

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community Middle School & Zoom
January 20, 2021
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Chair Gary Carr, Vice Chair Wendy Brotherlin, Kim Bowie, Patty Gordon, Cathy Jacobs, Rebecca Lambert, Shawn Roderick, Melissa Tobin, David Twitchell, Dane Wing, Alexander Wright (one vacant position)

Member absent: Betty Morrell

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 Brigitte 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. Presentation: Suicide Prevention by Wellness Staff

District Wellness Staff presented MS Counselor Gwen Mohlar, HS Counselors Kim Ray and Sara Chisholm, Elementary Counselors Tara Wicks and Becky Vining presented to the Board on how staff is staying in touch with students and families in support of students' emotional wellness. They reviewed the intervention work they are doing and the training staff takes part in to recognize warning signs. All staff are trained to recognize warning signs. All staff took part in a Suicide Prevention Training on December 9th, which is required every 5 years. Each school has trained gatekeepers, and there are protocols for staff to follow, so they know what steps to take if they have a concern for a student. The schools also have very active emergency and crisis teams. A review of the types of supports available to students was reviewed.

3. Citizens Comments

Superintendent Charette noted a letter and attachments from John Harker. A copy of Mr. Harker's letter is in the board folders, but the email and attached reference materials were sent to the Board members electronically.

4. Additions/adjustments

Superintendent Charette requested the addition of 5d, information regarding the recent testing letter and information regarding vaccines received at a recent superintendents meeting.

5. Action Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 2021

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the Minutes of January 6, 2021 as presented. Roll Call Vote, **Motion Carried:** unanimous

b. Acceptance of Teacher Resignation effective February 5, 2021, HS German, Justin Fecteau

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the resignation of HS German teacher Justin Fecteau with regret. Roll Call Vote, **Motion Carried:** unanimous

c. Appointment of First Probationary Contract Teacher, HS German, Kerry Anderson

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the appointment of First Probationary Contract Teacher Kerry Anderson as recommended. Roll Call Vote, **Motion Carried:** unanimous

d. Superintendent's Testing Letter and Recent Information Regarding Vaccines

Superintendent Charette reported on the basis for his sending out the most recent letter outlining the new procedure for those students and staff going for testing for the COVID19 virus. Students and staff opting to have the rapid test will need to quarantine for 14 days, and those choosing to have the PCR test will need to quarantine for 10 days. This is a higher safety measure than required by the CDC, but this recommendation came from the nursing professionals for the district after discussions with DOE officials. This is an additional measure to try to keep school open. He will send another update on Friday with more specific information about testing for this area. In addition, at a Superintendents' meeting he attended last week, they heard from Commissioner Makin, and she announced that the Governor has moved teachers from vaccine group 1B to 1C.

Discussion ensued about the letter from the Superintendent for parents and staff to obtain the PCR test versus the rapid test, and setting different parameters for those groups. Concerns were raised that the Superintendent is mandating the PCR test and the district is overstepping its boundaries. Superintendent Charette explained that they still have the choice; he is saying that if they chose the rapid test, they will need to stay out of school for 14 days versus 10 days with the PCR test.

MOTION by Twitchell that the Board change the policy to continue the requirement that a test be gotten before returning, and they can get either test, but if it's the rapid test they would need to stay out 14 days and if it's the PCR test they can return in 10 days.

It was noted that the board is referring to an administrative policy regarding testing, not a Board policy. Support was in favor of Superintendent Charette's decision as it was made in consultation with medical staff.

There was no second. Mr. Twitchell withdrew his motion.

MOTION by Jacobs, second by Twitchell to request the Superintendent to rewrite the letter on testing requirements so that the COVID test the students take is represented as a choice to parents. Roll Call Vote, **Motion Carried:** 9 in favor, 1 opposed (Wing), 1 abstained (Bowie)

6. Budget Workshop –

Superintendent Charette outlined the budget process in preparing the FY22 school budget. He reviewed the budget schedule. He provided a Powerpoint presentation outlining the enrollment figures for this year compared to last year, noting the variances attributable to the COVID 19 virus. He discussed how the district has accounted for in-district transfers at the elementary schools in the past as well as superintendent agreement students from other districts. For next year, he is proposing that in-district transfer students will be recorded in their resident towns. Superintendent Agreement students will be backed out so they will no longer be charged to any of the 4 towns.

Chair Carr stated that he thinks there still needs to be some discussion on the per pupil calculation and how superintendent agreements are factored in the formula.

Mrs. Williams responded that she has checked the percentages for each town by moving students to their resident town. Also, superintendent agreement students are not included in the town pro-rations in the State formula. Working with last year's figures, the biggest change in a formula was .42%. She added that it is not the per pupil count that affects each town's cost, it is the valuation that drives the change in the per pupil cost in the towns and the district has no control on the State valuations for each town.

Superintendent Charette added that the district gets an additional subsidy check from the state (which is not part of the formula) for superintendent agreement students, but this amount is not known until spring.

The Superintendent has directed administrators to work toward a budget reflecting a 0% increase.

Request was made to consider budgeting for someone to help with remote learning or to move things around so there is more focus on remote learning.

Community member Tom Molokie commended the administrative staff to put a directive of a 0% increase, and thanked Mr. Charette and the leadership team for looking at the reality and looking at what is best for kids.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:59.

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