

**MAINE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #50
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020
MINUTES
SOUTHERN AROOSTOOK SCHOOL
6:30 P.M.**

This was a live meeting and was also available via Zoom.

Board members present: Danny Barrows, Laura Farnsworth, Larry Greenlaw, Carman Lilley, Stephen Porter and Greg Ryan.

Barbara Burton, Kasandra Foster and Paula Stevens were absent.

Others present: Staff - Elaine Small and Natasha Winslow.
April Bates, Heather Swallow and Janet Vose attended remotely.

David Alward from the auditing firm of Davis, Gates & Alward also attended remotely.

Other: Anthony Binotto from Island Falls was in attendance.

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:30 p.m. and a quorum declared; the Flag salute followed.
2. The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 9, 2020 were approved.
Moved to approve by: Greg Ryan
Seconded by: Danny Barrows
Vote: Unanimous
3. Time Period to Hear from Citizens: Anthony Binotto addressed the Board with a comprehensive plan to aid the Town of Island Falls in making long range improvements that will benefit the town. This plan will include grant writing and a preliminary survey. The survey is available to the public at the Town's website and on their FB page.

Mr. Binotto asked Board members to participate in the survey and also asked the Superintendent to send the link to that survey to the RSU 50 staff.
4. Adjustment(s) to the Agenda:
It was moved by Greg Ryan, seconded by Danny Barrows and voted unanimously to move forward with the following adjustments to the agenda:
 - a. Auditor's Report – David Alward from Davis, Gates & Alward was available via Zoom to discuss the recent RSU #50 annual audit and answer questions. Mr. Alward described the auditing process used for the 2019-2020 audit and declared what he considers to be a "clean audit". Board members had no questions for Mr. Alward.

An electronic copy of the audit (as well as a hard copy) was sent to Board members prior to this meeting.

- b. At this time, it was moved by Greg Ryan, seconded by Carman Lilley and voted unanimously to allow the survey presented by Mr. Binotto to move forward within the school.
- c. Laura and Greg updated the Board on the Commemorative Coin Contest which will be forthcoming in honor of the Island Falls Sesquicentennial.
This contest will open in January and run through March for all in the region; prizes will be awarded.

5. Reports

- a. Board Chair:
- b. Board Vice-Chair: Laura spoke about the recent valuable MELMAC video sessions she attended for Region 2.
She reminded the Board of the important Region 2 meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 5:00 p.m.
- c. Committee Reports –
 - Building & Grounds – Dec. 10 at 5:30 p.m. (notes are included in the Superintendent's report)
 - Education – Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m. (notes are included in the Superintendent's report)
 - Finance: Natasha gave a full report on current finances to the Board; this included all cost centers. She also updated the Board on the current status of CRF funds.
 - Negotiations: N/A
 - Policy – N/A
 - Region II – Dec. 15 @ 5:00 p.m.
- d. Principals: See April's report (included)
A question arose around Guidance Classes and was defined for the Board. Guidance classes cover subjects such as: bullying, social and emotional issues, name calling and other worries that children may express.
- e. Special Services Director: Janet's report is included
- f. Business Manager: see Finance
- g. Superintendent: Jon's report covered a Region 2 report, Building & Grounds meeting, Education committee meeting, Performance Report from Siemens, the Outdoor Classroom, and student recognition. This report is included.

6. Announcement of Appointments/Resignations/Retirements: None

7. The following policies will be considered for a First Reading: None

8. The following policies will be considered for Second Reading or updated language/amendments: None

9. Other Business – Old/New

- a. Christmas Break to begin with half-day on Dec. 23rd, dismissal will be at 11:30 a.m.
- b. Update on Winter Sports.
To approve of winter sports competition for RSU 50 students.

Jon presented updates from the MPA along with Winter Sports Guidance (enclosed for review).

He also presented a handout for the Board on the background, rationale, purpose, objectives and methods of Standing Operating Procedures which govern schools in Maine during the Covid outbreak.

Live streaming of local basketball will be available.

Middle school basketball is being delayed in Aroostook County due to facility issues and a shortage of officials.

It was moved by Larry Greenlaw, seconded by Carman Lilley and voted: 5 yes, 1 no, to approve winter sports competition for RSU 50 students.

