

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community Middle School & Zoom
March 3, 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 Reps: Rocco Scott, Cooper Tarbuck

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, Adult & Community Education Director Steven Vose

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's public comment portions are Item 3, and during the budget discussion, Item 8f. 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 that will only be used during the public comment portion of the agenda. 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, and Rocco Scott reported on team projects, and school wide events.
Superintendent Charette reported that high school student representatives Claire Holman and Morgan Boynton are both at a ski meet and are unable to report this evening.
3. Citizens' Comments: none
4. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:
David Twitchell requested a discussion about the student petition/letters the board received. This will be item 6h., student petition discussion.
5. a. Reports:
Superintendent Charette and Dr. Conway responded to questions about the Board reports regarding the Dual Enrollment Program and concerns about the lack of transportation. Regarding the transportation issue, Superintendent Charette reported all the buses are full except for the Wayne buses, but we have 11 drivers and several vacant positions. Truancy numbers were updated for February, with 1 new truancy at the high school level.
Superintendent Charette introduced Sarah Morrill, the new Health Center Director.
- b. Committees:

Patty Gordon reported on the most recent Policy Committee meeting. There are 2 policies included for first readings: BEDL and JGAB. Two other policies are ready for first readings and will be presented at the April 7th meeting. Any comments or suggestions on the first reading policies should be forwarded to the Superintendent or a Policy Committee member prior to the next meeting. The Policy Committee requested the Principals attend the March 16 meeting for a discussion on Policy JICJ, Student Use of Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices.

6. Action Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of February 24, 2021 Meeting

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the Minutes of February 24, 2021 as presented.

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

b. Acceptance of Donations

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

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: unanimous

c. Consideration of overnight trip – High School, Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson, Maine, March 13-14, 2021

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to consider the overnight trip to Hidden Valley Nature Center in Jefferson, Maine, as presented.

High School teacher Robyn Graziano reported the Outdoors Nature Team was awarded this trip through the Trails Project. Ten students are planning to go on the trip and they have organized the meals, how they will sleep and are excited to learn how to make a shelter for sleeping. There is also a warming hut available if they get too cold.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: unanimous

d. Consideration of Approval of Facilities Bond Projects

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the recommendation of the Facilities/Transportation Committee and approve the projects to be funded through the Facilities Bond as outlined in item 6d.

Superintendent Charette reported that these are projects that were reported on last week. There is approximately \$541,179.00 remaining in bond proceeds after these projects and 1 ½ years remaining to use the funds. The IA updates and the labor costs to install the LED lights at the track/fields are not included, but those will be brought to the Board prior to the work being started.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: unanimous

e. Consideration of Approval of 2021-2022 School Calendar

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar as presented.

Discussion ensued about snow days versus remote learning days. Superintendent Charette reported that as long as we can provide meals for the students, we can use remote learning days. Snow days would be used for days following a weekend, or days where there are expected wide spread power outages. Should some families lose power and a remote day is called, the students would not be penalized for not having their work done or logging on to a class. Devices will be available for all students. The proposed calendar includes 5 emergency days and it would be up to the Superintendent to decide whether days are remote learning days or snow days. The proposed calendar has been reviewed by the Administrative Team and Staff Association.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: unanimous

f. Policy Second Reading – JJE, Student Fundraising Activities

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the revision of Policy JJE as presented. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Bowie)

Question was asked about the extension for last year seniors to use their class funds since they didn't get Project Graduation. Is anything going to be done? Has that even been talked about? What about this year's seniors? Dr. Conway responded that the money is still there for the Class of 2020 and the events are to be planned by the students. The Superintendent added the extension for the Class of 2020 gives them 5 years to plan something. They need to contact Dr. Conway.

