community Education Director Steve Vose

1. Call to order:

Chair Morrell called the meeting to order at 6:30. She thanked Principal Jeff Boston, teachers Susan Hogan and Toni Parker, and Maintenance Director Shaun Drinkwater for the tour of the building.

2. Presentations:

a. MEA Scores

Nancy Harriman presented the MEA and SAT (grade 11) scores from last spring. She reported that the importance of this data is that it is a consistent way to compare the performance of our students to students in other Maine districts. The most significant improvements were at the high school, and the other grade levels continue to score above the state average in the meet or exceed standards.

Questions:

What about the other categories; are students making progress in those categories? What is the district doing to help the students at those levels? Sarah Caban will be presenting on the work being done by the interventionists which should answer some of these questions.

How many 11th graders are taking dual enrollment courses? Principal Conway reported 80% of grade 11 and 12 students are enrolled in dual enrollment courses. There are also some 10th graders.

Discussion ensued regarding the drop in scores during the transition years. Math Coach Sarah Caban added that one of the things about this data is that we have small groups of students, less than 100 per grade, combined with students moving in and out which affects our percentages. Statistically we are a very small district.

What about increasing the interventionists' time in schools where the scores are lower.

Ms. Harriman reported last year was the first year that Algebra 1 was fully aligned, and staff is finalizing geometry. Not all curriculum is at that level, and not all kids are at that point when they take the test. Currently, all 9th graders are taking Algebra I. Principal Conway added that with the high school interventionist, the school has a good system in place; those students who took this test last year did not have the advantage of taking those classes. Teachers are saying that students are coming to the High School better prepared.

Sarah Caban added that they look at individual student data; did their scores drop, and if so, by how much; drilling down so individual students can have assistance in the areas they need. Ms. Harriman added that they never look at just one test when reviewing the data.

How many students are continuously in the system versus how many new students?

Of the students who are freshman, will they have the curriculum they need by the time they become juniors? Yes

Will the Board receive follow up data on the number of students?

Ms. Harriman continued that overall the science scores have improved, especially K-5; middle level is not as strong as in past years but they have some possible solutions using the stem gauge assessment. This will help staff in being more consistent in the science curriculum.

Question – would smaller classes be better?

Steve DeAngelis, High School Science teacher, commented that small classes and very minor shifts in students can affect the percentages. He noted that three of those students tested missed by one question, which changed the percentage. He added that he believes that there is such a thing as standardized test fatigue. He asked the Board to think about that as a district. Use the data; be efficient about it; identifying student's weaknesses and helping them.

Chair Morrell thanked everyone for the presentation and discussion, adding this would be a great conversation to have at grade level and curriculum committee level.

b. Role of Math Interventionists

Sarah Caban reported on the work of the interventionists, explaining the RtI process for identifying students before they fall behind, and the work the interventionists do in the classroom along with teachers. She provided examples of collaboration between teachers and interventionists during grade level meetings as well as workshop days. She shared the RtI Watchlist/Caseload document teachers and interventionists use to track the progress of individual students.

Question - what do you use to make sure you are getting results? Mrs. Caban responded that for math the district uses common assessments to monitor individual progress. She added that Steve DeAngelis' comments are valid, but added that we also have a lot of kids who miss a lot of school.

c. Health Center Update

Rebecca Reynolds, Health Center Director reported that this is the 25th year of operation at the Health Center. She reviewed the list of team members at the health center; and provided an overview of what services are available for all students as well as the expanded services. She gave an overview of the funding scenario, noting that for FY18 the state portion of the health center funds were reallocated by the Legislature. The district has a reserve to use for the current year to cover that loss. The reserve will cover this year and, if necessary, the following school year. Three Bills have been introduced at the Legislature to restore funding, she is also researching some foundations and other grant options.

Questions:

How many other health centers are there in Maine? 4 in Lewiston/Auburn; 4 in Portland; Topsham; Presque isle; although she is unsure how many if any were affected by the reallocation of funds from the Legislature in June. Mrs. Reynolds will be meeting with other Health Center Directors and will discuss what they are doing as a result of loss of funding.

Would regional cost centers help with the health center?

3. Citizens Comments:

Chair Morrell noted that it is not appropriate to speak about any individuals negatively in public session. She asked that concerns regarding individuals be addressed with them directly.

