

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community High School
September 5, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Betty Morrell, Gary Carr, Wendy Brotherlin, Patty Gordon, Cathy Jacobs, Kaleb Pushard, Shawn Roderick, Crystal Sullivan, David Twitchell, Adam Woodford, Alexander Wright

Members Absent: Scott Lyons, Lucas Rumler

Administrators: Superintendent James Charette, Principals Jeff Boston, Dwayne Conway, Janet Delmar, Abbie Hartford, Kristen Levesque, Assistant Principal Tina Brackley, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve, Technology Director Diane MacGregor, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Nancy Harriman, Finance Manager Brigitte Williams, Adult and Community Education Director Steve Vose

1. Call to order: Chair Morrell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Newly appointed board members Patty Gordon from Readfield and Crystal Sullivan from Manchester were welcomed.
2. Workshop: School Board Orientation with Attorney Bruce Smith
Attorney Bruce Smith provide the Board with an orientation on school board roles and responsibilities.
3. Nomination of Officers
 - a. Nomination of Board Chair
Nomination by Alexander Wright to appoint Gary Carr as Board Chair. The nomination was seconded by David Twitchell.
Nomination by Cathy Jacobs to appoint Betty Morrell as Board Chair. The nomination was seconded by Shawn Roderick.
Votes: Gary Carr – 5 votes; Betty Morrell – 3 votes.
Gary Carr was appointed Chairperson of the RSU #38 Board of Directors. Dr. Carr presided over the remainder of the meeting.
 - b. Nomination of Board Vice Chair
Nomination by Alexander Wright to appoint Wendy Brotherlin for Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Cathy Jacobs. No other nominations were made.
Vote: unanimous vote to appoint Wendy Brotherlin as the Vice Chairperson of the RSU #38 Board of Directors.
4. Citizens Comments: none
5. Additions/adjustments:
Betty Morrell read an email she received this afternoon from Virginia Geyer, School Board Chair for the Winthrop School Department. Ms. Geyer was inquiring as to whether RSU #38 would consider allowing Winthrop to consolidate with them.
Discussion ensued about the process. All 5 towns would need to vote on reconfiguring the RSU and the Department of Education would need to approve the new structure.
MOTION by Wright, second by Brotherlin to look into the matter.
Discussion continued. At this point Winthrop is just reaching out to see if we would consider it. There is no need for a vote at this time. **The motion and second were rescinded.** Superintendent Charette will look into the request and report back to the school board.

6. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of June 20, 2018

MOTION by Twitchell, second by Wright to approve the minutes of June 20, 2018 as presented. **Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Morrell)

b. Approval of Minutes of August 15, 2018

MOTION by Twitchell, second by Brotherlin to approve the minutes of August 15, 2018 as presented. **Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Morrell)

c. Ratification: Teacher resignations accepted over the summer

MOTION by Morrell, second by Jacobs to ratify the acceptance of resignations received over the summer for the following: Rachel Caron, Patty English, Erica Gower, John Hirsch, Jannifer McNaughton, and Katie Reed. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

d. Ratification: Teachers hired during the summer, in consultation with Board Chair

MOTION by Morrell, second by Jacobs to ratify the hiring of first probationary teachers over the summer as follows: Andrew Barnes, High School French; Marlee Collins, WES Grade 2; Katie Cooper, High School Spanish; Tess Cote, Middle School Health; Margot Gyorgy, Middle School German; Amy Jones Middle School; Paul McGovern, Elementary Technology Integrationist; Linda Pare, WES Grade 3; Dania Price, WES Grades 4/5 (50%), Literacy Interventionist (50%); Genevieve Ricard, Middle School; Marissa Tarrío, RES Grade 2; and Suzanne Whitney, MES Grade 5. Brief discussion regarding the elementary technology position and how part of the position is reimbursed by Fayette.

Motion Carried: unanimous

e. Acceptance of donations

MOTION by Wright, second by Brotherlin to accept the donations as outlined in the packet.

