

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Maranacook Community High School**  
**March 14, 2018, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Members Present: Chair Betty Morrell, Vice Chair Gary Carr, Wendy Brotherlin, Cathy Jacobs, Lucas Rumler, Jeremy Payne, Kaleb Pushard, Shawn Roderick, David Twitchell, Adam Woodford, Alexander Wright

Members Absent: Melissa O'Neal (excused), Thomas Sneed

Student Reps: John McLaughlin, Hannah Woodford

Administrators: Superintendent Donna Wolfrom, Principals Jeff Boston, Janet Delmar and Rick Hogan, Assistant Principal Kristen Levesque, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve, Technology Director Diane MacGregor, Finance Manager Brigette Williams

1. Call to order: Chair Morrell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.  
Chair Morrell opened the meeting by congratulating the Boys Nordic Ski Team for being State Champions for 2018. Also the Boys and Girls Nordic Ski Teams and the Boys Alpine Ski Team earned the Sportsmanship Award. The graduation rate for the Class of 2017 is 94.7%.  
Chair Morrell welcomed the Select Boards from Readfield, Mt. Vernon and Wayne.
2. Student Representatives' Reports  
High School student representatives Hannah Woodford and John McLaughlin reported on recent activities and accomplishments at the high school including Winter Carnival and winter sports. Students are currently on the Spain trip and there is an upcoming Math Team competition.
3. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:  
Request was made to provide an update from the Architects.
4. Report from Auditor Ron Smith – postponed until April 4
5. Joint Meeting with Local Select Boards re: FY 19 School Budget
  - a. Review of budget website information  
Diane MacGregor provided an overview of the district website information as it pertains to budget information.
  - b. Review of FY 19 Budget  
State Valuation Yearly Comparison (7 year comparison)  
Enrollment history as well as actual enrollment by school and by grade (January 11 figures)  
Budget/Subsidy history  
Original Request General Fund Budget dated February 8 and Version 1 General Fund Budget March 14. The March 14 version includes the cuts that were made by the Administrative Team after careful consideration  
Summary of Budget Changes since the original budget was presented  
Listing of maintenance projects and maintenance equipment  
Summary of staff increases  
Revenue sheet  
Local Dollar Calculation based on the preliminary ED279  
Required Mill Rate History in EPS (Essential Programs and Services)  
Budget Progression sheet  
Debt and Equipment Lease/Purchases  
Debt Retirement chart  
Priorities for FY19 Budget as prepared by the Administrative Team

c. Updates since previous meeting

Superintendent Wolfrom shared several achievements of our students and staff. She reported that in January, the School Board adopted the goal "Promoting student success in all areas, as we strive for academic excellence while maintaining fiscal responsibility."

The following documents were provided:

In addition 2 requests were made at the last meeting. One was to provide the cost for an Industrial Arts program at the Middle School, and the other was to provide information on student participation in co and extra-curricular activities.

Two parts to consider – expenditure and revenues. Can only spend total amount of expenditure budget, except for grants. Revenues – state subsidy, tuition charged, property taxes and miscellaneous revenues.

Enrollment is up by 22 students district wide.

Regionalization update – Regional Service Centers – new initiative from the State of Maine.

Not heard about health insurance yet; currently budget includes 10% premium increase, but we have been talking about bringing that down to 8%. Health insurance budget is \$248,470 over FY18; expect notification by first of April.

Budget process to date. Administrative Team identified items that are absolutely necessary to include in the budget to continue to move students forward while being fiscally responsible. Started working with architects for bonding, we are awaiting their report. They will work with the facilities committee to prioritize the needs in the Needs Assessment Report Hoping some of the projects in the maintenance budget can be included in the bond. Bond will need to be approved by the voters. Version 1 is \$960,439.76 increase above FY18, which is a decrease of \$321,385.80 from the Original Request Budget.

List of proposed maintenance projects and equipment needs. Eliminated some projects on the basis of necessity and safety.

Green revenue sheet shows a \$500,000 carry forward. Required match is based on state required mill rate.

Local only on the revenue sheet is based on Version 1 General Fund Budget.

Budget progression sheet shows how the FY19 General Fund Budget compares to FY18 and reductions to date.

Information about debt retirement and debt balance.

Anticipating health increase won't be 10%.

Budget update – last meeting there was a question about Middle School IA program; board asked for info on history of participation in co and extra-curricular activities. This was requested to see if participation fees had an impact on participation.

Jeremy Payne – suggestion to put page numbers on hand outs.

d. Questions and comments from Select Board members

Bruce Bourgoine – highlight what you anticipate bonding and scope of the bond. Donna – major projects – road, roofing projects, heating system at MES. Williams stated that the entire HS needs to be reroofed (est. \$850,000); MES heating system (est. \$1,000,000) – this is not just the boiler, but the entire school needs to be changed over for one type heating system (the school was built in three stages and three heating systems); that is why we wanted the needs assessment done. Estimating \$5-6 million as a ball park figure for a bond. Awaiting architects assessment.

