

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 38
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community High School
September 2, 2015
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Chair Terri Watson, Vice Chair Melissa O’Neal, Gary Carr, Pia Holmes, Trish Jackson, Jim Marr, Michele Pino, Stefan Pakulski (left 7:20), Shawn Roderick, Bonnie Simcock

Members Absent: Michael Apolito, Stephen Hayes, (1 vacant position)

Administrators Present: Superintendent Donna Wolfrom, Principals Jeff Boston, Dwayne Conway, Janet Delmar and Cathy Jacobs, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Nancy Harriman, Director of Technology Diane MacGregor, Finance Manager Brigette Williams

1. Call to order: Interim Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

2. Nomination of Officers:

a. Nomination of Board Chair

Melissa O’Neal nominated Terri Watson as Chairperson to the RSU #38 Board of Directors. The nomination was second by Pia Holmes. Discussion followed. Concern was raised regarding the possibility of having the board representation from the same town and the distribution of the balance of power. The Board was reminded that the RSU 38 Board members represent all four towns in the district, not only the towns in which they were elected from. No other nominations were brought forward.

Nomination Carried: unanimous. Terri Watson accepted the nomination as Chairperson.

b. Nomination of Board Vice Chair

Bonnie Simcock nominated Melissa O’Neal as Vice Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Shawn Roderick.

Gary Carr nominated Trish Jackson as Vice Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Michele Pino.

Discussion ensued regarding having two board officers (Chair and Vice Chair) from the same community. Although a concern was raised most members did not see a problem with this. There is nothing in the board bylaws or reorganization plan that stipulates what the board representation should be. Melissa O’Neal asked that members recognize the work she has done as a board member. Trish Jackson added that she agrees that Melissa O’Neal does a great job, but perhaps it would be better to have someone from two different towns.

Chair Watson called for a vote on the Nominations for Vice Chairperson:

Melissa O’Neal – 8 votes

Trish Jackson – 1 vote

Melissa O’Neal was nominated as Vice Chairperson, RSU 38 Board of Directors.

3. Presentations:

a. New Maranacook Web Site

Technology Director Diane MacGregor provided an overview of the newly designed Maranacook Web Site. She asked board members to let her know if they have any questions or if they notice any links not working properly. Request to look into adding a search function.

b. Dual Enrollment Courses at the High School

Principal Dwayne Conway, Dean of Students Kristen Levesque and French Teacher John Hirsch presented on the dual enrollment opportunities at the High School. The team shared a listing of courses currently being offered as dual enrollment courses (total of 82 credits). Everything is in place for Maranacook graduates to be eligible to earn an Associates' Degree from Thomas College at the same time they graduate High School; they are awaiting approval from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). (S. Pakulski left during this discussion.)

c. Recognition of outgoing Board member – John Blouin

Chair Watson reported that John Blouin has resigned from the School Board. She thanked him for his service to the RSU over the past year.

4. Consent Agenda: Request was made to take items listed in the Consent Agenda separately.

a. Approval of Minutes of June 17, 2015

MOTION by Carr, second by Pino to accept the minutes of June 17, 2015 as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous.

b. Ratification of Teachers hired during the summer, in consultation with Board Chair/Vice Chair

Superintendent Wolfrom noted a correction in the information presented on Special Education Teacher Mary Conlon. Ms. Conlon information should read, Certification – Provisional K-8 (282) Special Education, which expires 7/2017.

MOTION by Pino, second by Jackson to ratify the teacher nominations made during the summer in consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair as corrected. Discussion followed. Superintendent Wolfrom reported that the Board voted at the June meeting to allow the hiring of staff during the summer in consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair. This vote will finalize all the hiring as presented. All positions are filled except for one part time position. **Motion Carried:** unanimous.

c. Ratification: Awarding of Lease Purchase Agreement for Maranacook campus lighting project

MOTION by Carr, second by Pino to ratify the awarding of the lease purchase agreement for the Maranacook campus lighting project, as presented, to Androscoggin Bank. Discussion followed regarding the financial institutions the bids were sent to. Finance Manager Williams noted that these are the two banks that historically have the lowest interest rates. Many banks do not bid on municipal lease purchases. She will investigate which institutions consider municipal lease purchases and add them to bid list for the future. **Motion Carried:** 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Simcock).

d. Ratification: Awarding Snow Plow/Sanding Bids

Superintendent Wolfrom reported that the bids for the snow plow/sanding contracts for all 5 school campuses and the Transportation Department were opened on July 21, 2015. The bids are outlined in item 4d. Superintendent Wolfrom recommends ratification as presented.

MOTION by Pino, second by Holmes to accept the Snow Plow/Sanding bids as presented in Item 4d. **Motion Carried:** unanimous.

e. Approval of out-of-state travel – High School Debate Tournament, Yale University, New Haven, CT, September 17-20, 2015

MOTION by Carr, second by Pino to approve the out-of-state travel as outlined in item 4e. **Motion Carried:** unanimous.

f. Acceptance of Donations

MOTION by Carr, second by Simcock to accept the donations, with appreciation, as outlined in item 4f. **Motion Carried:** unanimous.

5. Citizens comments: none

6. Additions/Adjustments:

Question was raised regarding Policy IHD, which was tabled at the June 3, 2015 meeting. Superintendent Wolfrom reported that the policy committee did not meet over the summer. This policy will be brought back to the Board for consideration once the Policy Committee has had a chance to meet. G. Carr asked about the district's suicide prevention training and requested a copy of the Law.

7. Action/Discussion/Informational Items

a. Consideration of Lease Purchase Agreements for Buses

MOTION by Carr, second by Roderick to approve the municipal lease/purchase agreements as outlined to Gorham Leasing Group.

Motion Carried: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Simcock).

b. Consideration of upgrading District-wide copiers and lease purchase agreement

Superintendent Wolfrom reviewed the recommendation from Finance Manager Williams regarding the district-wide copiers and the lease purchase agreement. This recommendation would replace several copiers throughout the district that are in need of replacement. This will not cost the district any additional money since the per copy price is being reduced as part of the agreement. Superintendent Wolfrom recommends accepting the new lease purchase agreement as presented.

MOTION by Carr, second by Pino to accept the proposal from A-Copi as presented.

Motion Carried: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Simcock).

c. Board Committee Assignments

Superintendent Wolfrom reported that the Board was provided a listing of the committees the RSU Board has and asked that everyone check the committees they would like to be on and return the sheet to Donna Foster by Friday, September 11. The listing indicates when the committees typically meet. Names in parenthesis are members who served on the committees last year. At the next meeting the Board will be provided with a draft roster.

d. Review of RSU 38 Strategic Plan

Superintendent Wolfrom reported that the district is now working towards the 2015-16 benchmarks in the Strategic Plan. This is the document administrators refer to as they work on goals and prepare budgets each year. She offered to do an update on where the administrators feel they are in the Plan. Suggestion was made to provide a document outlining the milestones reached as well as noting anything the board needs to know as they go into budget season.

8. Informational reports (included in packet):

This section of the Board packet has reports from each of the administrators as well other committees' reports/minutes and dates for upcoming meetings. Questions may be asked, but the Superintendent requested that questions be sent to her ahead of time so that they can be addressed promptly.

9. Adjournment – MOTION and second to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

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