

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Manchester Elementary School
October 17, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
Minutes of Meeting

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

Members Absent: Scott Lyons, Kaleb Pushard, Shawn Roderick

Administrators: Superintendent James Charette, Principal Abbie Hartford, Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction Nancy Harriman, Technology Director Diane MacGregor, Finance Manager Brigette Williams, Maintenance/Transportation Director Shaun Drinkwater

1. Call to order: Chair Carr called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Presentations:

a. Facilities Update (summer work)

Shaun Drinkwater provided an overview of the maintenance projects conducted over the summer. Some of the major projects included: High School – installed 2 new univentilators, fixed science lab sinks, new plumbing and faucets in science classroom, repaired rugs in hallways, installed new fire panel, installed new control panel for heating system, and resurfaced the tennis courts. Middle School – removed three, 40 yard dumpsters of trash from the basement, repaired a domestic water pump, mulched flower gardens, and an outside volunteer installed the water bottle filling station. Transportation garage – brought in gravel and graded back yard, repaired a 60 ft. section of the fence, installed new fire panel, and replaced 2 garage doors. Central Office – brought in gravel and graded the parking lot, mulched the flower gardens, and pressure washed one side of the building. Manchester Elementary – mulched the flower gardens, installed new fire panel, installed new temperature sensors in the freezers, built a new ramp to the cellar, and installed the water bottle filling station. Mt. Vernon Elementary – new carpeting was installed throughout the school, brought in additional chips for the playground, and an outside volunteer installed the water bottle filling station. Readfield Elementary – installed new fire panel, resided front of garage, painted toy shed, installed mirrored glass for “reading behind the glass” and are in the process of installing a new window in a classroom and new door (taking out sliding door). Wayne Elementary – reconfigured sewer line in the basement, rewired a classroom for a computer lab, and in the process of installing 3 new sinks. Carpets were also cleaned in all of the buildings, which took longer than anticipated due to the high humidity.

b. Technology Update

Technology Director Diane MacGregor introduced the district’s tech team: Norm Robichaud, IT manager; Paul McGovern, K-5 technology integrator; Mary Ann Florek, MS technology ed tech; Denise Churchill, MS technology integrator (couldn’t be here tonight); Lori Twiss, HS technology integrator.

Paul McGovern reported on his work with grades 4 and 5 with Google Classroom. He is also working with the lower grades with a similar program, Seesaw. He is also working with the music teacher at Mt. Vernon and the art teacher at Readfield.

Mary Ann Florek reported on the work she is doing with a new activity offered at the middle school called technology exploration. So far this year 23 students have signed up for the activity, with one-third being girls. Diane MacGregor reported on the work of Denise Churchill at the middle school

on the “Family Code Night”. She will also be offering a special Drone Night with parents on November 16th. Space will be limited for this session.

Lori Twiss - reported on the many offerings at the high school, including a robotics and computer science class. The PowerPoint she shared showed the many projects high school students are working on in the various curricula.

All the presentations highlighted the technology team’s creative use of old technology and several items such as robotics and two 3D printers that were received through grants.

3. Citizens’ Comments:

State Representative Charlotte Warren – (Manchester, Hallowell and West Gardiner), addressed the board. She urged the Board to speak with their legislative representatives and make sure they support education funding.

4. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:

Chair Carr thanked Adam Woodford for sending Ronn Gifford to the Facilities Committee to speak about the work he is doing to obtain funding for improvements to the sports facilities at Maranacook. He also reported that the Policy Committee met this week and will be sending forward several policies for the Board to consider as they work to get all the policies up to date.

5. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of October 3, 2018

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the minutes of October 3, 2018. Betty Morrell noted 2 corrections in the listing of board members present.

Motion Carried (as amended): 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Woodford)

b. Approval of Transfer of Funds

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Jacobs to approve the transfer of funds as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

c. Approval of Capital Area Technical Center (CATC) Cooperative Agreement

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the Capital Area Technical Center Cooperative Agreement as presented. Superintendent Charette noted that this is a yearly renewal of the Agreement. There are no changes from the previous year. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

6. Discussion on upcoming Bond Project with Oak Point Architects representative

Superintendent Charette invited Tyler Barter from Oak Point to come and speak with the School Board to address questions about the upcoming bond referendum, especially in regards to the projects that were selected for inclusion in the bond. The Facilities Committee met earlier this week and came up with a list of questions they asked Tyler to respond to.

Mr. Barter reported that he has been working with district for about one year. Oak Point prepared a facilities assessment projecting projects out to 20 years. They spent a lot of time working on the assessment and determining what the facilities’ needs are. They focused on the critical infrastructure needs; all things that are needed to maintain the facilities. The bond includes heating at Wayne and Manchester, paving throughout the district, roof and structural issues at the high school and water issues at the middle school. The Facilities Committee and Board agreed on a \$5.8 million bond to tackle projects that require a lot of engineering and not projects that could be done by the maintenance staff. There were a number of items in the assessment that Shaun and his staff can do.

