

**MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37**  
**December 16, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the School Directors of RSU #37/ MSAD #37 was held at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items of business:

**Board Members Present:** Jeffery Beal, Susan Beal, Chris Chartrand, Beth Hartford, Grace Kennedy, Ronald Kennedy, Gary Magby, Debra Murphy, Vance Pineo, Jr. Mark Wright

**Board Members Absent:** Charles Peterson, Jr. and Sarah Willson

**Other persons present:** Ronald Ramsay, Denise Vose, Maria White, Todd Emerson, Mary Ellen Day, Susan Meserve, Lorna Greene, Lori Mathews, David Mathews, Eric Beal, Heather Thompson, Tracie Martin, Sonny Beal, Kandi Robertson, Ashley Cirone, Tiffany Strout, and Dawn Fickett

**AGENDA**

**A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS**

1. **The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Vance Pineo, Jr.**
2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2020 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**ACTION:** Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (736-yes, 97-abstentions) to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting as printed. (G. Kennedy abstained as she was absent from the meeting.)
3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**  
**INFORMATION:** Supt. Ramsay noted that it has been busy. The board held its Annual Meeting last week. Work is winding down at the CTE building. Trey Shaw and his work crew are fixing the roof on the building that adjoins the CTE center. The welding ventilation system was finished today. This was paid for with COVID-relief grant funds. Nickerson and O'Day are almost finished with their work from the change orders we did. Work from the original construction contract has all been completed.

He is hoping that we can make it to Christmas break without any more shutdowns due to COVID. We have had a staff member test positive, but they have not been in school since they were exposed so we did not have to shut down. Ham deliveries to staff will be done tomorrow. It will be different this year as we will not be going in and out of each classroom.

Projects funded with COVID-relief grant funds are being finished up. We have spent about \$1.3 million in approximately 4 months. Budget work will begin after the holidays and into January/February. The state has told us to expect a shortfall so we will see what that does to our subsidy. We know our student count is down. We have 98 homeschoolers this year that will not count for subsidy. We have about 166 students doing remote learning but those still count as our students.

**4. RE: STATE OF THE DISTRICT REPORT**

**INFORMATION:** Supt. Ramsay noted that he shared the State of the District report with Board Members at last week's annual meeting. If there are any questions relating to it, feel free to call the office. If anyone is interested in a copy, they can contact the Superintendent's Office.

**5. RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**INFORMATION:** Supt. Ramsay noted that we are in great shape. We have 58% of the year left and 70% of the budget. Since the biggest percent of our budget goes for staffing salaries and benefits, we are not really accumulating any big savings from things we are not able to do because of COVID, but we are in line with usual spending from prior years.

**6. RE: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (Including Professional Development, ESEA, and G/T)**

**INFORMATION:** Lorna Greene reported an enrollment of 91 at DW Merritt with 64 in-person and 27 remote students. They have done some holiday activities such as a mini-gift fair and a virtual holiday program. They are trying to do the same things they normally would do but with some changes as to how they can be done because of COVID. Professional Development—The leadership team met on December 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed writing skills, math performance, and the trauma-sensitive school focus. ESEA—We have 162 students receiving math and ELA services. Title I staff are keeping in touch with our remote students as well as working with our in-person students. G/T—The advisory team met on December 14<sup>th</sup> to plan for spring identification. Zoom field trip activities launched last week and some of our G/T students were able to participate in these virtual experiences.

Susan Meserve note that Harrington has an enrollment of 119, with 97 in-person and 22 remotes. The school had a visit from the Grinch last week! The kids and staff were all excited. Grades 1 & 6 helped make wreaths to go to Arlington. The student council coordinated a project to deliver small trees to shut ins. Gift bags and goodies were delivered to nursing homes. Monday is ugly sweater day and there will be a virtual holiday concert for parents to watch.

Maria White reported 137 students enrolled at Milbridge with 110 in-person and 27 remotes. Students there have also participated in various holiday activities with a movie, gift bags for students, etc. The Island Readers and Writers is working with students on writing. Ms. White shared a copy of the Grade 3 & 4 Tiger News. Students are doing well, and behaviors have been very good given the circumstances.

Denise Vose reported that we have 145 students with IEPs and 20 with 504 plans. Staff have been participating in CPI training under the direction of Lis Patryn who is one of our therapists. Denise noted that she has attended 20 IEP meetings this month as well as attending a virtual workshop last week with Drummond Woodsum. It dealt with COVID issues and special ed students. There have been several new referrals for services, so January looks to be busy!