Motion Carried: unanimous

f. Award lease/purchase agreement for facilities/maintenance department equipment

MOTION by Morrell, second by Twitchell to award the lease/purchase agreement for the facilities/maintenance department equipment to Androscoggin Bank as recommended in the Board packet. **Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Gordon)

g. Award Lease/Purchase Agreement for Transportation Department Bus

MOTION by Morrell, second by Jacobs to award the lease/purchase agreement for the Transportation Bus to Androscoggin Bank as recommended in the Board packet.

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

h. Award Snow Plow/Sanding/Salt Bids

MOTION by Morrell, second by Twitchell to award the snow plow/sanding/salt bids as recommended – Millard Harrison Drive campus, including Transportation Department yard on North Road to John Cushing; award Mt. Vernon Elementary campus to Sid Smith; award Readfield Elementary School campus to John Cushing Construction; and Wayne Elementary School campus to Dennis Bruen Construction.

Discussion ensued. Questions were asked regarding the reasoning to accept the higher bid from Sid Smith versus Brett Roberts for the Mt. Vernon Elementary campus and the higher bid from John Cushing Construction versus Brett Roberts for the Readfield Elementary campus. Chair Carr reported that the Facilities Committee met to review the bids and took into consideration the equipment each of the bidders have to move large quantities of snow. Finance Manager Williams added that the bid RFP did specify what the contractors have for equipment.

Motion Carried: 10 in favor, 1 opposed (Woodford)

i. Vote on Revised Assessment of Regional School Unit Tax to Member Towns

Finance Manager Williams reported that based on an amendment to the ED279, RSU #38 will be receiving \$24,899 more than originally reported. Article 18 in the RSU #38 annual meeting warrant directs the District to allocate any additional subsidy from the state to reduce the local assessments to each of the towns.

MOTION by Wright, second by Brotherlin to approve the revised assessment of the Regional School Unit tax to member towns. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

j. Board Committee Assignments

Chair Carr asked that members return their selections for committee assignments to Donna so committee assignments can be determined.

k. Vote on Facilities Improvement Bond Amount \$5,843,710

The Board discussed the request for approval of the facilities improvement bond in the amount of \$5,843,710. Concern was expressed that a large portion of the project is for paving and does not provide the district with a strategic plan for the facilities. Also, there are several other issues that do not appear to be addressed that were listed as major concerns during the last budget process. Facilities Committee members G. Carr and B. Morrell reported that many of the projects in the original list were broken down to projects that could either be handled through the regular budget, projects that may qualify for Revolving Renovation Funds from the State, and projects that would qualify for assistance through Efficiency Maine. The projects included in the bond are those that the Facilities Committee and architect identified as most urgent and would not qualify for the above funds.

Questions/Comments

Regarding the paving of Millard Harrison Drive, was consideration made as to whether the road is set up the way we want it?

What other major renovations will there need to be done over the life of this bond?

Concern that the proposal does not include anything that makes Maranacook a hub for the community. How do we make it better for our students without just paving roads and putting up roofs? There is nothing here that changes Maranacook for the good. This is keeping us at status quo. If this is the first step, would like to see the next steps. Concern was also raised that this was decided by the Facilities Committee and not the entire Board. Expectation was that the architects would provide the Board with a 20-year plan that would address the needs as well as planning for the future. They were going to help sell this to the communities.

We will need individual communities to vote on this bond and we need an idea as to what people want. Do they want to keep things the way they are now, or do they want to look at building an elementary school on the Maranacook campus? We haven't taken this to the towns to see what other projects they would like to see addressed.

Finance Manager Williams reported that the Facilities Committee met with Oak Point at 3 different times since the report was received. \$7.5 million was the first summary of identified projects for the bond and felt that was too high. The Committee tagged items that could be covered under revolving renovations funds and things that could be funded with Efficiency Maine. Tyler came back with a revised list that was \$5.9 million. Other projects that could be overseen by our Maintenance Department instead of Oak Point were identified, which brought the bond amount down to \$5,874,710.

