

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #57  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
WATERBORO, MAINE 04087**

**District School Board Meeting Agenda**

**March 22, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**MHS East Building**

**Zoom Link: <https://rsu57.zoom.us/j/82779048196>**

- A. Call to Order - 7:00pm**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum - 14 members present**

Bauer, Suzanne	Cartisano, Mark	Cole, Jason*	Crowley-Colwell, Tina
Day, Elizabeth	Dryden, JoJo	DuBois, Norman	Ferguson, Anastasia
Laine, Jodi	Mayo, Jennifer	Phinney, Wes	Shaw, Jason
Tanguay, Adam	Vasalle, Judith	Vermette, Dominic	(Newfield - Vacant)
(Shapleigh - Vacant)	(Shapleigh - Vacant)	**VanBrocklin, Hunter - Jr. Class	**Harris, Maggie - Sr. Class

\*\*Student Representative

Absent\*

- D. Adjustments to the Agenda**
  - Dr. Marquis noted that the Finance Committee meets at 5:30pm following the New Year.
- E. Approval of the Minutes from [March 8, 2023](#).**

**Motion:** J. Dryden motioned to approve the minutes.

**2nd:** A. Ferguson

**No Discussion**

**Unanimous**

**Motion Carried**

- F. Public Comment**

No Public Comment.

- G. Board Chair Report**

- 1. Recognitions and Celebrations

No Recognitions and Celebrations.
- 2. Board Chair Update
  - Chair Laine congratulated W. Phinney and A. Ferguson for their re-appointment to the Board; both will serve a 3-year term.
  - The Board is still searching for Board representatives from Shapleigh and Newfield.

- H. Superintendent's Report**

- Last Friday, Dr. Marquis welcomed the Spanish Consulate from Boston who oversees all of the Spanish teachers that teach in New England. Mr. Thurlow, Mr. Lavertu, and Mr. Keenan provided a tour of MHS. The Consulate shared that it was the best experience and the warmest welcome he was given out of any school he has visited in the United States.
- This past Monday, Steve met with the Chief Deputy and the Major of YCSO. Continued discussion about relationship between the department and RSU #57 - including adding an additional SRO contract and implementing mandatory staff safety training sessions prior to the return of students this Fall.
- High school spring sports training has begun this week at MHS; middle school sports start next week.
- Gary Chamberland, swim coach for RSU #57, was recognized as the SMAA Coach of the Year.
- SRTC currently educates 550 students in York County - all of which participated in the SkillsUSA Maine challenges. 19 students in total were recognized, including MHS

Senior Chloe Larson of Lyman, for audio and radio production; MHS Junior Melody Schaffer of Waterboro, for 3D visuals and animation.

- SMAA 2023 Senior Citizenship Award Winners: Sophia Tanguay and Jack Carroll.

1. Student Representative Report

- Student Representatives M. Harris and H. VanBrocklin provided an overview of the report.

2. Staff Report

- Dr. Marquis noted that staff members are always changing; transitioning to/from positions or leaving our District. The report is as up-to-date as the day of the Board meeting.

3. Enrollment

- Uptick in enrollment over the last several Board meetings. Current enrollment is 2945 students.

4. Strategic Plan

- A public community forum will be held on May 1, 2023 at 7pm in the MHS cafeteria.  
**Next Meeting:** April 4, 2023 @ 4:30pm in the East Training Center.

**I. Standing Committees**

1. Finance/Building and Maintenance Committee

- D. Vermette provided an overview of the most recent committee meeting.
- Mr. Walsh was able to lock-in contracts for diesel, propane, oil, and electric; decreased prices on fuel/oil with a 2 year contract and an increase in electricity for a 3 year contract.
- The committee is continuing to review the budget; close to bringing the final proposal to the full Board.
- The annual budget/public hearing is on May 15, 2023 @ 7pm at MMS.  
**Next Meeting:** March 29, 2023 @ 5:30pm in the East Training Center.

2. Curriculum Committee

- A. Ferguson explained the March Curriculum meeting was canceled due to weather.  
**Next Meeting:** April 11, 2023 @ 6pm in the East Training Center.

3. Negotiations Committee

- Chair Laine explained that the committee is still in negotiations with the Administrative Team.

4. Policy Committee

Has not met.

**Next Meeting:** April 4, 2023 at 6pm in the East Training Center following Strategic

Planning Committee.

5. Public Relations/Technology Committee

- J. Dryden provided an overview of the minutes.
- The committee has made minor changes to the Model Mustang Staff Award after reviewing the first month.
- The Technology Department is in the process of hiring a Data Services Coordinator; expecting to make an offer next week after interviews.
- Reviewed budget requests including elearning, equipment, cybersecurity initiatives, file storage migration, and district purchase request form for inventory.  
**Next Meeting:** May 16, 2023 @ 6pm in the East Training Center.

6. Transportation and Safety Committee

Has not met.

**Next Meeting:** March 28, 2023 @ 6pm in the East Training Center.

**J. Old Business**

**K. New Business**

1. Nomination - **Action Needed.**

- Joseph J. Lipp IV, JROTC Instructor, Massabesic High School

- Dr. Marquis explained that Mr. Lipp has been serving as an NJROTC instructor for several years; looking to relocate to the Southern Maine area to be with children and family. Excited about this hire for his wealth of experience and knowledge. This hire would be in effect beginning in the Fall of 2023.
- The JROTC program is no longer on probation and excellent instructors will continue to elevate the program at MHS.

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_ motioned to approve the nomination.

