

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37
January 27, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the School Directors of RSU #37/ MSAD #37 was held at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items of business:

Board Members Present: Jeffery Beal, Chris Chartrand, Beth Hartford, Grace Kennedy, Ronald Kennedy, Gary Magby, Debra Murphy, Charles Peterson, Jr., and Mark Wright

Board Members Absent: Susan Beal, Vance Pineo, 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, Ron Green, Kandi Robertson, Ashley Cirone, Tiffany Strout, and Dawn Fickett

MINUTES

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. **The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice-Chairman Debra Murphy.**

2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. DECEMBER 9, 2020 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2020 Annual Meeting as printed.

b. DECEMBER 16, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2020 Regular Meeting as printed.

3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**

INFORMATION: Supt. Ramsay noted that we have received the preliminary ED279 with next year's funding estimates. We will be receiving about \$100,000 more in subsidy than we did this year if it doesn't get change. The state says they tried to minimize the winners/losers due to COVID, so they changed the formula. We just don't know how they changed it. The bad news is that CTE funding is down by \$50,000. He and Scott Porter are working on this with the state.

The work at CWCIT is almost completed. Trey Shaw and his crew are finishing up the work inside the Bush's building. They built a center partition and stabilized the trusses with gussets. They met with an engineer there today who said the work would meet the requirements to make the roof structurally sound. Nickerson O'Day should be done with their work during February vacation. They've just had some small things to complete but working around the time when students are there has slowed it down a bit.

In COVID news, Supt. Ramsay reported that we've made it through the halfway point of the school year! We've had two minor shutdowns and several quarantines, but for the most part we have been able to keep any outbreaks out of the schools.

In budget news, workshops will be held on March 24, April 7, and April 14, with board approval hopefully at the April 28 board meeting. We are waiting to see if the Governor will extend the executive order waiving budget meetings for this year due to COVID. If she does (which is expected), we would need to hold a Zoom meeting for a public budget hearing to answer any

questions from citizens. Then the vote would go directly to validation instead of holding a District Budget Meeting first as we usually do.

Supt. Ramsay noted that we have started elementary basketball for grades 7 & 8. The girls' team is practicing/scrimmaging at Milbridge with Jeff Chick and Donald Parker as coaches. The boys' team is using Harrington Elementary with Tyler Tenney and Richard Parker as coaches. The teams are not going anywhere to play games. With two coaches for each team, they are just practicing together and then splitting in two to scrimmage amongst themselves. It's not ideal, but at least it allows them to play some basketball.

We just received word on the newest round of COVID money, being identified as ESSER II. We will be eligible for approximately \$885,000 this round to use for COVID-related things, Perkins (CTE), and other federal related programs such as Title I. The application will open soon, and we will be working to put that together. We will have until September of 2023 to spend this money.

4. RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INFORMATION: Supt. Ramsay noted that this statement reflects the halfway point of our fiscal year and we are right on track with where we should be with our general fund monies. The FEDES grant, for the CTE project, started with \$2,042,000 and we have about \$100,000 remaining but most of that is spoken for as we finish up the project. For COVID funds, we have ESSER 1 with \$214,000 that we have not spent yet. We had longer to use this one, so we saved it until the other COVID money was expended. CRF1 and CRF2 gave us a total of about \$1.2 million. We initially had to have it spent by the end of December, but that date was extended until the end of June. We have about \$100,000 remaining, but most of that is encumbered for projects we are finishing up.

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

INFORMATION: Lorna Greene reported that DW Merritt currently has 71 students attending in person and 21 doing remote. Grades closed last Friday, and report cards will go out this Friday for all the schools. EdGE has resumed. The student council has been reading to classes at the school via Zoom. In Professional Development, the Leadership Team met on January 6th and each school shared how they are working on the district goals for the year. The fourth New Hiring Training was today with Elizabeth Holub and Lisa Emerson facilitating it. Lorna noted she has been attending the virtual MPA conference. In ESEA, we have 165 students being served in person and remotely. In G/T, students are participating in the field trip Zoom zone. We currently have 30 students identified in general academics, 15 in art, and three that are in both categories.

Susan Meserve noted that Harrington has 107 students attending and 10 doing remote. The school will hold Spirit Day on Friday with everyone wearing green and white to show their Hawk pride. There are approximately 24 students participating in EdGE. The Wreaths Across America mobile classroom visited the school today. They wanted to use the parking lot for some pictures, and then staff were able to visit the classroom, which was very nice.

Maria White reported that Milbridge has 110 students attending and 22 doing remote. There are 20 ELL students and 43 accessing ESEA services. WIDA (language assessment testing) for ELL students is going on now. The girls' junior high team is enjoying their practice time and the camaraderie is great! EdGE is going well. Wednesdays (remote days) are busy with meetings with staff and parents.