It was noted that some of the items identified as needing upgrading during last fall's school tours have been address, or are going to be addressed outside of the bond.

Concerns were raised about the board needing to take action at this time prior to having discussions with the communities. Suggestion was made to invite Oak Point to come to the next meeting so some of the Board members questions can be addressed. Also invite people to come to the meeting to hear the recommendations and share their ideas.

B. Williams added that the 20 year plan is not improvements, it is what is needed to update our buildings over next 20 years. We were told that if we did these upgrades the buildings would be good in 20 years. Shaun Drinkwater added that these are major issues that need to be addressed now.

B. Williams noted that the Board budgeted \$60,000 for the architect work. The contract for the work that has been done is \$56,500. There will be additional cost to have them go into the community to create a vision for what the district will look like in the future.

Suggestion was made to look at this as 2 issues. We have to fix these things right now and the bond does that. Then we can invite folks to come in and talk to us about a 20 year plan? Can we do both things?

B. Williams added as informational, one elementary school for 600 students, based on square feet per student puts a new elementary school in the ballpark figure of \$26-\$27 million. These

communities can't do this without state support. It would probably be a 10 year plan before we get on the state construction list and this would not take care of middle school and the high school. This current plan was looking at the buildings we have. This is another reason why we talked about a January vote instead of November. It gives us time to talk with communities, gives the architect time to draw up detailed plans and go out to bid.

It was suggested to take action on this bond recommendation, and hold meeting(s) in the communities to let them know this is work we need done now, but we would like your input on what you want Maranacook to look like in 20 years. Suggestion was made that the Board and the Superintendent could do this and it would not require hiring the architects for this. The date for the referendum vote would be January 8, 2019.

Request was made for Shaun Drinkwater and Jay Charette to work on setting up a maintenance budget for 15 years.

MOTION by Roderick to move forward with the facilities improvement bond in the amount of \$5,843,710 and also work on a community plan. The motion was seconded by Wright.

Motion Carried: 10 in favor, 1 opposed (Woodford)

l. Discussion on length of bond for facilities improvement

Discussion ensued about the length of the bond and the best time to go out for a bond. Chair Carr shared his concern with the longer bond term. Finance Manager Williams shared a debt retirement schedule. She reported that if the vote was scheduled for January, the bond could be issued in the fall which would be the best scenario for next year's budget. This would require only one interest payment for the FY20 budget year. During that time, the energy project, phase I lease will retire in 2019, and two bonds will retire in 2020 (MS construction bond and Athletic Field construction bond).

MOTION by Morrell, second by Wright to pursue a 15 year bond with a fall issue date.

Motion Carried: unanimous

m. Vote on commitment to support the submission of application – Maine Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Funds

It was reported that the Transportation Committee met to discuss whether the district should apply for round one of the Maine VW Mitigation Settlement Funds. The first round of competitive applications are due September 15, 2018. As outlined in the packet, item 6m and 6n, the Transportation Committee recommends moving forward with the application. The estimated cost for a bus is \$93,300; the grant would cover 80% of the cost, with the district responsible for 20%. Funds were not included in the FY19 budget year, we have 2 years to expend the funds.

MOTION by Morrell, second by Jacobs to commit to support the submission of the application for the buses. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

n. Vote on commitment to fund the District's share of new school bus purchase if Maine VW Mitigation Settlement Funds are awarded during the 2019-2020 school year

MOTION by Morrell, second by Jacobs to fund the district's share of the application (20%) for the Maine Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Funds. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

o. Consideration of out-of-state trip – Speech & Debate, New Haven, CT, 09/14-16/18

MOTION by Morrell, second by Jacobs to approve the out-of-state trip for members of the Speech & Debate team as presented. **Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Woodford)

7. Informational Items: provided in Board packet

Administrators responded to questions on their reports.

8. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James Charette, Superintendent/Secretary
D. Foster, Recorder