John Parent– Was the assessment on all school properties? Yes

Also hoping architects will help us secure other sources of funding such as revolving renovations and energy efficiency money. Revolving Renovation – are funds set aside for specific uses; priority 1 roof structure, safety and air quality. You can apply for up to \$1 million for each building, then a % of that is forgiven and the remainder is at zero % interest. Target project that will qualify for these types of funds. Shawn Roderick stated there is a bill right now before the Legislature that has been fast tracked to put school safety as a top priority of the funds. Will provide more information as it becomes available.

Aaron Chrostowsky - Estimate on when the needs assessment will be received? We are supposed to have it now.

Kathryn Woodsum – \$960,000 increase to the budget, but local town assessment (green sheet back side) how is that correlating to final numbers right now for towns. Williams explained the \$960,000 is the actual budget increase. The local share increase is \$744,000 due to other revenues that are taken into consideration. State subsidy went up, as did tuition due to the number of students we are currently receiving and the rate increase which is set by the State of Maine.

Trish Jackson – Is worrying about elderly paying their taxes, also worried about making sure that anything we did is absolutely necessary. Every \$ that goes to the schools does not go towards town costs. Hope you will find more ways to take things out. Additional instructors – is any of that because of the additional enrollment? No, some of it is due to increased graduation requirements (Social Studies), half time Ed Tech is for standards recovery. Has there ever been any feedback regarding the interventionists. Data shows they are making progress. First time all students at MTV who need interventions are getting them.

Aaron Chrostowsky – Elementary school principal – right now there is a principal shared between MES/MTV and RES/WES. Need more attention from the principals – new evaluation system to align with state mandates and this requires a lot from our principals. The plan would be to have full time principals at MES and RES and then a split between MTV and WES, which would also give both of those schools more principal time.

Kathryn Woodsum – \$2.5 million in principle debt. If we add another \$5-6 million; and there are some things retiring; do you have an impact of the bond and length of time considering? Williams doesn't know impact yet. A lot of questions need to be answered before we can decide the length of the bond. The suggestions has been made that maybe we should build one new elementary school instead of putting money into four old buildings. It will depend on the size of the bond. We are hoping some of our debt goes off before new debt kicks in.

John Parent – mentioned one elementary school and know that is not popular in the district. Future Search is this weekend and suspect that will come up this weekend. It would need to be voted on, this takes time, wait for state funding to become available; could be a 10 year process. Would every town have to vote in the positive or district cumulative vote. Williams stated back when the 6<sup>th</sup> grade was moved to the middle school it was a cumulative vote because all towns were part of the CSD. Not sure if the rules are the same for RSUs.

Aaron Chrostowsky – will you make the needs assessment report available to select boards? Yes.

Bruce Bourgoine – warrant article last year that if there was additional surplus from the state we would return to towns assessment \$\$\$. Would really encourage you to do that again. The state is sitting on a lot of money as a surplus and someone pass back word to see some of that surplus to come back to schools; put back on ballot that type of warrant article. Future Search – will be involved himself. Appreciate adjustments made thus far, would ask to preserve our investment whether it's fiscal, programming; don't want to get cut crazy that we don't have the type of school that we want. New permitting in the town and think it is coming from young families. Third time sitting here in this forum; appreciate the opportunity; wish Donna Wolfrom godspeed in Cape Elizabeth.

Trish Jackson – Where you are on the superintendent search? A meeting tomorrow night where MSMA will be doing formal training with the full committee; and taking a look at the survey results; and will begin screening applications. Good number of candidates. Work becomes intense in the next 3-4 weeks.

e. Questions and Comments from RSU Board

Gary Carr – Tuition students approx. 50 students; never break out the funds those kids are paying; why can't we add another column "tuition paid". Doubt that they are contributing \$15,316 per child. We can only charge the tuition rate the state allows. Right now it's around \$10,000. We list 4 towns but we really have 5 with the Fayette students. Would like another column for any tuition paid. Doesn't highlight where we stand in our towns.

Gary Carr – Asked about the added school nurses 1.6FTE; thought we were going to add 2. Last year we added .8 FTE nurse. Part of that \$90,000 will be a refund from the state? Meserve stated it depends upon how it works through the subsidy formula.

David Twitchell – In reference to the additional principal - part of reasoning is that the principal not being present takes away responsibilities to teachers and other staff.

Shawn Roderick – The new teacher contract \$254,601; that’s everything all staff. Yes. Total 2.22% increase is lower than what teachers received for an increase, but we had teacher turnover and experience is lower. After considering salaries and benefits only \$600,000 is negotiable.

Adam Woodford – out of box thinking – new app or something? This would free up teachers to be able to work with students in specific content areas for extra support. This would free up the teachers to work individual students.

f. Citizens Comments regarding budget

John Harker – on bonding can anything be bonded or does it have to be capital projects? High amount of turnover of 1, 2, 3 year teachers and then they are moving on; we are also seeing a generational shift. How are we going to keep these new teachers and keep them engaged. 20-25% lower than other schools. If we were to up our salary we could immediately increase that salary for our teachers. Key – good chance that after 3 years we will keep those teachers. Would like to bond \$2M and spread it out over four years to increase teacher salaries. Williams stated she has never seen a bond used this way.

