

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 38
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community High School
April 8, 2015, 6:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Call to order:
2. Consent Agenda: (5 min.)
 - a. Approval of Minutes of April 1, 2015*
 - b. Approval of Out-of-State Travel – Mt. Vernon Elementary Fifth Grade, Boston, MA 06/11/15*
 - c. Acceptance of teacher resignation effective 08/30/15, Katharine Ayer, Manchester Art
3. Citizens’ Comments: (5 min.)
4. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent: (5 min.)
5. Action/Discussion/Informational Items: (10 min.)
6. Budget Workshop (60 min.)
 - a. Updates
 - b. Deliberations, follow-up and decision making
 - c. Citizens comments regarding budget
 - d. Board discussion
7. Adjournment:

* Attachments

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 38
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community High School
April 1, 2015
Minutes of Meeting

Members present: Chair David Greenham, Michael Apolito, John Blouin, Gary Carr, Steve Hayes (arrived 6:48), Pia Holmes, Trish Jackson, Bonnie Simcock, Terri Watson

Members excused: Vice Chair Melissa O’Neal, Shawn Roderick, two vacant positions (Mt. Vernon, Wayne)

Student Reps: Molly Whittington, Molly Searway, Colleen Wright

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

1. Call to order: Chair Greenham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Presentation by AFS Students
 Superintendent Wolfrom introduced Nancy Durgin, Treasurer of the local AFS chapter. Nancy Durgin introduced the four AFS students attending Maranacook: Elisa Borlenghi, Italy; Gregor Gindlin, Germany; Helena Barretto, Brazil; and Sven Maurer, Switzerland. The students presented a slideshow on some of their adventures as part of the AFS program and while attending Maranacook. They thanked the board for allowing AFS students to be a part of the school.
3. Consent Agenda:
 - a. Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2015
 - b. Approval of Out-of-State travel, National Speech & Debate Tournament, Fort Lauderdale, FL, May 22-26, 2015
 - c. Acceptance of Donations
 Request to take the items in the consent agenda separately.
MOTION by Carr, second by Watson to accept the Minutes of March 25, 2015 as presented.
Motion Carried: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Apolito)
MOTION by Carr, second by Watson to approve the out-of-state travel request for members of the Speech and Debate Team to travel to Fort Lauderdale, FL to attend the National Speech & Debate Tournament May 22-26, 2015. **Motion Carried:** 8 in favor, 0 opposed.
MOTION by Carr, second by Watson to accept the donations as listed in the board packet.
Motion Carried: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Simcock)
4. Student Representatives Reports:
 High School representatives Molly Searway and Colleen Wright reported on activities at the high school including the School Play, *Rumors*, with performances April 9 – 11; Teen Issues; and spring sports have begun. There are also two fundraisers coming up for the Class of 2015 Project Graduation this weekend: a lasagna dinner and silent auction, and a talent show at the middle school.
 Middle School representative Molly Whittington reported on the middle school teams’ projects; the District III music festival and the Eighth Grade Heritage Tour. She shared a slideshow on a recent music program where middle school and high schools students worked together. Fifth grade students were also part of the program.
5. Citizens’ Comments: none

6. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent: none

7. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:

a. Consideration of request for property easement

Superintendent Wolfrom reported that in January she received a call from the Whitehouses' stating they were interested in purchasing property abutting the land at Readfield Elementary School, but they would need a right of way to be able to build on the property. The easement would be off of Ledgewood Drive. Maintenance Director Paul Criss has visited the site and reported there is already an old logging road where they are looking to put the right of way. It will not impact the school's drainage field because we cannot expand on it. Mr. Criss does not see a problem with granting the right of way.

Discussion followed. Some Board members raised concerns that the potential buyer was requesting the right of way, stating the owner should be obtaining the right of way before trying to sell property. Also, questions were raised as to whether there may be other ways to obtain a right-of-way from the current owner on his property.

The Board requested more information on the request before taking action. Recommendation was made for the potential buyer to contact the Planning Board to determine the proper way to obtain a right-of-way. The board needs more information about the process because they do not want to set a precedence with a request they are unsure of. This is not a situation where the board is not in favor of granting the right-of-way; but more information is needed.

MOTION by Simcock, second by Carr to table consideration until more information is provided. **Motion Carried:** 9 in favor, 0 opposed.

b. Policy Second Readings: GCQC – Resignation of School Employees; GDF – Discipline and Discharge for Non-Union Employees (Current Policy GDQD)

D. Wolfrom reported the two policies being considered for second reading were further reviewed at the March 16th Policy Committee meeting. There were not additional comments or suggestions brought forward to the Committee and both policies are being recommended for approval as presented.

MOTION by Simcock to accept Policy GCQC Resignation of School Employees as presented. Second by Apolito. **Motion Carried:** 9 in favor, 0 opposed

MOTION by Simcock to accept Policy GDF, Discipline and Discharge of Non-Union Employees as presented. Second by Watson. **Motion Carried:** 9 in favor, 0 opposed

c. Policy First Readings: GCB – Substitute; IGA – Curriculum Development and Adoption; IHBGA – Home Schooling – Participation in School Programs; IHBGB – Model Supplemental Statement of Rights for Private School Students With Disabilities

D. Wolfrom reported the following policies were reviewed by the Policy Committee and are being presented to the Board for first readings.

GCB, Substitute, was compared with the MSMA sample policy and state law. Revisions were made to comply with the law and to follow the procedures the District follows when hiring substitutes.

IGA, Curriculum Development and Adoption, was reviewed on February 9th, replaces current Policy IG. It has been revised to comply with the Maine system of standards.