Dr. Conway added that regarding the Class of 2021, there has been an advisor meeting and a meeting with seniors and a meeting with senior parents is planned for next week.

g. COVID Data Update

Superintendent Charette shared a summary and data sheet that was recently updated. The District is doing very well right now.

h. Student Petition Discussion (addition to agenda)

David Twitchell stated he would like to give students an opportunity to speak at the March 10th, meeting. Last week the Board was assured that all schools were following protocols but the snapshot given in the petition/statements from this group of students' states things were not completely accurate. He would like to have assurances that we are listening to the students. He wants the Board to seriously think about whether we can do more to reassure that we are protecting everyone in the school community as thoroughly as we can.

Reminder was made that people are welcome to come to the Board and speak during citizens' comments to share their viewpoints with the Board.

7. Informational – upcoming meetings

8. Budget Workshop: last part of the budget workshop – miscellaneous accounts

a. Updates

Superintendent Charette reported no changes were made to the draft budget since last week and everything that is being presented tonight is included in the budget. He expects an update next week that will include some reductions. Regarding the Technology budget, he is working with Mrs. MacGregor; the figures are still fluid, but they will work together to move some of those costs to the ESSERF grant. Oil prices are a concern, so they will hold off on going out to bid. Another concern is the property and casualty insurance rates are projected to increase 18-24%. Normally we estimate 15% and adjust accordingly.

b. Co- and Extra- Curricular

There are no new requests, but the budget is up \$7,500 due to salaries, benefits, and workers compensation.

c. Transportation

The Transportation budget is up about \$42,872 which is partly due to salaries, benefits, and workers compensation. The budget also includes additional special education transportation costs for an out-of-district placement. There is also a need for a special education bus aid. The remaining increase is due to insurance increases. There are decreases in equipment and bus leases.

d. Miscellaneous Cost Center/Accounts (Adult Education, Food Service, Health Center, Professional Development/Assessment/Curriculum, Systems Administration, Debt Service)

Health Center - There are no new requests. The Health Center is funded through local funds, a state grant, and a Family Planning grant.

Adult Education – There are no additional requests. In the past, Mr. Vose's budget included a request of \$12,000 for the CDL program, but he has a little reserve in that budget, so he is not requesting the \$12,000 this year.

Professional Development/Curriculum/Assessment This portion of the budget brings the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment position back to full time (60% this year); includes funds for ALICE training, which has been done through RSC; for an overall increase of \$30,000.

Food Service – There are no new requests in this budget and no addition to local funding.

Systems Administration – This line is up about \$49,000 due to salaries, school board liability insurance, ADS software, and dues and fees.

Debt Service/Lease purchases – This line is down about \$464,263, mostly due to the middle school and athletic fields bonds being paid off. The Superintendent noted that whatever the Board decides with technology will likely be through a lease.

e. Board Questions

Shawn Roderick expressed concerns regarding transportation. What have we looked at for options to fill the driver positions (bonuses, train people and pay for it if they stay X number of years)? Superintendent Charette responded that they have talked about these options. It would require the Board to commit a sum of money to do these things. He will bring a potential amount back to the Board for consideration.

Steve Vose added that he recently had a conversation with Transportation Manager Julie Greenleaf about this. It is not necessarily a shortage of school bus drivers, but the Board would need to make the monetary commitment. He and Ms. Greenleaf have talked about starting something locally, perhaps having driving students do some of their driving time along the bus routes, etc.

Kim Bowie asked about the request from John Harker last week and the consideration of setting aside a sum of money; Mr. Harker suggested \$5,000 for nutrition curriculum. Superintendent Charette responded this is not in this budget. The Board needs to consider whether this is something they want to pursue. He will look into what Mr. Harker suggested.

Cathy Jacobs added that before the Board commits to any amount of money she would like to see what is already in the curriculum.

f. Citizens comments regarding budget

A citizen asked if the Board has thought about any alternative heat sources. The Superintendent responded we do have heat pumps in strategic places, but we can look at that further.

g. Board discussion: see above

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

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 School Staff Association pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D)

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: unanimous

The School Board entered Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. and returned to Public Session at 8:36 p.m. No action was taken.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Charette, Superintendent/Secretary
D. Foster, Recorder