

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community Middle School & Zoom
March 17, 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, David Twitchell, Alexander Wright
Members absent: Melissa Tobin, Dane Wing, (one vacant position)
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 Brigitte Williams

1. Call to Order: Chair Carr called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Chair Carr read a statement in regards to things he said at the March 10th meeting. He did not mean to upset anyone and apologized.

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.

Due to the change in format of this Board of Directors meeting, please be aware that during the course of this meeting the “microphones” of the viewing audience will be muted except during the identified portions of public comments at this meeting. For today’s agenda, Item 3 is the part of the meeting for citizen comments on the budget, and general citizen comments can be done at Item 6b. There is a chat 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. Attendance and all votes will be done through roll call.

2. Presentations:

a. Annual Report by District Auditor, R.H.R. Smith

RSU #38 auditor Ron Smith reported on the 2020 yearly audit. He stated that where the District is in 2020 is almost exactly where they were in 2019, noting that 2020 could be one of the best years to use as a benchmark. The District ended with a bottom line of about \$1.3 million, using 800,000 for carry over. The district is well within the statutory 3% limit. He credited the district for financially landing exactly where they did the year before, while being in the middle of a pandemic. He applauded Finance Manager Brigitte Williams for staying on top of the financials. The District has several capital projects that are carried into this year, but this is not anything the Board didn’t expect. Food service landed a little better than year before. There are a couple of housekeeping issues with student accounts, but nothing of any significance.

b. NWEA

Principal Janet Delmar provided a presentation prepared by the Curriculum Director, principals and the literacy and math interventionists on the results of the winter NWEA. She reviewed the effect on the loss of instruction last spring and provided an explanation of the Tier 1, 2 and 3 categories. Friday’s teacher workshop day will provide additional time for staff to dig into the results and plan for moving forward. They will focus on: summer programs, preparing to transition students to the next level, prioritizing growth, providing additional supports, and partnering with families.

Nancy Harriman and the Principals responded to questions about staffing for the interventions needed to bring students up to where they should be. Superintendent Charette added that the latest ESSR grant has been written and focuses on instruction and learning. One example is to provide a robust summer program over the next 2 years.

Question was asked about whether there is a need to hire more staff to help get students to where they need to be. Superintendent Charette responded the District has a literacy and math interventionist in each building. Wayne Elementary has a half time math and a half time literacy interventionists. There are also literacy ed techs to support learning. Based on recommendations of principals and interventionists, he may come back to the Board with a recommendation for additional support.

Discussion ensued about the increased number of home school students this year and the reduction in students taking assessments. We need to find a way to make sure students enrolled in hybrid programs take the assessments. Teachers will have a much wider range of learners in their classrooms next year.

3. Citizens' Comments (not budget related): none

4. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:

Patty Gordon offered additional thoughts about summer programming, hoping the next round of Covid stimulus funds can focus on teaching and learning.

Shawn Roderick requested the Board be kept up to date at each meeting as those decisions are being made. He also complimented the sports teams for their accomplishments this year, and Brant Remington for his work to live stream the sporting events.

5. Action Item:

a. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2021

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the minutes of March 10, 2021 as presented. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Bowie)

6. Budget Workshop:

a. Updates

Superintendent Charette on the following:

- The General Fund Summary Budget and Revenue Sheet do not reflect any changes since last week.
- He is concerned that the prices of oil and propane are up significantly, he will continue to watch how things play out in the next couple months. They may need to find a way to absorb any increases in this area.
- A request was made to the DOE for the adjustment for superintendent agreements. This figure will be added to the revenue sheet. As a follow up from last week's meeting regarding superintendent agreements, as of March 11, there are 28 RSU 38 residents attending school in other districts and there are 54 incoming students from other districts.
- We will not hit the goal of a 0% increase, adding, the only way to do that is to start talking positions, and he is not recommending that. If this will be a directive from the Board he needs to know soon due to contractual issues.

Continuing last week's discussion on student pro-rations, it was the consensus of the board to look at changing the way the local dollar calculation is done by considering resident only students and charging the in-district transfer students back to their resident towns. Brigitte Williams worked up 3 versions of the local dollar calculation sheet so the Board could see how the different scenarios effect each town's local contribution.

b. Citizens comments regarding budget: none

c. Deliberations, follow-up and decision making

MOTION by Wright, second by Lambert to move forward with the residents' only version of calculating the local dollar calculations starting with the FY22 budget.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained (Bowie, Jacobs)

Superintendent Charette reported another version of the budget will be presented on April 7, as more details are expected by then. The Board will need to vote on the proposed budget on April 14. There will not be a meeting on March 24th.

Mr. Roderick added that as the budget stands this is a significant increase. He cautioned not to add more positions and to look at maximizing every program.

Chair Carr added there may be a special meeting on March 31, if the outstanding figures we are waiting for come in.

7. Executive Session to investigate complaints against a person or persons, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A)

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to enter Executive Session to investigate complaints against a person or persons, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A)

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: unanimous

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:43 and returned to public session at 8:45 p.m.

MOTION by Morrell, second by Lambert to remove Gary Carr as Chairperson.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried: 7 in favor, 3 opposed (Brotherlin, Carr, Wright)

Superintendent Charette stated the Board will consider nominations for Board Chair at the April 7 meeting.

Mr. Roderick requested the Board prepare a statement to the public regarding the Board's openness for community participation. Mrs. Brotherlin offered to draft a statement for the Board's consideration.

8. Adjournment: **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

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