Denise Vose reported that we have 142 students identified for special education. There are 18

receiving 504 services. So far this year, there have been 23 referrals. She attended the state MADSEC meeting virtually on January 8th. She has chaired 40 meetings this month and hosted the special education teachers and therapists at a meeting this week.

Mary Ellen Day noted that enrollment at Narraguagus is 290 with 97 in grades 7 & 8, and 193 in grades 9-12. Approximately 1/3 are totally remote and then 1/3 attend on Monday and Thursday, and 1/3 on Tuesday and Friday. After Christmas vacation, the change was made for students to "attend" 4 days a week, whether completely remote or 2 days in person and 2 days remote. There has been a learning curve, but the 3rd quarter starts this week, and teachers and students are settling in. Due to a positive COVID case, the school was 100% remote the two days before Christmas vacation. The CDC was not much help, but our school nurse, Amanda Cirone, has done a great job. She, along with high school administrators, made calls to students. High school basketball has started and it's great to hear the ball bouncing and sneakers squeaking on the gym floor! Kudos to Tracie Martin for all the work she has done.

Following Mrs. Day's report, there was a lengthy discussion on remote instruction. Supt. Ramsay went on record that he does not want to see us offer remote learning as a routine thing. We need to stop doing it as soon as we can and expect students to attend school in person. We know that many students are struggling with the remote configuration.

6. 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**

7. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to table this article as there are no adjustments required tonight.

B. OLD BUSINESS--None

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. RE: HIRING SUBSTITUTES

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to approve the hiring of Danny Stubbs and Lois Tenan as substitute van/car drivers as recommended by the Superintendent.

Motion by Mark Wright, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to approve the hiring of Anna Mathews and Lucas McLain as substitute teachers as recommended by the Superintendent.

2. RE: HIRING JR. HIGH BASKETBALL COACHES

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to approve Jeffery Chick and Donald Parker as junior high girls' basketball coaches, and Tyler Tenney and Richard Parker as junior high boys' basketball coaches as recommended by the Superintendent.

3. RE: CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO DRAW FROM SICK BANK

ACTION: Motion by Gary Magby, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to approve the following requests to withdraw from sick banks as both have met the criteria as outlined in their respective contracts/handbooks:

Jenessa Pritchard—30 days from the Teacher Sick Bank

Holly Hanning—12 days from the Ed Tech Sick Bank

4. RE: CONSIDERATION OF 1ST READING OF POLICY AND PROCEDURE GBP/GBP-R FOR EARNED PAID LEAVE

ACTION: Supt. Ramsay noted that a law went into effect on January 1st requiring that employers grant up to 5 days of earned paid leave (EPL) to employees based on time worked. We have always provided this to regular employees but now need to include others such as substitutes. This policy and procedure outline how we will handle EPL.

Motion by Mark Wright, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to approve the first reading of GBP Earned Paid Leave policy and GBP-R Earned Paid Leave Administrative Procedures as presented.

5. RE: CONSIDERATION OF 1ST READING OF REVISED POLICY IJNDB STUDENT COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE AND SAFETY

ACTION: Supt. Ramsay noted that the Maine Library Network is requiring that we update our policy to include language that is required by law on internet safety for students. We are trying to get the CWCIT site included in the Maine Library Network and can't until we update the policy.

Motion by Mark Wright, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to approve the first reading of IJNDB Student Computer and Internet Use and Safety policy.

6. RE: APPROVAL FOR TOWNS TO USE FACILITIES FOR TOWN MEETINGS

ACTION: Supt. Ramsay noted that the board voted back in the fall to not allow any outside use of our facilities. We have requests from the towns to use our buildings for town meetings as in the past. He feels it is not in our best interest to refuse to allow the towns to use our facilities for town meetings. We will make sure that extra cleaning takes place before and after the meetings, and the towns will be expected to follow COVID guidelines as we are.

Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Jeffery Beal, and voted (unanimously) to approve the use of district facilities by our member towns for their town meetings as recommended by the Superintendent.

7. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald C. Ramsay
Secretary to the Board

MEETING SUMMARY, January 27, 2021

A. Introductory Business:

2. APPROVED minutes of the 12/9/20 annual meeting and 12/16/20 regular meeting;
7. TABLED agenda adjustments;

B. Old Business:

None

C. New Business:

1. HIRED Danny Stubbs and Lois Tenan as sub car/van drivers;
HIRED Anna Mathews and Lucas McLain as sub teachers;
2. HIRED Jeffery Chick and Donald Parker as jr. high girls' basketball coaches;
HIRED Tyler Tenney and Richard Parker as jr. high boys' basketball coaches;
3. APPROVED requests from Jenessa Pritchard and Holly Hanning to draw days from their respective sick banks;
4. APPROVED 1st reading of EPL policy/procedures GBP and GBP-R;
5. APPROVED 1sts reading of revised policy IJNDB Internet Safety; and
6. APPROVED use of facilities for district town meetings.