Kristen Levesque, Wayne resident and Assistant Principal at MCHS spoke about her family's reasons for moving to this district 4 years ago. She spoke about the District's Mission Statement and the goal of excellence is not only for students but for employees. She knows of 7 staff members in post-graduate programs and another 3 who are in the application process. She came here with a Masters' Degree, earned her Doctorate this past May and another certificate in advanced study in Young Adult Literature. She spoke about the work the middle and high school staff are doing together to improve the advisory program and how proud she is of the accomplishments of the district.

4. Additions/Adjustments: none

5. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of October 4, 2017

MOTION by Carr, second by Twitchell to approve the minutes of October 4, 2017 as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

b. Acceptance of donations:

MOTION by Carr, second by Pushard to accept the donations as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

c. Update – Manchester Elementary School

Superintendent Wolfrom reported that following the October 4 Board meeting, she and Principal Delmar met with the two second grade teachers, Debbie Collins and Michelle Ballard, to discuss the idea of merging the two second grade classes and having one of the teachers assigned to the fourth grade class. Debbie Collins agreed to move to grade 4. They discussed their needs and were provided planning time for the transition. Principal Delmar and Superintendent Wolfrom offered to meet with parents on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon/evening. Two families scheduled meetings. The Superintendent also received several emails from 4th grade parents who said they were satisfied with the decision.

The CO2 monitors have been installed and they are connected to an app on Shaun Drinkwater's cell phone. If the CO2 levels reach a certain level in any of the rooms, the monitor will kick on. If we see anything that we cannot address Shaun will call Mechanical Services.

Regarding the request for teacher turnover data at other districts, Superintendent Wolfrom asked at a recent Kennebec Valley Superintendents' meeting if they tracked this data. Two districts responded they did and one of them has shared the information (in folders). She will also ask the superintendents from the Western Maine Education Collaborative for this information when she meets with them.

d. Appointment of First Probationary Teacher – Hannah Moran, High School English

MOTION by Carr, second by Roderick to award Hannah Moran a first probationary teacher contract.

Superintendent Wolfrom reported that both Ms. Moran and Ms. Bonnevie have been with the district since the start of school, but were not recommended for a teaching contract until their certification paperwork was received from the state.

Motion Carried: unanimous

e. Appointment of First Probationary Teacher – Dixie Bonnevie, Middle School Alternative Education

MOTION by Carr, second by Brotherlin to award Dixie Bonnevie a first probationary teacher contract. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

f. Capital Area Technical Center Cooperative Agreement

Superintendent Wolfrom reported this is the same agreement as in previous years. Principal Conway noted that Maranacook is assigned 42 slots for students and they are all filled. **Correction: Maranacook has 64 slots for students and 42 are filled.**

MOTION by Carr, second by Jacobs to approve the Capital Area Technical Center Cooperative Agreement as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

g. Annual Approval of Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

Superintendent Wolfrom reported that by law the Board is required to approve the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan annually. No major revisions of the plan have been made. Edits consist of updating the emergency team staff lists and updating classroom changes. The individual buildings hold regular emergency team meetings and conduct drills as required by the state. The district also holds a yearly emergency team meeting where local fire and emergency department staff are invited as well as the State Policy and Sheriff's Department. The Central Office and each school has a copy of the Plan.

MOTION by Carr, second by Caron to approve the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

h. Regional Service Centers

Superintendent Wolfrom reviewed the information provided to the Board on Regional Service Centers. There are still a lot of unanswered questions. The Commissioner has asked Superintendents to develop plans with other districts. The Commissioner will then identify 9-12 areas for these service centers. Part 1 of the plan is due by November 30th. Local Superintendents are very concerned with the timeframe with so many unanswered questions. Superintendent Wolfrom believes the Western Maine

Education Collaborative will write a letter to the Legislature to request that they put this off for a year. No action is necessary at this time.

6. Executive Session to consider labor contract between the RSU #38 Board of Directors and the Maranacook Area Schools Teachers Association pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D)

MOTION by Carr, second by Jacobs to enter Executive Session to consider the labor contract between the RSU #38 Board of Directors and the Maranacook Area Schools Teachers Association pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D). **Motion Carried:** unanimous

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:30 and returned to public session at 8:55 p.m.

7. Action Following Executive Session

MOTION by Carr, second by Wright to accept the negotiated agreement between the Maranacook Area Staff Association and the Regional School Unit #38 School Board Professional Staff as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

8. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 8:57 p.m.

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