10. Upcoming Meetings and Events

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Region II Board Meeting | Tues. Dec. 15 TBA |
| - Policy Committee | Mon. Jan. 11 @ 5:30 p.m. |
| - Finance Committee | Mon. Jan. 11 @ 6:00 p.m. |
| - Regular Board Meeting | Mon. Jan. 11 @ 6:30 p.m. |
| - Region II Board Meeting | Tues. Jan. 12 TBA |

11. Executive Session(s)

- a. Executive Session under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A) to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation.

7:50 p.m.: It was moved by Greg Ryan, seconded by Danny Barrows and voted unanimously to enter Executive Session under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A) to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation.

It was moved by Laura Farnsworth, seconded by Greg Ryan and voted unanimously to leave the Executive Sessions at 8:10 p.m.

Motion as a result of the Executive Session:

Moved by Greg Ryan, seconded by Carman Lilley and voted unanimous to extend the Superintendent's contract by one year and to negotiate salary and benefits at a later date.

11. Adjourn the meeting

Moved to adjourn by Greg Ryan

Seconded by: Carman Lilley

Vote: Unanimous

Time: 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Jonathan Porter, Superintendent
Regional School Unit #50

Elementary Report

December 2020

1. First Trimester conferences had great attendance success in the elementary. We had 94% attendance. Teachers are rescheduling families that did not attend. These were done remotely and devices were sent home to families that needed them.
2. Christmas Activities
 - a. Christmas Concert is being recorded tomorrow, December 15th and will be posted on the Website after editing.
 - b. Christmas Corner is scheduled Dec. 16-22. Elementary students get to go “shoppping” for immediate family members. Our PTO makes this happen.
 - c. Guidance classes will be held in the Outdoor Classroom for the remainder of 2020 and students will be making s’mores.
 - d. Each elementary grade level is creating an outside tree to be part of our Festival of Trees.
 - e. Theme Day is Wednesday, December 16th. Students will wear red, green or sparkle clothing.
 - f. Students will decorate Christmas cookies on December 23rd. This will also be a pajama and party day.

g. KVHC and SACS staff have adopted 11 families with a total of 36 students for Christmas. Gifts will be ready for delivery this week.

3. Anne Odgers is passing the reins for Aroostook Right to Read to Jen Silts. Jen will be joining Anne for the remainder of this year's meetings to prepare.

4. RSU 50 Grades PK-5 Remote Learners

Date	# of student participating in remote learning	difference
11/20/2020	16 students	
12/14/2020	20 students	4+ students

School Board Meeting Notes 12/2/20

- Lynn Brown and I have all the documents ready to send into the state for the audit. Special education teachers stayed late one afternoon to finalize the paperwork with me to send it. It was really informative.
- Slower month for meetings with only 5.
- SPIRE and Sounds sensible training went really well.

IEP = 73

504 = 9

Total = 82

Remote Learners = 7

Homeschool = 6

Meetings in Nov. = 5

Percentile of students who receive special education services = 24.4%

RSU 50 Superintendent Report
RSU 50 Board Meeting
December 14, 2020

1. Region Two Report

- a. Region Two Superintendent's Advisory Meeting, Wednesday December 9, 2020.
- b. Next Region Two meeting is Tuesday December 9, 2020 at 5:00pm.
 - 1. Early Childhood program presentation

2. Buildings & Grounds Committee Report

Time: Thursday, December 10, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.
Purpose: Regular Meeting
Attending: Laura Farnsworth, Greg Ryan, Danny Barrows, Rob Betschner, Gerry Guilbeault, Jon Porter

AGENDA

1. Review of Project list, identify priorities for 2021-22 budget, planning for future projects

Priorities are highlighted below:

Current List of Needs:

Gym Floor Replacement

Kindergarten Hallway: Ceiling mounted cabinet unit heater \$18,625.00-Siemens

Cabinet Heater Thermostats (15) \$14,161.00-Siemens

Unit Vent Replacements (6) no estimate at this time

Sound issue in 3-5 wing \$8,016.00-Siemens

Paving(rotating schedule to address needs)

Library Windows and Siding \$90,000

Replace Main Switch (\$33,246-quote Swallow's Electric, \$40,000-est. Lajoie's Electric)

Remaining windows and doors not completed in building project

Others:

List generated following building project:

