

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Mount Vernon Elementary School
October 3, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Chair Gary Carr, Vice Chair Wendy Brotherlin, Patty Gordon, Cathy Jacobs, Betty Morrell, Kaleb Pushard, Crystal Sullivan, Melissa Tobin, David Twitchell, Alexander Wright

Members Absent: Scott Lyons, Shawn Roderick, Adam Woodford

Administrators: Superintendent James Charette, Principals Dwayne Conway, Janet Delmar, Abbie Hartford, and Kristen Levesque, Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction Nancy Harriman, Finance Manager Brigitte Williams

1. Call to order: Chair Carr called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Presentations:
 - a. Maranacook Education Foundation
Dr. Thomas Cook spoke to the Board about the mission of the Maranacook Education Foundation (MEF) and the types of projects they provide funding for. Dr. Cook recommended that Board members visit the MEF website.
 - b. Facilities update (summer work) – This presentation is postponed to October 17.
3. Student Representatives' Reports:

Middle School student representatives Esm'e Jamison and Malachi Vazquez-Carr presented on the middle school team projects for this trimester, as well as school wide activities.

High School student representatives Dana Reynolds and Ella Stevens reported on high school activities including Homecoming, preparations for Make A Difference Week, the upcoming musical "Footloose", the work of the Peer Counselors and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. They are also putting together a Substance Awareness Month, and there is a new Outdoor Club.
4. Citizens' Comments:

Dawn Kliphan, Manchester Selectperson reported about funding sources that could be beneficial to the RSU. The State has a renovation fund where they will provide grants for up to \$1 million for school renovations. At this time the fund is depleted but funds could be available in one to two years. Ms. Kliphan offered her assistance to prepare a grant when new funds become available. There is also a new construction grant that comes around every 7 years. Last year was the last year, but she hopes the Board will think about these funding sources as they become available.
5. Action/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:

Additions:

Request for overnight trip – Middle School/High School GEAR Up Maine Student Leadership Conference: October 13, 14, 2018. **MOTION** by Wright, second by Jacobs to approve the overnight trip as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

Letter from Maranacook Area Staff Association (MASA)
Chair Carr reported that he received a letter from the MASA notifying the school board of its intent to negotiate a successor contract for the next fiscal year.

6. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of September 19, 2018

MOTION by Morrell, second by Twitchell to approve the minutes of September 19, 2018 as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

b. Acceptance of Donations

MOTION by Morrell, second by Jacobs to accept the donations as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

c. Appointment of First Probationary Teacher, Mt. Vernon Elementary, Grade K – Colleen Walsh

MOTION by Wright second by Jacobs to appoint Colleen Walsh to a first probationary teacher contract as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

d. Consideration of overnight trip, Ambleside Living History, Phillips, Maine – October 26-29, 2018

Chair Carr reported additional information has been provided. The cost of the activity is \$2,250 and the transportation cost is \$596; and the project is included in the budget.

MOTION by Morrell, second by Brotherlin to approve the overnight trip to Ambleside Living History in Phillips, Maine as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

e. Review of MSBA draft resolutions

MOTION by Morrell, second by Brotherlin that the MSBA Constitution and Bylaws be amended as follows, “The association membership classification be amended to include Regional Service Centers.” **Motion Carried:** unanimous

The school board reviewed the MSBA Proposed Resolutions

CDS Move to Public Schools (section 4) – the board was in agreement that the MSBA should hold on this until there is a plan and until there is funding.

School Safety (section 2) – Superintendent Charette reported that this resolution is more focused on the idea of trying to catch a safety problem before it happens and that school districts have a plan in place. Chair Carr added that Mr. Drinkwater has been working on addressing some of the safety issues on the list.

Gun-Free Schools (section 2) – This resolution reinforces the policy not to bring any guns on school property.

Proficiency-Based Diplomas (section 4) – Chair Carr noted that the school board made a decision that they would continue the District’s work and keep Proficiency-Based Diplomas.

Special Education Reform (section 4) – Superintendent Charette reported that Special Education Director Ryan Meserve is in favor of this resolution.

Starting Teacher Pay and Longer School Year (section 2) Superintendent Charette reported that we currently have 175 student days and 182 teacher days. MSBA wants to increase that to 180 student days with an additional 4 professional development days for teachers. They are also looking at increasing the starting salary for teachers to \$40,000. This is a suggestion; it will come down to the funding formula. Betty Morrell commented that the board has worked at increasing the starting pay for teachers but are not there yet. Wendy Brotherlin asked if anyone has thought about snow days and kids using computers to address added days; perhaps elementary students could be given packets to take home. Principal Conway commented that they are not too far from that. Technology Director Diane MacGregor added that she has been researching this and would welcome an opportunity to present the information she has found on that to the Board. Superintendent Charette will schedule this for an upcoming presentation to the Board.

School Attendance at Age 5 (section 2) Superintendent Charette noted this would make the compulsory attendance at age 6; currently it is age 7.

f. Acceptance of teacher resignation – Grade 2, WES, Marlee Collins

MOTION by Morrell second by Jacobs to accept the teacher resignation of Marlee Collins.

Motion Carried: unanimous

7. Informational Items:

In addition to the reports included in the board packet, the principals reported on activities at each of the schools and responded to questions.

Nancy Harriman provided an update about how the district is moving forward with the loss of the Literacy and Math coaches. The literacy specialists met yesterday with Barbara Bourgoine and Barbara has agreed to work with the literacy specialists once a month to help them through the next few months. She is hoping that a similar arrangement can be made for the math interventionists. The Board will be kept updated on the progress of filling both positions and alternative arrangements being made in the meantime.

Question was asked about the Regional Service Center and how many students really need to attend summer school. Principal Conway responded that the high school does have a lot of students that take part in credit recovery each year. Superintendent Charette spoke about the work the RSC is doing to consolidate their summer school programs. They are currently meeting twice a month. He will report back to the board as developments are made.

8. **MOTION** and second to adjourn 7:45 p.m.

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