

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community High School
January 7, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
Minutes of Meeting

Members present: Chair David Greenham, Vice Chair Melissa O’Neal, John Blouin, Gary Carr, Steve Hayes, Pia Holmes, Trish Jackson, Bonnie Simcock, Terri Watson

Members excused: Michael Apolito, Russell Evans, Shawn Roderick, Richard Spencer

Student Reps: Molly Whittington, Molly Searway, Colleen Wright

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

1. Call to order: Chair Greenham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Consent Agenda:
 - a. Approval of Minutes of December 17, 2014 - **MOTION** by Carr, second by Simcock to approve the minutes of December 17, 2014 as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous
3. Student Representatives Reports

High School representatives Molly Searway and Collen Wright reported on educational, and fundraising activities at the high school as well as providing an update on the sports teams. Middle School representative Molly Harrington reported on the various projects underway by the middle school teams.
4. Citizens’ Comments: none
5. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:

Steve Hayes requested, if time permitted at the end of the meeting, to provide a quick overview of the Governor’s inaugural speech as it pertains to education.
6. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:
 - a. Policy Second Readings: (see Policy Committee minutes, Item 7d)
 - AEB, Recognition By School Board Guidelines – **MOTION** by Simcock, second by Blouin at accept Policy AEB, Recognition By School Board Guidelines as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous.
 - BCB, Conflict of Interest – **MOTION** by Simcock, second by Watson to accept Policy BCB, Conflict of Interest as presented.

Steve Hayes suggested including wording from state statute pertaining to direct or indirect pecuniary interest for municipalities (Title 30-A §2605). Discussion followed and it was agreed to table the vote until the Policy Committee can take time to review the statute and consider additional wording to the policy. **MOTION TABLED.**
 - BGC, Policy Errors and Inconsistencies – **MOTION** by Watson, second by Simcock to accept Policy BGC, Policy Errors and Inconsistencies as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous.
 - DJ, Bidding/Purchasing Requirements – **MOTION** by Watson, second by Holmes to accept Policy DJ, Bidding/Purchasing Requirements as presented.

Question was raised as to who determines whether competitive bids are practical and cost effective (Section B, Par. 1). Concern that the superintendent shouldn't be the only decider. It was reported that when these decisions are made the Finance Manager as well as other administrators/managers are involved depending on the purchase. Suggestion was made that rather than have a dollar limit, the board may want to consider taking the clause out all together, and make the limit \$10,000 – \$15,000. Other consideration may be whether it is a contract renewal. It was agreed to table the vote until the Policy Committee can take another look at this section. **MOTION TABLED.**

- GBEBB, Staff Standards of Conduct With Students – **MOTION** by Simcock, second by Watson to accept Policy GBEBB, Staff Standards of Conduct With Students as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous.
- JJE, Student Fundraising (current DF) Superintendent Wolfrom reported that the Policy Committee added A2 to the policy and recommends approval as revised. **MOTION** by Carr, second by Watson to approve Policy JJE, Student Fundraising as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous.
- JJIAB, Public Charter School Students – Access to Non-Charter Public School Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities – This is a new policy. **MOTION** by Carr, second by Watson to accept Policy JJIAB, Public Charter School Students – Access to Non-Charter Public School Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous.

b. Policy First Readings:

- DFF, Student Activity Funds – This is a new policy for consideration. Chair Greenham asked member of the board to read the policy over and communicate with the policy committee any questions and/or suggestions before they come to the board for approval at second reading.
- DJH, Purchasing and Contracting: Procurement Staff Code of Conduct – This is a first reading of a revised policy. It was suggested to consider making reference to the state statute defining financial interest.

c. Fiscal Year 16 Budget Review/Goals – Superintendent Wolfrom reported that she asked the administrators to submit budgets that reflect the best possible results for students. Superintendent Wolfrom outlined items included in the “original” budget request: insurance, MainePERS, additional kindergarten teacher at Mt. Vernon, additional time for art, music and computer at Mt. Vernon (due to additional classroom), universal PreK. These requests brought the budget up just over \$1 million. Knowing this is too much, the administrative team met to deliberate what can be removed from the original request. The first draft budget will be presented to the board at the next meeting on January 21. As we move into the proficiency based diploma requirements the administrative team recommends that the focus of the FY '16 budget be on “providing support for student in order to promote academic success.”

Discussion followed on how insurance costs are estimated and whether there is a better way to represent those numbers until we get the rates for next year. In terms of fuel oil we are locked in for this year, but will be working with the town officials to lock in soon for the next year; those anticipated savings have not been worked into the preliminary budget.

Superintendent Wolfrom distributed some talking points to share with citizens, which outlines some of the initiatives and successes for the school district. Chair Greenham also pointed out the budget schedule. Request was made to be more specific on the budget discussion topics as the dates approach as well as making the items listed on the web page more searchable for citizens. Chair Greenham cautioned individual board members regarding their presentation of budget information and representing the board when not at a formal meeting.

Superintendent Wolfrom asked that the Board consider voting on a goal statement to guide their work on the FY '16 budget. The Administrative Team recommends

“providing support for students in order to promote academic success”. Several options were discussed. Some members recommended staying away from setting a percentage to adhere to. Concern was raised that in using the words “academic success” it may be interpreted to include only the basics; people might start taking things out like band and theater. The Board reviewed the mission statement and the actions the board and staff have taken to provide services to students. The administrative team’s requests are based on the mission statement.

MOTION by Holmes to adopt the goal for the FY’16 budget year as follows, “providing support for students in order to promote academic success.” The motion was seconded by Carr. **Motion Carried:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions (Hayes, Watson)

7. Informational Items: Principals responded to questions about their reports.

It was agreed to forego the discussion on Governor LePage’s inaugural speech as it pertained to education. Steve Hayes will forward a brief summation of the speech via email.

8. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

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