John Harker – Doesn’t necessarily disagree with the need for another principal. RSU #38 administrators are paid 1.5 times higher than other good schools in the state; want more \$\$ for teachers. Hope with new principal teachers will be able to teach more. Private contracts for tutoring – number of states hire contract tutors or volunteer tutors. Finally annual plea is to adopt a prek-12 nutrition curriculum, breakfast in the classroom, improved menu; would like to see \$2,500 in Becca’s budget to allow us to hire someone to put a nutrition curriculum together. For now, please support requests Jeff has for equipment in food service; adding materials to the library – “iThrive” to the library. If our kids had this education they won’t go down the same road we are going down now. Also donating new Tom Brady book.

One final round of questions and comments

Kathryn Woodsum – does MCS use the 5210 program? Yes

John Parent – tuition we get in, a little deceiving to compare \$ to \$. Students we take in are spread across 6-12.

Bruce Bourgoine – when do we get final \$ for the towns. Board adopts budget April 10.

Aaron Chrostowsky – appreciate forms and website is very useful. Encourage stay true to a local community based elementary schools; would hate to see that go away.

David Twitchell – reinforce that to a degree there are cost savings to consolidating, but there are also costs to the communities.

6. Citizens’ Comments:

a. Request from citizen regarding school calendar

Mr. Richard Fein addressed the Board, presenting a proposal for a new school calendar (handout). He asked the Board to consider a multi-cultural calendar that includes religious holidays for religions that effect our students. He also asked that the schools consider these holidays when planning school events, such as picture day, speakers/assemblies, back to school nights, theater events, sporting events, etc. His request also included make-up policy that allowed students to have more than one day to make up assignments/tests they may have missed, and requested no penalty for these excused absences.

b. Other

Mr. John Harker addressed the Board regarding the emails he sent this past week about the student demonstration. He asked that the Board consider allowing a remembrance after school. He asked that the Board not allow students to hold a demonstration without consequence.

7. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of February 14, 2018

**MOTION** by Carr, second by Jacobs to approve the minutes of February 14, 2018 as presented.

**Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Rumler)

b. Acceptance of donations (revised list)

**MOTION** by Carr, second by Wright to accept the donations as presented.

Request was made to list what the ABS donations are actually used towards.

- Motion Carried:** unanimous
- c. Consideration of overnight trip, MCHS, Out Maine, Youth Leadership Retreat, Camp Kieve, Nobleboro, ME April 6-8, 2018  
**MOTION** by Carr, second by Wright to approve the overnight trip to Camp Kieve as presented. Question was asked how the \$25.00 fee was being paid. Students are paying the fee.  
**Motion Carried:** unanimous
- d. Consideration of out-of-state trip, MCHS Model UN Conf., May 17-18, 2018, Boston MA  
**MOTION** by Carr, second by Twitchell to approve the Model UN Conference out-of-state trip as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous
- e. Policy Second Readings: EBAA, Chemical Hazards; GCQG, Exit Interviews; JCA, School Assignment; JFC, Dropout Prevention Student Withdrawal from School; JKD, Suspension of Students  
Superintendent Wolfrom reported that no additional comments or questions were raised on these policies since the first reading. Policy Committee recommends approval as presented.  
**MOTION** by Carr, second by Wright to accept Policy EBAA, Chemical Hazards as presented.  
**Motion Carried:** unanimous  
**MOTION** by Carr, second by Twitchell to accept Policy GCQG, Exit Interviews as presented.  
**Motion Carried:** unanimous  
**MOTION** by Carr, second by Twitchell to accept Policy JCA, School Assignment as presented.  
**Motion Carried:** unanimous  
**MOTION** by Carr, second by Wright to accept Policy JFC, Dropout Prevention Student Withdrawal from School as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous  
**MOTION** by Carr, second by Twitchell to accept Policy JKD, Suspension of Students as presented.  
**Motion Carried:** unanimous
- Due to the difficulty in rescheduling some of the meetings, Gary Carr asked that the Policy Committee consider adding extra policies to the March and May agendas since it is so difficult to reschedule the April meeting.
- f. Policy First Readings: BEDB, School Board Meetings and Agendas; IJJ, Instructional and Library-Media Materials Selection; JHB, Truancy; JJIF, Management of Concussions and Other Head Injuries; JLDBG, Reintegration of Students From Juvenile Correctional Facilities; JRA, Student Education Records and Information  
Chair Morrell reported the remaining policies are first readings. Any questions or comments should be directed to a policy committee member or the Superintendent's Office. The next Policy Committee meeting will be March 27, 2018.
- g. Consideration of overnight trip, MCHS Operation Breaking Stereotypes, Lewiston HS, 3/22-23/18  
**MOTION** by Roderick, second by Payne to approve the overnight trip, Operation Breaking Stereotypes as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

8. Informational Items: reports in packet
9. Adjournment: MOTION and second to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna H. Wolfrom, Superintendent/Secretary  
D. Foster, Recorder