

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community Middle School & Zoom
February 3, 2021
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Chair Gary Carr, Vice Chair Wendy Brotherlin, Kim Bowie, Patty Gordon, Cathy Jacobs, Rebecca Lambert, Betty Morrell (left 9:10 p.m.), Shawn Roderick, Melissa Tobin, David Twitchell, Dane Wing, Alexander Wright (one vacant position)

Student Reps: Emma Roesner, Rocco Scott, Cooper Tarbuck, Morgan Boynton, Claire Holman

Administrators: Superintendent James Charette, Technology Director Diane MacGregor, Principals Jeff Boston, Dwayne Conway, Janet Delmar, Abbie Hartford, and Kristen Levesque, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Director Nancy Harriman, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve, 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 the 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 public comment portions are Item 4, and during the budget discussion, Item 9e. 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, sports, and school wide events.
High School student representatives Claire Holman and Morgan Boynton reported on school wide activities and sporting events.
3. Presentation: K-12 Visual & Performing Arts Curriculum
Dr. Nancy Harriman reported that the faculty has been working on this curriculum for more than 5 years. Last January it was approved by the Curriculum Committee to come to the Board for consideration, but with the pandemic, it was held until fall. It went back to the Curriculum Committee last week for review and is now ready for Board approval.
Music teachers Dan Gilbert, HS; Adam Scarpone, MS; and Amanda Shively, Mt. Vernon and Wayne presented the Music curriculum, sharing benchmarks, rubrics and sample lessons. They presented on how music education has changed due to the pandemic.
Art teachers, Jeremy Smith, HS; Hope Lord, MS; and Nicole Blake, Mt. Vernon, Readfield and Wayne presented the Arts curriculum, sharing benchmarks, rubrics, sample lessons and self-assessment document. They also presented on how arts education has change with the pandemic.
4. Citizens Comments: none
5. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:
David Twitchell noted that it is National School Counselors' Week.

MOTION by Twitchell that the Board recognize all of the District School Counselors for the work they do, especially during these times. The motion was seconded by Roderick.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: unanimous

6. a. Reports

Superintendent Charette reported that Middle School Teacher Mary Ellen Tracy requested to address the Board, which will be done under the Staff Association Report. Also, Dr. Sewall, the District's physician of record, asked to say a few words.

Mrs. Tracy read a statement to the Board concerning the Board's consideration of returning students to in-person learning 5 days a week at the middle school. She stated that the benefits of adding an in-person day on Wednesdays do not outweigh the negative impact associated with losing all of the additional supports being provided on Wednesdays for middle school students.

Dr. Sewall, the District's Physician of Record, addressed the Board from a pediatrician's point of view. From a health point of view, every interaction with others adds risk. The success you have had is outstanding. Dr. Sewall requested that the Board keep things the way they are.

Mr. Roderick asked whether the Association has taken a position on a full remote day on Wednesdays. Mrs. Tracy responded that she is here as the head of the Middle School Crisis Team and the coordinator of the Maranacook Food Pantry.

Superintendent Charette stated that in consideration of the lengthy agenda, he asked Principals not to present this evening, but they are available to answer questions from the Board about their written reports.

Mr. Roderick addressed Principal Levesque regarding concerns he received about the middle school schedule during full remote days. She asked Mr. Roderick to forward the concerns to her so she can address them. Mr. Twitchell asked, should the parents call the principal if they have a concern? Mr. Roderick stated he did refer the parent to the principal, but also said he would bring it up.

Mrs. Gordon asked of all the fully remote students, how many are truant. Dr. Levesque responded that out of the 26 remote students, there are 5 right now but one doesn't really count because it was a technological concern and now that student is doing very well; another student has returned to school.

Dr. Conway responded the high school now has over 80 full time remote students, and 10 are truant. They are working with these families.

Mrs. Delmar – reported she has one student and she has been working with the parent and the Superintendent to put supports in place.

Question was asked about how the truancy numbers compare to last year.

Questions were asked about what the Superintendent has heard about the additional Covid funds and what the plans are for those funds. Superintendent Charette responded that he expects the district to receive around \$666,000. He is currently soliciting ideas from staff on how to best direct those funds to meet student educational needs. The goal is to funnel those funds directly to students. Suggestion was made to possibly utilize some of those funds to assist with the transportation issues.

b. Committee reports:

Curriculum – Cathy Jacobs reported on the most recent meeting where the K-12 Visual & Performing Arts Curriculum was presented, as well as an update from the K-5 Math Curriculum Review Committee.

Policy – Superintendent Charette reported the Policy Committee continued their work on Policy JJE student fundraising. Representatives from the Parent Associations, and the Awesome Bear Society attended for a discussion on fundraising in the district. He asked the Board to review Policy JJE, Student Fundraising and to let him, or a policy committee member know of any questions/comments prior to their next meeting on February 23rd.

