

**Regular Meeting**  
**Regional School Unit No. 38**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Maranacook Community High School**  
**April 9, 2014**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Members present: Chair David Greenham, Vice Chair Lynette Johnson, Michael Apolito, David Guillemette, Jason Morgan, Bonnie Simcock, Madeline Snow, Richard Spencer, Jessica West, Russell Evans, Marie Rodriguez, Melissa O'Neal

Members excused: Steve Hayes

Administrators: Superintendent Donna Wolfrom, Principals Jeff Boston, Dwayne Conway, Pia Holmes and Cathy Jacobs, Finance Manager Brigette Williams, Technology Director Jan Kolenda, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve, Literacy Coordinator/Coach Barbara Bourgoine, Adult and Community Education Director Steve Vose

1. Call to order: Chair Greenham called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. Consent Agenda:
  - a. Approval of Minutes of April 2, 2014  
**MOTION** by R. Spencer, second by M. Snow, to accept the minutes of April 2, 2014 as presented.  
**Motion Carried:** 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Evans)

Note: R.Spencer asked that the minutes include a thank you to Donna Foster for providing very accurate minutes.

b. Acceptance of donations:

**MOTION** by M. Apolito, second by M. Snow, to accept the donations from the Awesome Bear Society.

**Motion carried:** unanimous

3. Citizens comments:  
Harry Lanphear, Manchester resident, asked how community members would be able to submit additional comments regarding the proposed budget. Chair Greenham explained that additional comments regarding the budget should be shared with or emailed to board members.
4. Additions/adjustments: none:  
M. O'Neal requested the addition of the high school activity fee. She also has a letter from a citizen that she would like to share with the board.
5. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:  
Chair Greenham reminded the board that it will be necessary for them to vote for a budget at the April 16, 2014 meeting and that tonight's meeting is where the board should consider all the input they have heard and read to narrow it down to a preliminary budget.
6. Budget Workshop:
  - a. Updates  
Superintendent Wolfrom provided an update and answers to questions that were asked at the previous meeting. She reported that there is no new information regarding revenues or expenditures at this time. Questions that were raised at the April 2, 2014 RSU#38 meeting were also addressed and a

handout provided. Specifically, Superintendent Wolfrom provided clarification that the RSU #38 warrant articles are written without a dollar amount within the article which allows an article to be raised or lowered from the floor of an annual or town meeting. Also, the paying of rent by the Town of Wayne to RSU#38 for space occupied at the Wayne Elementary School was addressed. A two year lease currently exists between the Town of Wayne and RSU#38. The Town of Wayne pays \$6656 year plus 23% of the plowing contract, which was \$920 for this year. There was also a question regarding the current repairs at Wayne Elementary and these were reviewed by Superintendent Wolfrom. A question regarding charging tuition for Pre-K was also addressed. Superintendent Wolfrom reported that RSU #38 receives full subsidy for the Pre-K programs and are therefore not allowed to charge tuition for public school Pre-K programs. A Pre-K information sheet was provided with the breakdown of State subsidy, busing and staffing costs, and anticipated enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year.

Superintendent Wolfrom recommends adding the Technology Integration Specialist back into the budget. It would provide a full time position at the high school and a full time position shared position for the middle school/elementary schools. The high school program would be reconfigured to allow two technology classes to be taught by the Integration Specialist.

b. Deliberations, follow-up and decision making

Chair Greenham asked the board to begin deliberations with the goal of getting to a preliminary budget. He reminded the board that at this point the budget is (\$212,000) below the target goal of (\$150,000).

L.Johnson: What would it take to have a Pre-K program in Wayne? Superintendent Wolfrom noted that a part time teacher with Pre-K certification would need to be hired and the transportation line would be impacted.

B.Simock: Manchester was able to increase Pre-K to double sessions when the Town of Manchester voted to contribute \$12,000 to support the Pre-K program. The trade-off was to not have access to buses through RSU#38. The program now also serves students from Mt. Vernon and Readfield. It was requested that the board consider absorbing the \$12,000 that has been raised by the Town of Manchester.

R.Evans: Mt. Vernon was against Pre-K due to the cost but agreed to it because Rich Abramson told the citizens that the district would make money by having Pre-K.

L.Johnson: The district planned to do only one session of Pre-K at Manchester but agreed to have two sessions with part of the compromise of foregoing transportation.

