

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community Middle School & Zoom
January 6, 2021
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Chair Gary Carr, Vice Chair Wendy Brotherlin, Kim Bowie, Patty Gordon, Cathy Jacobs, Rebecca Lambert, Betty Morrell, Shawn Roderick, Melissa Tobin, David Twitchell, Dane Wing, Alexander Wright (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, Assistant Principal Tina Brackley, 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, Emma Roesner, and Rocco Scott reported on team projects, school wide events.

High School student representatives Claire Holman and Morgan Boynton reported on school wide activities, including sports and Teen Issues.

3. Citizens' Comments: None

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

Chair Carr requested the addition of item 6i, for a discussion on suicide prevention. He also requested the addition of 6j for consideration of an amendment on school opening. After discussion it was agreed to take this item up as part of item 6g.

5. a. Reports:

High School Teacher and Vice President of the Maranacook Area Staff Association (MASA), Cheryl Marvinney, addressed the Board for the members of the staff association in respect to their concerns about the Board's discussions regarding increasing in-school student time.

High School Teacher Hannah Moran addressed the Board on the importance of keeping the current structure of no in-person instruction with students on Wednesdays.

Elementary School Teacher Catherine Gross outlined the work of the elementary staff on Wednesdays.

The principals shared celebrations at their schools. Principal Abbie Hartford reported on the increase of new students, as well as requests from parents to go from at-home learning to in-school learning. She and the staff are working to reconfigure classrooms for the additional students. Directors shared additional updates not included in the written reports.

Superintendent Charette reported that he is hoping to have the Health Center Director position filled soon.

Dane Wing asked for a status update on the elementary schools and the use of the playgrounds. It was reported that all the playgrounds are currently open except for Readfield Elementary. Mr. Boston stated he has concerns about the capacity to keep it clean. As soon as things get better he will reassess. His other concern is that the students only have 15 minutes for recess and snacks.

b. Committees

Facilities/Transportation – Rebecca Lambert reported the Facilities/Transportation committee met to discuss transportation. Superintendent Charette added as an update since that meeting, that 3 of the drivers who were out will be returning tomorrow. One other driver will be out for a planned medical procedure at the end of next week. There is also a driver candidate currently in the hiring process. He is also hoping to keep the First Student driver through the end of January. The District is seeing an increase in transportation requests and the Transportation Manager is doing what she can to grant those requests. The Facilities/Transportation Committee will not be meeting on January 14th. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9th.

Policy – Patty Gordon reported on the most recent meeting. Time was spent discussing fundraising activities, and the committee plans to have further discussion at the next meeting. Policies that were presented to the board for first readings in December were discussed and are in the Board packet for consideration under action items. There are also 3 Policies included for first readings: EEA, Student Transportation Services; KCD, Gifts/Donations to the Schools; and KJA, Use of School Name and Logo. Please contact the superintendent or a policy committee member with comments/questions on any of these 3 policies prior to the next meeting on January 19th.

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

Betty Morrell reported the committee continues to work on how best to get into fundraising without any games or concession stands. ABS does have a Facebook page where they will be conducting fundraising activities.

6. Action Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes of December 2, 2020 Meeting
MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the minutes of December 2, 2020 as written. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous
- b. Approval of Minutes of December 16, 2020 Meeting
MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the minutes of December 16, 2020 as written. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous
- c. Acceptance of Donations
MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the donations as presented. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous
- d. Acceptance of Nomination of First Probationary Contract Teacher – WES, Morgan Wellman
MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the nomination of first probationary contract teacher Morgan Wellman as recommended. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous
- e. Policy Second Readings:

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to adopt *Policy ADC, Tobacco-Free Schools: Use and Possession of Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices* as recommended by the Policy Committee. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to adopt *Policy JLCB, Immunization of Students* as recommended by the Policy Committee. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 1 opposed (Roderick), 1 abstained (Twitchell)

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to adopt *Policy JLCC, Communicable/Infectious Diseases* as recommended by the Policy Committee. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous

f. Annual Approval of RSU 38 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the RSU 38 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan as recommended by the Superintendent.

Superintendent Charette reported this is an annual approval required by the State. In addition to regular yearly revisions to the plan, the Pandemic Flu and Death by Suicide sections were revised.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Bowie)

g. Review of results of survey regarding In-School Learning

Superintendent Charette reviewed the results of the survey taken by staff, parents and students. He also provided an update on current COVID cases in the district as reported on the CDC website. He continues to have concerns with the rising cases and recommends the Board wait until the forecasted surges for January have passed. His recommendations continues to be to continue with the current model until a review at the February 3rd Board of Director’s meeting.

Discussion ensued. Concerns were raised for the students who are suffering from being out of school, as well as the lack of programming for students on Wednesdays and for the at-home learners. Reminder was made to the Board regarding the letter from the school nurses. They are the District’s experts and the Board should take into account their recommendations when making this decision. Concern was also raised about relaxing the safety protocols in place at this time when they are working.

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to continue with the current model until a review at the February 3rd Board meeting. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 2 opposed (Bowie, Roderick).

h. FY22 Budget Goal Setting

Each year the Board adopts a budget goal going into the budget planning for the next school year. Discussion ensued regarding setting a goal that addresses the needs of all students, as well as their academic, social, and emotional wellbeing.

MOTION by Lambert, to set the FY21 budget goal as, “To support all students’ academic, social, and emotional success while maintaining fiscal responsibility.” The motion was seconded by Wright. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous

i. Suicide Protocol (addition to agenda)

A request was made for an update as to how the District is reaching out to people, both staff and students regarding potential suicides. Superintendent Charette will invite the school counselors, nurses, as well as other staff who are active in the Second Step review of the Social, Emotional Pillar to present at the January 20th meeting.

7. Information/Discussion: Upcoming Committee/Ad Hoc Meetings:

Curriculum – 01/27/21, 4:00 p.m. via zoom

Health Advisory – 01/13/21, 6:00 p.m. via zoom

8. Executive Session to consider labor contract discussions between the RSU #38 Board of Directors and the Maranacook Area Schools Staff Association pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D)

Approved 01/20/21

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to enter Executive Session to consider labor contract discussions between the RSU #38 Board of Directors and the Maranacook Area Schools Staff Association pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D). **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous
The Board entered Executive Session at 8:22 and returned to public session at 8:36 p.m.

9. Action Following Executive Session

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the memorandum of understanding between the RSU #38 School Board and the Maranacook Area Support Staff Association as presented.
Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: unanimous

10. Executive Session to consider the evaluation of Superintendent Charette pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(D)

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to enter Executive Session to consider the evaluation of Superintendent Charette pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D).
Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: unanimous
The Board entered Executive Session at 8:38 and returned to public session at 9:07 p.m.

11. Action Following Executive Session

MOTION by Wright, second by Morrell to increase Superintendent Charette’s salary by 2.5%, as discussed in Executive Session, for the 2021-2022 school year.
Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: unanimous

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

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