7. Action Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2021 Meeting

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the Minutes of January 20, 2021 as presented. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Morrell)

b. Acceptance of Donations

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the donations as presented.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: unanimous

c. Approval of Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Gordon to approve the K-12 Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum as recommended by the Curriculum Committee.

Roll Call Vote – **Motion Carried:** unanimous

d. Acceptance of teacher resignation effective June 30, 2021, HS Spanish, Kelly Frey

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the resignation of HS Spanish Teacher Kelly Frey with regret. Roll Call Vote – **Motion Carried:** unanimous

e. Policy Second Readings

EEA, Student Transportation Services - **MOTION** by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the revision of Policy EEA, Student Transportation Services as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Roll Call Vote: **Motion Carried:** unanimous

KCD, Gifts/Donations to the Schools - **MOTION** by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the revision of Policy KCD, Gifts/Donations to the Schools as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Roll Call Vote: **Motion Carried:** unanimous

KJA, Use of School Name and Logo - **MOTION** by Brotherlin, second by Jacobs to approve the revision of Policy KJA, Gifts/Donations to the Schools as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Roll Call Vote: **Motion Carried:** unanimous

f. Review COVID data/increase in-person learning

The Superintendent provided a presentation on “Teaching and Learning During a Pandemic.” He reviewed the demands of lesson planning and the professional development that has been happening in all the schools. He shared the in-person (hybrid) and remote schedules, along with the expectations for each of the grade levels. He shared a chart depicting the remote learning expectations for the different grade levels for Covid/weather closure days. There have been many positives and staff have all learned a lot regarding remote instruction. His recommendation at this time is to consider bringing the elementary schools back to in-person learning on Wednesdays beginning the week of February 22. He further recommended that the Board not make a decision for the high school and middle school until the March 3 meeting.

Discussion ensued about keeping Wednesdays as they are but extending the other 4 days and making Wednesdays a remote learning day with classes being held remotely. Superintendent Charette responded that we are unable to extend the school day at this time due to contractual issues, and the need to follow the Covid guidelines. Question was asked about at-home learners and who will do what the teachers are doing on Wednesdays for those students. Superintendent Charette responded there will certainly be a change in dynamics.

Mrs. Bowie read a statement regarding increasing class time for students, stating her opinion is strictly based on what’s best for students. She asked the Board to consider voting to allow students to go to school more frequently.

Concern was raised about the numbers of “instructional” hours for high school students; why can’t more hours be added to the middle school and high school days. Superintendent Charette replied that with the high school cohorts, there have been discussions around rotations

on Wednesdays for the cohorts. With the middle school, the biggest concern is that they have the most number of students at any given time.

MOTION by Roderick as follows:

1. The Elementary Schools will start in-person learning 5 days a week beginning the week of February 22, 8:00 – 1:00 (class time begins at 8:30);
2. The Middle School will have synchronous learning every Wednesday beginning the week of March 10;
3. The High School will have synchronous learning every Wednesday, on a rotating basis among Cohorts.

The motion was seconded by Wing.

Discussion followed regarding the Superintendent's original plan, and whether we will be able to keep schools safe with social distancing, cleaning and other efforts.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: 7 in favor, 4 opposed (Gordon, Lambert, Morrell, Twitchell), 1 abstained (Tobin)

Mr. Roderick asked that, with all the remote learning, is there a policy that states what is expected for school hours. There is no policy addressing remote learning.

MOTION by Roderick, second by Wright to request the Policy Committee to come up with a policy for remote learning days. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous

8. Informational – upcoming meetings

9. Budget Workshop

Superintendent Charette reviewed the team directives and presented the First Draft budgets for the Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, English Language Learners (ELLs), Gifted & Talented, and Special Education. The first draft budget includes the new requests listed on the summary of budget changes sheet dated 2/3/21. Insurance is included with a 10% increase and Dental with a 5% increase. These figures will be adjusted as more information is received. Other department budgets will be presented at the next 2 meetings. The first draft budget reflects a 4.82% increase (\$910,920.69) over current year, for a total of \$19,823,739.69. Salaries account for \$540,136.00 of the budget increase. The budget includes the elimination of 2 bonds (MS/Field), reduction in interest payments on the HS and District renovation bonds, and the elimination of one bus lease.

Superintendent Charette responded to questions about elementary nurse and physical education teacher positions at the elementary schools. At the February 24 meeting, the Technology, Operations & Maintenance budgets will be presented as well as a review of the facilities bond projects and a Covid grants overview. Updates will be reported as they become available.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Charette, Superintendent/Secretary
D. Foster, Recorder