

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37

February 24, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the School Directors of RSU #37/ MSAD #37 was held at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items of business:

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

Board Members Absent: Susan Beal, Beth Hartford, and Sarah Willson

Other persons present: Ronald Ramsay, Denise Vose, Maria White, Todd Emerson, Mary Ellen Day, Susan Meserve, Ron Green, Kandi Robertson, Ashley Cirone, Tiffany Strout, Dan Kane, Mindy Kane, Eric Brooks, and Dawn Fickett

MINUTES

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. **The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Vance Pineo, Jr.**

Public Comments: Tiffany Strout asked for clarification on how citizens would get an item placed on the agenda or brought to a subcommittee to consider. Supt. Ramsay noted that it would go through the "chain of command," starting with school administrators to resolve issues they might have. If not resolved, it would go to the Superintendent and then the Board. To get an item on the agenda, the Superintendent and Board Chair must agree to put it on, or three board members can request that an item be placed on the agenda. The Public Comment section of the agenda is a way to allow the public to comment on issues that they might be interested in or concerned about, but it does not place an item on the agenda for board action.

Kandi Robertson asked if there has been any conversation about opening the schools up again full-time for students. Supt. Ramsay noted that the administrative team is presently looking at options and working on places. He is hoping people are becoming more receptive to returning to in-person learning as cases begin to decline.

Mindy Kane expressed concern that other schools were allowing parents to come to Senior Night events and stay for the games, and our district is not. Also, other 7/8 grade teams can play other schools, but we are not. What events will or will not happen this spring and how will parents know? Supt. Ramsay noted that we have been following the MPA rules that were established at the start of the season. The MPA sent out a memo saying that parents could come to a senior night event, but we didn't get it until after our Boys' Senior Night. The interpretation of having parents stay as spectators was not clear. Since that memo, they have issued another saying having spectators was not the intent. For every parent that wants to attend these things, there are parents that don't want extra people allowed in to increase the risk of COVID.

He noted that our principals surveyed parents to see if they would allow their Pee-Wee players to go to other schools. Many of them (about half) said they would not let their kids play if they were traveling to other schools even within our district. Even with those that say their kids can play if they stay in their own schools, our numbers are very low. The board voted that the 7th/8th grade basketball teams could play within the district, but we didn't have enough students to do so. That is why we have them combined into a girls' team and a boys' team and just

practicing/scrimmaging amongst themselves.

Mindy Kane also asked if things were opening up enough that other events such as graduation will be held. Supt. Ramsay noted that the only change right now has been the MPA allowing parents to come to Senior Nights. Nothing else has changed. At the least, we should be able to hold graduation like it was last year and perhaps the seniors can do some kind of end of year event. Mrs. Day noted that they class has been meeting to discuss this and will present a proposal soon.

2. RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2021

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (732-yes, 60-abstentions) to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting as printed. (Pineo abstained as he was absent from that meeting.)

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

INFORMATION: Supt. Ramsay reported that we have had heating issues at the CTE building. It heats well until the temperature drops down below 20 or so. A heating assessment done by Webb's recommended a bigger heating unit in the welding area, which has been replaced, as well as a couple more heat pumps in the Early Childhood classroom. Hopefully, this will help. The roof in the unused portion of that building has been finished and the engineer signed off on it. He received a call from Joanne Allen today saying that the state plans to fix the issue with the CTE subsidy that he mentioned last month, so that is good news! Our first budget workshop is on March 24th.

4. RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INFORMATION: Supt. Ramsay noted that we are ahead of where we were at this point last year. Since we haven't been able to do many of the things we do in a typical year, that is understandable. We don't know what the end of the year will bring, so it's good to have a buffer. FEDES funds are almost completely expended. CRF funds are almost gone as well. We have the ESSER funds still to use.

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

INFORMATION: Denise Vose reported that 139 students are receiving special education services, while 18 have 504 plans. We have completed processing seven referrals with five found eligible for services, one ineligible, and one moved to home schooling. There are still 20 in the system for processing.

Lorna Greene was unable to attend but sent the following report. DW Merritt has 77 students in attendance and 17 doing remote learning. On Feb. 12, all instructional staff participated in virtual learning clubs for an afternoon of professional development. In ESEA, we have applied for re-allocated funds to run a summer school for Title I eligible students. G/T students continue to participate in Zoom Zone field trips.

Susan Meserve reported that Harrington has 109 attending and 8 remote students. Prevention Works visited the school and did dental cleanings. Students celebrated "100 days smarter" yesterday! Kindergarten students worked with the Maine Outdoor School looking for animal tracks in the snow. This year's spelling bee will be virtual. Each school will select classroom winners as in the past, then those students will take a virtual county bee test to find the county winner and alternate.

Maria White noted that Milbridge has 113 in person students and 20 remote. A few students have returned to in person instruction since vacation, which is encouraging. Grades 5/6 are working with Island Readers & Writers and are reading Echo Mountain. They will work with the author virtually once they complete the book. Staff are starting to see some gaps in student learning and are working with students in small groups to reinforce skills and help bring grades up. The 7th/8th grade girls' basketball team are enjoying their time. Even though they are disappointed not to be playing other teams, they are making the best of the time they have to play. Grades 1 & 2 enjoyed some snowshoeing the other day with the Maine Outdoor School and TREE.

