

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community Middle School & Zoom
December 2, 2020
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Chair Gary Carr, Vice Chair Wendy Brotherlin, Kim Bowie, Patty Gordon, Cathy Jacobs, Rebecca Lambert, Betty Morrell, Melissa Tobin, David Twitchell, Dane Wing, Alexander Wright

Member Absent: Shawn Roderick, (one vacant position)

Student Representatives: Cooper Tarbuck, Rocco Scott, Emma Roesner, Morgan Boynton, Claire Holman

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

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

Superintendent Charette stated, in accordance with An Act to Implement Provisions Necessary to the Health, Welfare and Safety of the Citizens of Maine in Response to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency as enacted to read Sec. G-1 MRSA Subsection 403-A Public proceeding through remote access during declaration of state of emergency due to Covid-19 this business meeting is being held with a mix of in person and virtually, through zoom. The meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the maranacook.org YouTube channel.

This meeting has a public comment portion, Item 3. We respectfully ask that the virtual audience with the exception of the board members mute their microphones. There is a chat box feature in zoom but we will not be utilizing this feature for this meeting. If you have questions or comments we respectfully ask that you contact the central office or email the superintendent or any board member and an answer will be provided as soon as possible. We ask for the public's patience during these highly unusual circumstances. Attendance and all votes will be done through roll call.

2. Student Representative Reports:

Middle School student representatives Cooper Tarbuck, Rocco Scott, and Emma Roesner reported on team projects, school wide activities, clubs, and Kindness Week.

High School student representatives Morgan Boynton and Claire Holman reported on school wide activities, sports and co-curricular activities. Winter sports have started over Zoom and plan to start in person as soon as next Monday.

3. Citizens' Comments: None

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

Patty Gordon asked about the board retreat. The Board Retreat is being planned for Wednesday, December 16, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Middle School.

Superintendent Charette requested the addition of item 7b, Surplus Property.

5. a. Reports:

In addition to the written reports Principal Boston reported on the holiday ornament activity at the elementary level. Art Teacher Nicole Blake entered RSU 38 in the National Christmas Tree Ornament competition and RSU #38 was selected.

b. Committees:

Health Advisory – Mrs. Gordon spoke about Becca Reynold’s last day at the Maranacook Health Center being Friday and acknowledged the wonderful work she has done as the Health Center Director.

Policy – Superintendent Charette reported on the first Policy Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed a substantial list of policies. Three are being presented for first readings: ADC, Tobacco-Free School: Use and Possession of Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices; JLCB, Immunization of Students; and JLCC, Communicable/Infectious Diseases. He stated that any comments or questions on these three policies can be submitted to him or one of the Policy Committee members prior to the December 15th Policy meeting.

c. Ad Hoc Committee: Awesome Bear Society (ABS)

Betty Morrell reported on the most recent meeting. The group’s main concern right now is how to facilitate selling things without concessions. They plan to be going on line to sell some of the stock they already have. Mrs. Morrell added if you are looking for gifts for students look it up on the website as it is a great way to support the extra-curricular and sports programs at Maranacook.

6. Action Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2020

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the minutes of November 18, 2020 as written. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, (Tobin not in room)

b. Acceptance of Donations

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the donations as presented. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, (Tobin not in room)

c. Consideration of leave of absence, District Education Ed Tech III, Tricia Plourde

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the request of Tricia Plourde for a leave of absence for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, (Tobin not in room)

d. Consideration of winter sports offerings

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the Winter Sports Plan as outlined by Mr. Remington at the November 18, 2020 School Board meeting.

Discussion ensued. Superintendent Charette noted that as Mr. Remington reported, the State will be monitoring the sports season weekly and we will implement the recommendations. This vote allows the District to proceed with the winter sports season as allowed. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, (Tobin not in room)

7. Information/Discussion:

a. Report on Extending Class Time for Students

Superintendent Charette reviewed the document on extending class time for students, outlining the factors to consider when making a decision about instructional time. The biggest challenges for the district are adhering to social distancing requirements and transportation. He reviewed the Covid cases by school. At this time there are no positive cases in school staff and students, crediting the diligence of staff or students following the protocols in place. He is keeping a dashboard of cases and meets weekly with the nurses and human resources manager. He recommended the Board review the factors at the first meeting of each month. Professional Development is planned through January 20th, and the second quarter ends that week. Step 1 is to bring back students on Wednesdays for in-school instruction, 8:30 – 1:00 beginning January 25th.

Discussion ensued around why Wednesday was selected versus adding time to the school days. Could the board decide no more remote? Superintendent Charette stated middle and high school remote learners are taught by their regular teachers. Elementary, K-5 have a teacher available to them one day a week (Mrs. Tucker), and there are ed techs supporting to help with the flow of information back and forth.

Discussion continued about the truancy rate at the high and middle schools.

Question - at end of first quarter how many students are failing any classes and are they remote? Superintendent Charette responded at the high school there are a total of 49 students with failures; 32 are in credit recovery right now. Dr. Conway added, of those students two-thirds are at-home learners and one-third are in-person. Principal Levesque added, for the middle school there are a total of 26 at-home learners, 5 of them failed 1 class; 4 failed more than 1 class; interventions are in place with 118 students in RTI services right now. A total 33 students failed at least one class.

Other discussion surrounded the transportation concerns. Superintendent Charette reported that they were successful in contracting for one bus driver from First Student. First Student will let him know if they can assist us through December. One driver who is currently on leave should be back by next week which would get the bus mechanic off the bus. Other transportation companies have been contacted and they do not have the capacity to assist us.

It was noted that with the recently adopted MOU for the teachers, teachers can currently work remotely 1 Wednesday a month as a "no contact Wednesday". This day would be set as a particular Wednesday each month (example, first Wednesday of the month).

Concerns were expressed regarding voting on a plan prior to knowing whether parents and staff are in favor of this, especially if it will not help the remote learners.

MOTION by Twitchell to request the Superintendent survey the full school community about a plan like he presented to obtain their feedback. Second by Morrell.

Further discussion ensued about who is included in "full school community". This will include parents, staff and students, K-12. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, (Tobin not in room)

MOTION Wright to approve the tentative plan as presented by the Superintendent. Second by Twitchell.

MOTION by Bowie to amend the motion to begin the plan on January 11, second by Wing.

Discussion ensued. It was noted that this is a suggested plan; and teachers understand that the board is not taking that Wednesday of professional learning from them.

Question - Will the board try to bring together an emergency meeting once the survey results are in?

Vote on amendment. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 9 in favor, 2 opposed (Gordon, Morrell)

Vote on revised motion. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 9 in favor, 2 opposed (Gordon, Morrell)

b. Surplus Property

Superintendent Charette reported that the Adult Education program had a truck donated to them a few years ago. The truck has not been used. The truck was put out to bid for sale and there were no bidders. According to Policy DN, Surplus Property Disposition, the Superintendent can declare district property as surplus property and dispose of the property as he sees fit as long as he notifies the Board. Since the bids closed we have received some interest, so he will put it out for bid once more so the truck can be sold and removed hopefully before snow. No vote is required.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:17.

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