Mary Ellen Day noted that Narraguagus has 300 students enrolled with about one-third of those doing remote learning. Progress reports went out last week. Wreaths Across America passed the high school on its way to Arlington and students went outside and lined up along the road to wave them off. The PTSG purchased Subway sandwiches for staff today. The new flagpole has been installed by the school. Our school nurse, Amanda Tozier, is doing a great job going through the COVID protocols. She has created a COVID tracker to know when someone can return after having to quarantine.

**7. RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. Athletics/Student Activities--none**
- b. Curriculum & Instruction--none**
- c. Negotiations & Grievance--none**
- d. Policy & By-laws--none**
- e. Facilities, Maintenance, Safety & Transportation--none**

**8. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to table this article as there are no adjustments necessary.

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. RE: APPROVAL OF CHANGE TO NARRAGUAGUS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL'S HYBRID LEARNING SCHEDULE**

**ACTION:** Supt. Ramsay noted that we discussed this at the November meeting and the board authorized a committee to look at it and bring a recommendation back. We are not happy with the success of students and the number failing after the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of hybrid/remote at Narraguagus. The committee was put together as directed and looked at how to make it better for the success of students.

Mary Ellen Day noted that there is not space to have all students physically present every day. If we make the move to using cameras/video in the classrooms, it will allow students to participate on their stay-home days. This would include all through groups, maroon, white, and remote. Currently, maroon and white are only getting two days of instruction and remote only one day.

The committee was comprised of parents, students, teachers, administration, and guidance. They met, gathered information, and came up with a recommendation for the board. The proposal includes keeping the same schedule for in-person instruction of two days per week for each group; however, all students would be required to attend virtually on their at-home days. This would mean all students were receiving instruction in real time, either in person or remotely, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Maroon would attend in-person on Monday and Thursday and be live remote on Tuesday and Friday. White will attend in-person on Tuesday and Friday and be live remote on Monday and Thursday. Fully remote students will be live remote all four days, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesday will be a day for teachers to meet individually (in-person or virtually) with students needing help. It also would be a day for them to get lesson plans uploaded to Google Classroom.

Following much discussion, it was moved by Debra Murphy, seconded by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to approve the change to the NJSHS Hybrid Schedule as proposed by the committee.

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. RE: HIRING SUBSTITUTES**

**ACTION:** Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) to approve hiring Johannes Meijer and Matthew Walsh as substitute teachers as recommended by the Superintendent.

**2. RE: CONSIDERATION OF WINTER ATHLETICS**

**ACTION:** Supt. Ramsay noted that his recommendation is that we follow MPA guidelines as we did in the fall and allow students to play. Play will be limited to Washington County. Teams will need to follow the rules and wear masks; no spectators will be allowed. A maximum of fifty people will be allowed in the gym at one time. He also recommended that the junior high and elementary students be allowed to play, but only within district. Grades 7 and 8 will stay together. Grade 6 will play independently of the jr. high or just play pee wee. He noted that most places are allowing students to play following guidelines, and he does not want to be one of only a handful that are not allowing it.

Tracie Martin noted that the MPA has limited high school play to twice a week. Games can be played from January 11<sup>th</sup> to February 27<sup>th</sup>, so they only have 6 weeks to get them in as of now. She reviewed all the rules that will need to be followed and how they plan to make it work.

Motion by Debra Murphy second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (725-yes, 108-abstentions) to allow winter athletics as recommended by the Superintendent. (R. Kennedy abstained.)

**3. RE: APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER ASST. COACH FOR GIRLS' BASKETBALL AT NJSHS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) to approve Zachary Look as volunteer assistant coach for Girls' Basketball as recommended.

**4. RE: ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald C. Ramsay  
Secretary to the Board

**MEETING SUMMARY, December 16, 2020**

**A. Introductory Business:**

2. APPROVED minutes of the Nov. 18 Regular Meeting;
8. TABLED agenda adjustments;

**B. Old Business:**

1. APPROVED change to Hybrid Learning Schedule for NJSHS;

**C. New Business:**

1. HIRED Johannes Meijer and Matthew Walsh as substitutes;
2. APPROVED participating in Winter Athletics; and,
3. APPROVED Zachary Look as a volunteer assistant for Girls' Basketball.