M. O'Neal: There is a concern that the Town of Manchester is kicking in an extra \$12000 for Pre-K that is being attended by students from Readfield and Mt. Vernon. There is a risk that the Town of Manchester will not support continuing this in the town budget. There is a need for equity.

M.Apolito: This request is a little late in the budget process. It would be important for other board members to also be able to go back to their towns to discuss the Pre-K program funding.

M. Snow – If Manchester doesn't support the \$12,000, could Readfield move Pre-K students to the Mt. Vernon Pre-K program?

D.Greenham: How many Mt. Vernon and Readfield Pre-K students are in Manchester? If they could manage the extra students in another school, is there still a need for more than one session for Pre-K in Manchester?

M.O'Neal: Will the \$12,000 be made up in the subsidy funding? B. Williams responded that the \$12,000 would have to be added to the local dollars in the budget.

J.Morgan: – What is the budget figure for the technology program? D. Wolfrom responded that \$42,000 is the integration specialist and to add the other technology teacher it would be another \$50,000.

L.Johnson: Appreciates the administration putting their heads together and coming up with a plan to take care of the integration technology program; we do need the integrationist to assist with the iPads. I am supportive of the recommendation by the administration to add back in the integration specialist; this is a great solution and thanks for doing that work.

B.Simcock: Not supportive of the proposal to consolidate the 5<sup>th</sup> grade this year.

M.Apolito: Supportive of moving the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the middle school. What about timelines for this proposal? Could this happen next year? D. Wolfrom responded that transition activities for 5<sup>th</sup> graders would have to be scheduled. She has not heard of concerns from the middle school teachers; possibly there are concerns from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.

L.Johnson: Even though we have a 0 % increase goal, there is still an increase to tax payers, especially for Wayne. By adding things back into budget we will be asking for additional taxes. Just want to be clear. B. Williams added there are many reasons for that including decreased Maine Care revenues, decreased balance forward, and decrease in tuition income.

M.O'Neal: Read a letter from Linda Smith, Manchester concerning the proposed increase in high school activity fee and the possible impact on the football program.

R.Evans: People at previous board meetings have asked for programs not to be cut and were willing to pay additional fees to keep programs intact. D. Wolfrom reported that the compromise of increasing the high school activity fee to \$75 and the middle school activity fee to \$50 along with the reduction of the receptionist to 50% was to avoid cutting programs.

It was noted that the Winthrop school system has gone to a \$100 activity fee.

L.Johnson: We have to realize that not all sports are created equally, some sports are funded by the district either fully or partially and other sports are not funded at all by the school. Some sports were added with the understanding that the district could not fund them.

M.O'Neal: Supports future conversations about district providing additional funding for football.

Chair Greenham summarized the list of budget items to consider:

1. Moving 5<sup>th</sup> grade: if choose not to the board has to add \$63,000 to the current budget proposal
2. Technology Integration Plan: if choose not to cut the board has to add \$42,619 to the current budget proposal
3. Manchester Pre-K issue: may choose to add \$12,000 to current budget proposal
4. \$10,000 Activity fees – this increase is already included in the current budget proposal

**MOTION** by B.Simcock, second by R.Evans, to add \$63,000 back into the budget and keep the fifth grades at the elementary schools.

**Motion carried:** 8 in favor, 4 opposed (Greenham, Apolito, Spencer, Johnson)

Approved as revised 04/16/14

**MOTION** by L.Johnson, second by R.Spencer, to reinstate \$42,619 to add the Technology Integration Specialist.

**Motion carried:** 10 in favor; 2 opposed (Rodriguez, Evans)

**MOTION** by B.Simcock, second by M.O'Neal to add \$12,000 to run two sessions of Pre-K at Manchester Elementary School.

**Motion failed:** 4 in favor; 8 opposed (Greenham, Johnson, Apolito, Snow, Spencer, Evans, Morgan, Rodriguez)

**MOTION** by D.Greenham, second by L.Johnson, to look at Pre-K district-wide during the 2015-2016 budget process.

**Motion carried:** unanimous

**MOTION** by D.Guillemette, second by R.Evans, to research moving the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the middle school as a possible plan for the fall of 2015 or at another future time.

**Motion carried:** 11 in favor; 1 opposed (West)

Vice Chair Johnson encourages everyone to attend the annual meeting and to participate in the referendum vote.

7. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna H. Wolfrom, Superintendent/Secretary  
Recorded by: C.Labbe