**2nd:** A. Ferguson

**No Discussion**

**Unanimous**

**Motion Carried**

2. Field Trip Request for [MHS Theatre](#). **Action Needed.**

**Motion:** N. DuBois motioned to approve the request.

**2nd:** T. Crowley-Colwell

**No discussion 13 in Favor, 1 Abstention**

**Motion Carried**

3. Preliminary Review of the Fiscal 2023-2024 Working Budget

- Mr. Walsh provided a preliminary review of the FY 24 budget. His goal is to have the budget ready for Board consideration on April 12, 2023.
- Referendum vote is by ballot vote on June 13, 2023 at local voting precincts.
- School Revolving Renovation Fund: Approved earlier this year for windows on the first floor of MMS. The public hearing for this project will take place during the annual budget meeting in May.
- Mr. Walsh explained that the only “major” change in expenditures was including a second SRO position. The committee felt that this change was critically important to the staff, students, and operations of the District.
- Overall budget would increase by 3.9% or \$1.9 million.
- Remaining unknown factor is health insurance expenditures. Information will not be given to the committee until April 7, 2023.
- 94% of District revenue comes from state subsidy and local tax assessments.
- Finance committee is hoping to remove the “pay to play” fee for FY 24; recommendation will be brought to the Board for consideration.
- Use of Fund Balance; increase to \$3.45 million from \$2.5 million.
- State subsidy has been reduced 4.45% - puts extra pressure on local taxpayers.
- The evaluation of properties in the District has increased >8% over the last several years. Evaluation can be viewed in the 2023-2024 Budget Review packet.
- Overall average tax increase of 6.26%; under legislative statute, the total taxes are assessed by 50% of enrollment and 50% of the evaluation of each town in the District.
- Finance committee has taken the position that they want to reduce taxation as much as possible; looking for long-term solutions.
- M. Cartisano asked for the increase of tax percentages for each town.
- Mr. Walsh explained that in the preliminary budget, towns would see the following tax increases: Alfred 5.75%, Limerick 9.95%, Lyman 3.85%, Newfield 8.15%, Shapleigh 6.69%, and Waterboro 6.79%. He continued that the budget has NOT been approved, these are simply the proposed changes to the budget.
- M. Cartisano expressed that he found it difficult to imagine asking Limerick residents to pay a 10% increase in taxes; hopes to find another solution.
- D. Vermette explained that the original increase was at 16%; the majority of the budget goes towards staffing. He explained that the budget could be reduced, but programs and staff will be affected.
- M. Cartisano questions what the following years’ increases would look like.
- D. Vermette: The goal of the finance committee is to keep budget increases historically below 5%. The FY 24 budget is an anomaly and surrounding districts are feeling the hurt as well.
- N. DuBois added that additional money was taken out of the Use of Funds balance to support the increase and relieve some burden off of the taxpayers. He explained that to expect the school system to not have the same cost increases that everyone else has felt during this time of inflation would be wrong.
- J. Shaw reiterated that the finance committee has worked hard to be creative and find ways of trimming the budget without having to make deep cuts to staff and programming.
- Dr. Marquis explained that the state has changed how subsidies are calculated; can not make predictions about future budget trends. District has increased 22% of the collective values of properties; numbers do not take into account taxation revenue that is accrued by the taxation associated with home sales, land dividings, new builds, etc.
- D. Vermette explained that the town of Limerick is responsible for 10% increase, not necessarily that each individual in the town will see that increase specifically.

- C. Walsh added that legislation is currently being discussed to reexamine the subsidy formulation. discussing subsidy formulation. He continued that there is no answer that can provide comfort to taxpayers. to provide comfort that next year is better/worse.

**L. Executive Session**

1. To discuss a student matter pursuant to [1 M.R.S.A. § 405\(6\)\(B\)](#).

**Motion:** J. Shaw motioned to enter Executive Session.

**2nd:** J. Dryden

**No Discussion**

**Unanimous**

**Motion Carried**

The School Board entered Executive Session at 8:08pm.

**Motion:** J. Dryden motioned to exit Executive Session.

**2nd:** N. Dubois

**No Discussion**

**Unanimous**

**Motion Carried**

The School Board exited Executive Session at 8:50pm.

**Motion:** D. Vermette motioned to expel Student A indefinitely with a re-entry plan.

**2nd:** N. Dubois

**No Discussion**

**Unanimous**

**Motion Carried**

2. To discuss a student matter pursuant to [1 M.R.S.A. § 405\(6\)\(B\)](#).

**Motion:** A. Ferguson motioned to enter Executive Session.

**2nd:** J. Dryden

**No Discussion**

**Unanimous**

**Motion Carried**

The School Board entered Executive Session at 8:55pm.

**Motion:** J. Shaw motioned to exit Executive Session.

**2nd:** W. Phinney

**No Discussion**

**Unanimous**

**Motion Carried**

The School Board exited Executive Session at 9:12pm.

**Motion:** D. Vermette motioned to expel Student B indefinitely with a re-entry plan.

**2nd:** A. Ferguson

**No Discussion**

**Unanimous**

**Motion Carried**

**M. Calendar/Announcements**

**N. Adjournment - 9:12pm**

**Upcoming Meetings**

03/28/23	Trans/Sec Committee	MHS East	6:00pm
03/29/23	Finance Committee	MHS East	5:30pm
04/04/23	Strategic Planning	MHS East	4:30pm
04/04/23	Policy Committee	MHS East	6:00pm
04/05/23	Finance Committee	MHS East	5:30pm
04/11/23	Curriculum Committee	MHS East	6:00pm
04/12/23	School Board	MHS East	7:00pm