IHBGA, Home Schooling – Participation in School Programs, was up for review on the list of policies older than 2005. It was compared with the MSMA sample policy and changes made include an appeal process for parents. Discussion. Why the policy includes a section on providing samples of academic coursework to the principal in order to make a determination that necessary academic standards are being met (Section XIII, B.) This puts the principal in a difficult position. Home School students are required to provide the school district with a letter of intent to Homeschool and annual assessment results prior to the next school year. Suggestion was made to add a statement that the students are expected to pay to participate in extra and co-curricular activities, the same as traditional students. Question about section VIII, Main Educational Assessment – D. Wolfrom responded that

homeschool students are permitted to take the exams but they are not included in the district's testing results.

IHBGB, Model Supplemental Statement of Rights for Private School Students With Disabilities, the revision separates out the Statement of Rights for Private School and Homeschool students. Discussion followed about the district's responsibilities under the law for homeschool students with special education needs.

The Policy Committee will be meeting on April 13 to review the above first reading policies and take into consideration the comments submitted this evening. Additional comments and questions can be submitted to the Superintendent's office prior to the next meeting for consideration.

8. Budget Workshop:

a. Updates

Superintendent Wolfrom reported the following updates were provided in the board packet which reflect the actions taken at last week's meeting:

- Sixth draft general fund summary budget
- Revenue sheet
- Local Dollar Calculation sheet
- Summary of budget reductions and summary of budget increases from original request
- Budget priorities
- Summary of staff increases (2 sheets)
- Regular education instructional staff chart
- EPS Staffing ratios with estimated 2015-16 column added

A sheet denoting the average classroom size Pre-K to Middle school was also provided showing the current year and proposed 2015-16.

The actions taken last week brings the budget to budget increase to 3%, which is a local dollar match of 6% increase. B. Williams contacted the towns to find out about the estimated mil calculation and made calculations for each of the towns based on a \$150,000 home in each town. This sheet is included in board folders.

c. Citizens: (taken out of order)

Several citizens presented questions to the board about the decision to combine the two grade 1 classes at Manchester Elementary into one grade 2 class for next year. Questions included:

Has anyone shadowed in either one of the groups or spent considerable time in the classes?

Percentage of children of high need or extra attention in this grade?

Backup plan if this fails?

What will the criteria look like for a backup plan?

Mr. Thaller asked if this was an evidence based decision, noting that the Project STAR study proves that smaller classrooms pay off. He advocated that administration and the board look at the evidence and use it when making this decision.

Other citizens spoke about the concern about doubling the class size from this year, and that the issue is more than class size, also need to look at the mix of students in this particular class.

Question - what else was looked at to increase the class besides the size and reading and math assessments? Does the school board have that information?

Request was made for someone to make a motion to keep the classes as they are.

Superintendent Wolfrom responded that we don't normally send someone into a class for any length of time. She has been in the class and Mrs. Delmar is at the school several days a week and stops into the class. She has also talked to other administrators who have stopped in the classrooms and asked if they saw any concerns? All classes have unique needs (differentiation) and we address those needs. Looking at their data, it is about the same as other classrooms.

What ifs? How do we go about changing and what is the criteria to determine it?

Regarding back-up plans, we are always looking at backup plans, but there is no specific back up plan. If things were not going well we would ask “why is it not going well” and we would address those reasons at that time. We have RTI, the team would meet to determine issues and discuss what extra can we give the student in the classroom. There are processes in place as soon as a student is showing they are not making the benchmarks.

It was noted that parents also have an option within the district, to request that their child attend another elementary school in the district if they feel their child would do better in another classroom.

MOTION by Simcock to add a full time teacher back in the budget for the second grade at Manchester Elementary School. Second by Watson.

Discussion followed. Additional supports have been added to the budget for behavior intervention, guidance and math intervention. Trust the recommendation of the administrators.

Motion Failed: 1 in favor (Simcock), 7 opposed.

b. Deliberations, follow-up and decision making

Chair Greenham asked if there were other budgetary considerations to be suggested.

Superintendent Wolfrom noted that the Administrative Team is meeting in the morning but thinks they will stand with the recommendations made. There is one more budget workshop before the board votes on April 15th.

9. Informational Items: (included in board packet)
10. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna H. Wolfrom, Superintendent/Secretary
Recorded by: D. Foster

BOSTON TRIP

Mt Vernon Elementary

The 5th grade students are planning a trip to Boston on **Thursday, June 11th**. This has been an annual 5th grade field trip for the past several years.

Number of students: 15
Number of chaperones: about 20
Number of Teachers: 2

Events:

7:30 a.m. All students and chaperones meet at the Amtrak train station - Portland ME (drive themselves or ride share
8:00-10:30 Travel to Boston on the train
10:30-10:45 Walk to Museum of Science
10:45-11:30 Register; lunch there
11:30-3:00 Visit museum
3:00-3:20 Take the "T" to Gov't Center
3:20-5:00 Visit Faneuil Hall / Quincy Mkt area
5:00-5:20 Walk back to North Station
5:40 Board train
5:40-8:20 Travel back to Portland
10:00? Arrive back in Mt Vernon

Funds:

Funds will be raised entirely through fund raising events (primarily a poinsettia fundraiser through Longfellow's Greenhouse and bottle drive). Parents pay for a portion of their costs - dependent upon money raised through the fund raisers (usually ends up being approximately \$35)

If you would like more specifics, I'd be more than happy to supply them (actual cost of each event, etc...)

Leslie Boyce
Grade 5
Mt Vernon Elementary