Questions were provided to Mr. Barter by the Facilities Committee to address some of the questions that the Board has asked at earlier meeting. They include the following:

1. How are you going to help us present these projects at the public hearings? Oak Point will help present this to the communities - we will come and make presentations to each of the towns; review what the ramifications are; and how the needs were determined. Will work with Central Office and towns to determine what the vote means in terms of taxes. These meetings will be a chance for community members to ask questions. W.Brotherlin asked how will we get the word out; not just to people who have kids in school but other residents. Mr. Barter suggested possibly a one page mailer sent to all households and a short FAQ. This should include what happens if the bond referendum doesn't pass.
2. How did these projects rise to the top of the inclusion for the bond? These were things that really couldn't wait and couldn't be done by existing staff.
3. Why is the paving being done all at once? The paving was recommended as being done all at once mostly due to the economy of scale of working with a paving company; it should present a better package. The goal of the report generated was to project out so you will know to plan for them in your budgets for the next 15-20 years. A. Wright asked about access to the buildings during paving. Construction sequencing hasn't been done yet, but the pavers can usually provide limited access. There is a lot of coordination that needs to happen. P.Gordon asked further about project coordination, especially if some of the projects Mr. Gifford is working on begins. Mr. Charette responded that would be more of an "us" question. Also, it could be several years away before some of the larger projects Mr. Gifford is proposing will take place.
4. Why does this costs so much? A lot of it is market driven; construction in Maine is booming; material costs are creeping up; there is a little volatility with steel prices; you will see some cost increases. The other big component is labor; there is a shortage of skilled trades. We have done our best to build as many buffers in the projects as possible in addition to the 10% contingency.
5. What is the lifespan of the projects compared to the bond length (15 years)? 40-50 years for roofing; mechanical systems should be about 20 years; the paving will be done toward the end of the project and is projected to last 15 to 20 years.
6. What happens if the bond doesn't pass? The projects don't go away; the district still has great needs on the mechanical projects. The Board will have to work on how to fund these projects.
7. How can you help us with the future vision of the school? Addressing what is outside of the facilities assessment that we've done. Mr. Barter suggested that the discussions should start with a blank slate and ask community members how they see this district moving forward; reaching out, working with the communities, and coming up with several options. Then the Board can narrow it down; how much is a consolidated K-5 school; what do you need for land, come up with a holistic long-term proposal for the district.

A.Woodford – what are we doing now that we can improve upon rather than replacing? Mr. Barter responded that the report was a snapshot look at existing facilities, he hasn't met with staff for educational needs. Although these are not glamorous projects the district will have new boilers in two of the elementary schools. They will be more efficient. Also, the high school will have additional structural support and the outdated shingles will be replaced with shingles with a life expectancy of 40-50 years.

A.Woodford stated that he expected some sort of vision other than the assessment of our facilities. Oak Point can provide that, but it wasn't what the contract included. If the Board decided, that could be the next phase of work.

B.Morrell added that one of the questions they did ask the architects was what is the life span of the buildings, if the communities wanted to continue to have their individual schools; would they last another 30, 40, 50 years? The report did say the life expectancy was there for the buildings, but we do need to continue to maintain them.

Mr. Barter will put a letter together regarding the cost of visioning for the District beyond the building maintenance.

A.Woodford expressed his frustration that the paving is just that, paving. It doesn't address if there is a better traffic pattern for the Maranacook campus and how we can improve the traffic congestion on the campus before and after school, as well as during school events.

C.Jacobs would like more information from the Facilities Committee. There are pieces missing. Not sure what you are asking for next. Understand that we need to make these improvement but also need to think about the future of the district so she can understand better what we are asking our communities to vote on and why. How will this impact our future education needs. It would be helpful to have information from the Strategic Plan meetings.

D.Twitchell – what can we do within those things or as a separate committee of the board to start getting feedback from staff and community members? It seems like many are in favor of looking at the future plans - traffic, consolidating elementary schools, or changing the system of how the elementary schools will function; expanding technology systems. How can we start on this right away?

B.Williams added that one of the other things we discussed early on, was school construction. If the state is funding it, it will be at least 10 years. The last time the state only funded about 20 projects out of 60-70, so we knew it would be a while before we could even get on the list. We knew it would be at least 10 years and we knew we had large projects that needed to be fixed. The needs assessment was to let us know what else besides these projects that needs to be budgeted to keep our buildings going. A new elementary school for 600 students is estimated to cost \$27 million, and that is if it is placed on our district land.

C.Sullivan stated it will be helpful to have this information when the Board presents this to the communities (show the efficiencies and cost savings over time).

A.Wright – wants to be working on multiple plans to keep progress going.

7. **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

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