7	Add Panels and Circuits	LaJoie Electric	\$140,000.00
2	(7) Roof mounted Air Handlers	Siemens	\$340,000.00
5	(4) Gym Units and New Ductwork Design	Siemens	\$300,000.00
8	Fix interior Units	Siemens	\$80,000.00
9	(44) Exhaust Fan Replacements	Siemens	\$130,000.00
3	Region 2 Controls and Finish Pneumatics	Siemens	\$85,000.00

4	Roofing, Region 2	Powers Roofing	\$65,000.00
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2. Review of work completed since last meeting

School Sign-Covid -19 Relief Funds

School Bus delivered-Covid-19 Relief Funds

Mini-Bus delivered-Covid-19 Relief Funds

Water fountains/filling stations-Covid-19 Relief Funds

Touchless faucets-Covid-19 Relief Funds

Technology, smartboards, interactive boards, smart tv's, student & staff devices-Covid-19 Relief Funds

3. Ongoing Projects remaining to complete

Sportsmanship Banner-still on backorder

Painting in the Gym, two areas

Playground-rubber ground surface, completing this in the Spring, working with ACAP on this.

Exhaust fans in the kitchen-Siemens

4. Status of CRF 1 & 2 Projects left to complete

O2 Prime-Siemens, will be installed prior to Dec. 31, 2020

Windows & Doors- Buildings Etc., no timetable for installation

5. Annual Performance Assurance Report-Siemens

Copy of Report provided to committee members

6. Tour of the building (if desired)

Tour of the kitchen

3. Education Committee Report

Time: Thursday, December 10, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.

Purpose: Regular Meeting

Attending: Barbara Burton, Laura Farnsworth, April Bates, Sarah Williams, Jon Porter

AGENDA

1. Reports from RSU 50 Administration

a. Update on Remote Learning:

RSU 50 Grades PK-5 Remote Learners

Date	# of student participating in remote learning	Difference from previous week
11/20/2020	16 students	
12/10/2020	22 students	+ 6 students
12/14/2020	20 students	- 2 students

RSU 50 Grades 6-12 Remote Learners

Date	# of student participating in remote learning	Difference from previous week
11/20/2020	17 students	
12/10/2020	29 students	+ 12 students
12/14/2020	24 students	- 5 students

Total number of RSU 50 PK-12 students participating in remote learning as of 12/14/2020:
 44 out of 332 students 13% of students

April Bates shared information with the committee about remote learning attendance. Information was shared in Thursday's Bulletin and on the school website.

b. Remote Learning Tools and Format

Google Classroom is a free web service developed by Google for schools that aims to simplify creating, distributing, and grading assignments. ... Students can be invited to join a class through a private code, or automatically imported from a school domain.

http://services.google.com/fh/files/misc/google_classroom_more_time_to_foster_a_love_of_learning.pdf

Google Meet can support video calls for up to 250 participants using GSuite for Education. Faculty can host video calls from their web browsers, invite their students to participate, screen share, and moderate either text or audio-based discussions.

<https://meet.google.com/>

Synchronous Learning: In-person and remote instruction learning at the same time. Remote learners join classes remotely, with their school device.

c. Change in Format of Student Led Conferences

Student led conferences were held remotely this year.

d. October PSAT Data Snapshot**PSAT(College Board) Reading Scores**

% of Students meeting Benchmark

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
RSU 50 Grade 9	46%	58%	68%
State Grade 9	64%	67%	66%
Grade 10	61%	54%	48%
State Grade 10	62%	62%	65%

Grade 11	58%	44%	50%
State Grade 11	62%	60%	69%

PSAT(College Board) Math Scores

% of Students meeting Benchmark

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
RSU 50 Grade 9	43%	21%	47%
State Grade 9	43%	35%	34%
Grade 10	43%	39%	22%
State Grade 10	37%	32%	31%
Grade 11	29%	32%	29%
State Grade 11	33%	30%	36%

Class of 2021

Class of 2022

Class of 2023

Class of 2024

We also are able to look at individual student data to look for growth:

Ex:: Class of 2023 student in 2019-20 test scored a 490 in reading, 2020-21 test scored a 510 in reading

e. Outdoor Classroom

Thanks to the efforts of Ralph Vetter, Kristen Fitzherbert, Rob Betschner, and many others we have an outdoor classroom space available for teachers and students to use. Donated time, resources, and a grant from the Perloff Foundation also helped make this great learning experience for our students possible.

