

*A Caring School Community Dedicated To Excellence*

**Regular Meeting  
Regional School Unit No. 38  
Board of Directors  
Maranacook Community High School  
March 5, 2014  
Minutes of Meeting**

Members present: Chair David Greenham, Vice Chair Lynette Johnson, Michael Apolito, Russell Evans, David Guillemette, Stephen Hayes, Bonnie Simcock, Richard Spencer, Jessica West

Members absent: Jason Morgan (excused), Melissa O'Neal (excused), Marie Rodriguez, Madeline Snow

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 6:30 p.m.
2. Consent Agenda:
  - a. Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2014
  - b. Approval of out-of-state travel Model United Nations Conference, Boston, MA, May 16-17, 2014
  - c. Acceptance of Donations  
**MOTION** by Simcock, second by Evans to accept the consent agenda as presented.  
**Motion Carried:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed (Johnson, Hayes arrived following vote.)
3. Student Representatives:

Middle School representative Carrington Brennan reported on the various projects of the classroom teams with the use of I-Pads as well as the I-Team projects during tutorial. Benjamin Tyler reported on the recent vandalism in one of the boys' bathrooms and how it was harassing in nature, describing the steps that were taken by staff, students, and the Climate Committee to deal with the situation. The bathroom has been reopened and there have been no further signs of discrimination or harassment.

High School representatives Colleen Wright and Taylor Cray reported that the Top 10 students have been announced. Senior Nick Barnes has made it to the final round for the National Scholars. They reported on the successes of the sports teams and that the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team was also awarded the MPA Sportsmanship Award. Eighth grade planning night was held with about 200 people attending, which included student-led tours.
4. Citizens' comments: none
5. Additions/adjustments: none
6. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:
  - a. Policy Second Readings: ADF, School District Commitment to Learning Results; BBA, Board Powers and Responsibilities; BCA, Board Member Code of Ethics; DN, School Properties Disposition

Superintendent Wolfrom provided a review on each of the above policies being considered for Second Reading. The Policy Committee reviewed the policies following the first readings of the Board on December 4, 2013, taking into account the suggestions and/or comments submitted. The Policy Committee recommends approval of the above mentioned policies as presented.

**MOTION** by Simcock, second by Johnson to adopt Policies ADF, School District Commitment to Learning Results; BBA, Board Powers and Responsibilities; BCA, Board Member Code of Ethics; DN, School Properties Disposition as presented.

**Motion Carried:** unanimous

b. Policy First Readings: DFA, Revenues From Investments; KDB, Freedom of Access/Public's Right To Know

Superintendent Wolfrom reported that the revisions to Policy DN are being recommended at the request of the District's auditor. New Policy KDB is covered in Law, but the proposed policy also sets the District fees for copying and retrieving of information. Both of these policies have been reviewed by the Policy Committee and are recommended for First Readings. Any comments/questions can be forwarded to the Superintendent's Office for the Policy Committee to review at their next meeting.

c. Consideration of 2014-2015 School Calendar

Superintendent Wolfrom reported this calendar takes into consideration 175 student days, 170 school days for seniors. It contains the same number of early release and workshop days as this year's calendar. The Association requested that the early release days fall on different days of the week so that they do not impact the same specials classes each time; this calendar accommodates that request. Superintendent Wolfrom recommended approval of the calendar as presented.

**MOTION** by Stewart, second by Evans to approve the 2014-15 school calendar as presented.

**Motion Carried:** unanimous

7. Joint Meeting with Local Select Boards re: FY 15 School Budget:

Chair Greenham welcomed the following members for the local Select Boards – Manchester – Jeremy Pare, Tom Oliver, Robert Gasper; Mt. Vernon – Clyde Dyar, Paul Crockett; Readfield – Allen Curtis, Larry Dunn, Greg Durgin, Val Pomerleau, Sue Reay; Wayne – Aaron Chrostowsky, Gary Kenny.

a. Update:

Superintendent Wolfrom provided an overview of the budget work to date, sharing the Board's goals in developing the draft budget. She added that since the elementary enrollment projections were prepared we now have 27 Readfield Pre-K students interested for next year. The projections will be updated for an upcoming meeting. She outlined the other documents that were provided which included: enrollment history, expenditure history, the general fund school summary budget, as well as the summary of budget increases and budget decreases at earlier budget meetings. The State Valuation Yearly Comparison sheet shows that all towns would see a decrease in their valuation rates compared to this year with the exception of Readfield which shows an increase of .92%. Health insurance projection for the budget includes an increase of 10%, but we received word that the highest increases will be 9.5% for districts with high experience rates, so we are hoping that based on our experience rating for last year we will see an increase below that amount.

Superintendent Wolfrom reported that Brigitte Williams has prepared two draft versions of the subsidy projection sheet. Because we have not received any information from the State, and still do not know about the MaineCare revenue, the drafts are based on this year's numbers. We have met with two representatives from DHHS hoping to have some information about our billing, but have not received any determinations from them.

B. Williams reported that version 1 (blue sheet) is based on what we originally planned to receive for subsidy in the current year. When the state calculated this subsidy level they had added into the statewide pot 50% of the Maine PERS match. That money may be too high because we

don't know how this is going to be handled and this is what we are using to project for next year. The designated release of reserve is the \$36,000 set aside for the health center. It was not needed for the Health Center and now we will be looking for voter approval to place the \$36,000 back in the general fund. Superintendent Wolfrom met with the Health Services Advisory Council and they were unanimously supportive of this request. The property tax revenue section shows what the towns are paying this year since we have not received any information from the state. Budget to budget Version 1 shows the budget is up \$34,000, but the revenue shortfall on this sheet is \$682,510. Version 2 (lavender sheet) shows a revenue shortfall of \$478,373, because it includes the \$204,137 received from the State this year due to funding 100% of the Maine PERS match.

b. Questions and Comments:

Discussion ensued regarding the \$204,137 and whether the district will be expected to pay the money back or if the state allocation for next year may be reduced to take into account some if not all of this amount.

Select Board members asked questions and made observations on the information presented. They thanked the superintendent and board members for the work they are doing in these very difficult financial times and thanked them for the increased communication to the communities as they progress through the budget process.

c. Questions from citizens: none

Chairman Greenham thanked the Select Board members for attending and for their assistance in getting the word out that we are all working hard to get a budget that can be supported.

8. Informational Items:

Chairman Greenham asked if there were any questions about the reports.

R. Evans reported that the CATC business program has worked with Thomas College and several of the Community Colleges, arranging for students who take a full two years at CATC to earn the equivalent of 3 semesters of course offerings. Thomas has also agreed to accept all the students and the credits from CATC.

S. Hayes asked whether board members received an email from the NESSC regarding proficiency-based grading. He will forward it to the superintendent and board members.

B. Simcock stated it needs to be clear to parents with the Board's agreement for a zero percent increase and projected shortfall, how much more we are looking at reducing in next year's budget. Superintendent Wolfrom noted that until we receive the 279s from the state, it is completely a work of fiction. She projects that the shortfall, based on the current information, will be up at least \$475,000.

R. Evans commented on the need to present the reduction in general fund very carefully because the \$150,000 reduction for Phoenix House doesn't really exist. If we don't make very clear that this is an accounting function people will think we are trying to pull the wool over their eyes. Need to point this out every time we can.

9. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

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