

**Regular Meeting
Regional School Unit No. 38
Board of Directors
Maranacook Community High School
January 8, 2014**

Minutes of Meeting

Members present: Chair David Greenham, Vice Chair Lynette Johnson, David Guillemette, Stephen Hayes, Lisa Montagna, Jason Morgan Melissa O'Neal, Bonnie Simcock, Madeline Snow

Members absent: Michael Apolito (excused), Russell Evans (excused), Marie Rodriguez, Richard Spencer (excused)

Student Reps: Benjamin Tyler, Carrington Brennan, Taylor Cray, Colleen Wright

Administrators: Superintendent Donna Wolfrom, Principals Jeff Boston, Dwayne Conway, Pia Holmes, and Cathy Jacobs, Finance Manager Brigette Williams, Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction Nancy Harriman, Technology Director Jan Kolenda, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve

1. Call to order: Chair Greenham called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. a. Recognition of the Maine Youth Action Network Impact Award Winners

The following students were recognized for receiving The Partnership for a Tobacco-Free Maine Anti-Tobacco Group of the Year award: Levi Smith, Tyler Lang, Jolene Potter, Ruby Poulson, Ariel Robinson, Katie Radcliff, Anne-Marie Ricker, Jessica Scheno, Thalia Sweeney, Natalie Harmon, Mira Moreau, and Andrea Desjardins. The award is given to a school or community based group in Maine that exemplifies youth-adult partnership and has creatively made a measurable difference on anti-tobacco issues.

b. Presentation by the Student Health Center Advisory Council

Members of the Student Health Center Advisory Council reported on their work in promoting student wellness. In the past year they advocated to protect the fund for a Healthy Maine and testified to increase the tobacco tax. They also created a video for the Maine Legislature about tobacco products.

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2013

b. Acceptance of Donations

c. Acceptance of Capital Area Technical Center Cooperative Agreement

MOTION by O'Neal, second by Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

4. Student Representatives:

Middle School representatives Benjamin Tyler and Carrington Brennan reported on the students return to school after winter break and on the upcoming Math Meet and Geo Bee.

High School representatives Colleen Wright and Taylor Cray reported on the success of the winter sports teams and an upcoming fundraiser dance for Teen Issues.

5. Citizens' comments: none

6. Additions/adjustments:

Chair Greenham noted that the Board will be using the new system developed last year for allowing community members to take part in the budget discussions. He asked for a motion to add a public comment section to the budget discussion.

MOTION by Simcock to add a public comment section as item 7a., second by Snow.

Motion Carried: unanimous

7. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:

a. Citizens Comments on budget (addition)

John Harker addressed the Board suggesting they consider a zero budget increase to show the people in the towns that they are trying hard, even if it's only for one year, to hold the line on the school budget. He also asked that the Board consider talking to the union and get some kind of agreement to issue a joint statement to the public of where they stand.

David Hefner commented on his opposition to last year's budget and asked the Board put more information out to the people about the budget.

b. Discussion of FY'15 Budget Goals and Priorities

Superintendent Wolfrom reported that it was very helpful for people to focus on the mission of "moving forward with academic progress" as the budget was developed last year. The board took part in a survey asking for their budget priorities. The results of the survey were included in folders. The majority of comments focused on progress toward educational commitment/maintain quality of our schools (35), and limited/no budget increase (19).

Discussion ensued about how to communicate to all citizens about the budget workshops and soliciting their involvement in the process as well as informing them about how their dollars are being spent. Superintendent Wolfrom suggested a statement such as limited or no budget increase while maintaining the quality of our schools, and making progress toward our educational commitment. Concern was raised about voting while there is still a large portion of the budget that is unknown. Suggestion was made to build the budget on the expenditure side and take a look at the funding side as we have a better picture.

Recommendation was made to vote so the Board gives a starting point for the people working on the budget. Concern was raised about the consistent problem the district faces with a school system built to house 25-30% more students and the need to be creative to get better control of what is driving expenses.

Chair Greenham asked the Board if they would be interested in taking a straw vote. The Board took a non firm commitment vote by indicating thumbs up, thumbs down, or thumbs sideways in terms of working toward a budget with no budget increase while progressing toward our educational commitment and maintaining the quality of our schools. The none-firm vote was 7 thumbs up and 2 thumbs sideways.

Further discussion ensued.

MOTION by O'Neal that the Board present a flat funded budget in 2015 while maintaining the quality of our schools and making progress toward our educational commitment. Second by Montagna.

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

c. FY '15 budget overview

Superintendent Wolfrom reported that she asked administrators to present a budget that maintains the quality of their school, is fiscally responsible, and represents what is needed to

keep things going forward. It represents a 3% increase. The next steps will be going back to A-Team and prioritizing some budget cuts to present to the Board. She reported that this “original request” budget includes the following projections: 10% increase in health insurance, 7% increase in dental, 16% increase in unemployment, 20% increase in workers’ compensation, \$136,000 in building projects. Also included is one additional teacher at Manchester Elementary due to increases in class sizes, and an elementary behavior program. We know there is a possibility that we might have to send some of these students out of district, which will cost more than creating our own program and it is included in this original request.

It was noted that the negative \$153,000 relating to Phoenix House should be discounted since we receive 100% of the funds associated with that program. Taking this into consideration, the budget as presented represents a 4% increase.

8. Informational Items – no additional questions
9. Executive Session to review the evaluation of Superintendent Donna H. Wolfrom pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A)
MOTION by Montagna, second by Johnson to enter Executive Session to review the evaluation of Superintendent Donna H. Wolfrom pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A).
Motion Carried: unanimous.
The Board entered executive session at 7:47 and returned to public session at 8:25. No action was taken.
10. Action following Executive Session (if any): none
11. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

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