2. Opportunity for Education Questions from RSU 50 Committee Members

No additional questions or concerns

3. Others

None

4. Student Recognition

Congratulations to the following students on their college acceptances:

Jonica Lord on her acceptance to the University of Maine at Augusta

Delaney Greenlaw on her acceptances to the University of Southern Maine, to the University of Maine at Augusta, and to the University of Maine into the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture with a major in Nursing. UMaine has also offered Delaney a Merit Scholarship in the amount of \$8000 annually.

Emma Nadeau on her acceptance to the University of Southern Maine. Emma has also been offered a \$3000 Dirigo Scholar Award to attend USM. Emma has also been accepted to the University of Maine to major in Psychology.

Paige Vose on her acceptance to the University of Maine into the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture with a major in Biology. Paige was also offered a merit scholarship in the amount of \$2000. Paige has also been accepted to the University of New England in the Dental Hygiene Program and received a \$15,000 University Merit Award.

Selena Botting on her acceptance to Northern Maine Community College in the Early Childhood Education AAS Program.

Parker Skinner on his acceptance to Northern Maine Community College in the Business Administration program.

Jaob Brooks on his acceptance to Northern Maine Community College in the Electrical Construction and Maintenance program.

Lucas Duff on his acceptance to Eastern Maine Community College in the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning program.

Hannah Brown on her acceptances to the University of Maine at Augusta in the Dental Assisting program, to the University of Southern Maine, and to the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

Alexis Noyes on her acceptances to the University of Maine at Fort Kent and to the University of Maine at Presque Isle in the Journalism/English program.

Skyla Nelson on her acceptance to the University of Southern Maine in the Social Work program and also receiving a \$2000 Merit Award.

Congratulations to All Aroostook Players-High School Soccer

Xavier Morales
Paige Vose
Emma Nadeau
Madison Russell

Congratulations to All Regional Players-High School Soccer

Xavier Morales
Madison Russell

Respectfully Submitted:

Jon Porter, RSU 50 Superintendent

12/14/2020

MPA Updates /Winter Sports Guidance

The Maine Principals' Association announced that team-based practices and team-based scrimmaging for moderate and high-risk interscholastic winter sports, which were originally slated to begin on December 14, 2020, have been delayed until January 4, 2021.

The decision, which was made in collaboration with the Maine School Boards Association, the Maine School Superintendents Association, the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and the Mills Administration, comes as Maine continues to see an increase in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and positivity rate.

The decision, however, allows skill-building or conditioning drills to begin as scheduled on December 7, 2020 with face coverings, physical distancing, no close contact, and in limited numbers when possible. This measure aims to allow student athletes the opportunity to participate in school sports to a limited extent despite the delay in team-based practice and within-team competition.

The State of Maine has also aligned its Guidance for Community Sports Activities to align with these changes.

Notes:

All winter coaches, paid and volunteer, must complete the free Covid-19 course called Covid-19 for Coaches and Administrators currently available on the NFHS Learn platform at <https://nfhslearn.com/>.

Participants in school sports – All athletes, coaches, officials, staff – must wear face coverings during practices and competition, in line with Governor Mills' latest Executive Order. The only exception will be to hydrate.

Currently practice will begin on December 7th for conditioning and skill work only.

The regular season will start on January 11th and end on January 27th. We will not be permitted to play more than 2 games in a week.

There will be no spectators at any game's.

Sideline Cheering at games will not be permitted in 20/21. However, cheerleaders can still practice their routines for competition purposes.

Basketball will have a 12 game regular season with a chance of Statewide playoffs depending on the status of the State in the spring.

Currently we are not sure when the Middle School season will start or end but the Aroostook Athletic Directors are looking for the middle school basketball season to start in the late winter and early spring. (Facility issues across the region and also a shortage of officials)

Should a county be designated yellow or red, there should be no practices or games held until which time they are designated green.

Schools must follow the Maine CDC recommendations for reporting when a person involved in school sports is confirmed positive for COVID-19 or a close contact of such a person (see the Standard Operating Procedure for Investigation of COVID-19 in Pre-K-12 Schools in Maine that is posted on the Department of Education website).

The decision to sponsor a school activity is made at the local level. The MPA does not require approval from a school's local governing board.

There will be a period of time between each practice session for cleaning of facilities and equipment prior to the next group coming in. We will keep students in the same cohorts and not allow team members from another cohort to be in the gymnasium during another cohort's practice session.