Mary Ellen Day reported an enrollment of 283 with 96 in junior high and 187 at the high school. About 1/3 are still doing remote. Honor parts have been announced with Riley Grant as Valedictorian and Brantley Kane as Salutatorian. Spirit Week was held before vacation. Basketball is finishing up and volleyball is beginning. Anna Strout was named a McDonald's All-Star and Brantley Kane a McDonald's Academic All-Star.

6. RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Athletics/Student Activities--none

b. Curriculum & Instruction--none

c. Negotiations & Grievance—Mark Wright noted this committee met last night to discuss administrator and support negotiations and will make a recommendation later on the agenda.

d. Policy & By-laws--none

e. Facilities, Maintenance, Safety & Transportation--none

7. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) to table this article as there are no adjustments necessary to the agenda.

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. RE: CONSIDERATION OF 2ND READING OF POLICY AND PROCEDURE GBP/GBP-R FOR EARNED PAID LEAVE

ACTION: Motion by Gary Magby, second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to approve the 2nd reading of GBP and GBP-R as presented. These now become district policy/procedure.

2. RE: CONSIDERATION OF 2ND READING OF REVISED POLICY IJNDB STUDENT COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE AND SAFETY

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Gary Magby, and voted (unanimously) to approve the 2nd reading of IJNDB as presented. This now becomes district policy.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. RE: HIRING CUSTODIAN AT HARRINGTON ELEMENTARY

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Wayne Robinson as custodian at Harrington Elementary as recommended by Supt. Ramsay.

2. RE: HIRING 2021 NHS SPRING COACHES

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of the following coaches as recommended by Supt. Ramsay:

Varsity Baseball—Jamie Robertson

JV Baseball---Devonte Stevens

Varsity Softball—Tracie Martin

JV Softball—Lynn Lyford

Track & Field—Tricia Brown

Track & Field Assistant—Betsey Brown Benner

Softball Volunteer Assistant—Lanie Perry

Jr. High Softball—Ashley Cirone

Jr. High Baseball—Lucas McLain

3. RE: HIRING 2021 PEE-WEE COACHES

ACTION: Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of the following coaches as recommended by the Superintendent:

DW Merritt—Pee-wee boys: John Batson; Pee-wee girls: Sally Maclean

Harrington—Pee-wee boys: Heather Thompson; Pee-wee girls: Jeffery Chick

Milbridge—Pee-wee boys: Richard Parker; Pee-wee girls: Donald Parker

4. RE: APPROVAL OF 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

ACTION: Supt. Ramsay presented a draft calendar showing school starting on August 30th for staff with students beginning on September 1st. If we use five snow days, the last pupil day would be June 16th. Snow days will be regular snow days, not remote snow days. All other things are similar to what we've done in recent years. He noted that the Teachers' Association reviewed the calendars and provided some feedback. The administrative team reviewed this yesterday, and this is the choice the A-team supports. The Association asked that snow days remain remote snow days, but the A-team does not feel the educational value is as good, plus you have staff that don't have anything to do on those days just because of the nature of their jobs.

Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar as presented.

5. RE: APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF 2-YEAR ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Jeffery Beal, and voted (unanimously) to approve the extensions of the following 2-year administrator contracts by one year:

a. Maria Frankland, Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School Guidance Counselor (through 6/30/23)

b. Mary Ellen Day, Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School Principal (through 6/30/23)

c. Sarah Elliott, Elementary Guidance Counselor (through 8/31/23)

d. Todd Emerson, Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal (through 6/30/23)

e. Lorna Greene, DW Merritt Elementary Principal (through 6/30/23)

f. Susan Meserve, Harrington Elementary Principal (through 6/30/23)

g. Denise Vose, Special Education Director (through 6/30/23)

h. Maria White, Milbridge Elementary Principal (through 6/30/23)

6. RE: APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATOR AND SUPPORT NEGOTIATIONS FOR 2021-2022

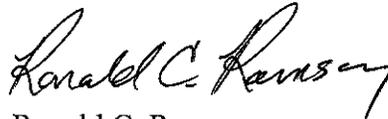
ACTION: Supt. Ramsay noted that the Negotiations Subcommittee met last night to discuss administrator and support negotiations for next year. The committee agreed to recommend offering the same thing to administrators that teachers will receive in their contract next year, which is a 2.75% salary increase. There was a long discussion about hourly/support staff wages. Because of the state's increase to the minimum wage in the last few years, our scales need some work. The committee agreed to recommend increasing the steps on support scales by \$1.25 each.

Motion by Mark Wright, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to approve negotiated increases for administrators and support staff as recommended by the Negotiations Subcommittee and the Superintendent.

7. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald C. Ramsay
Secretary to the Board

MEETING SUMMARY, February 24, 2021

A. Introductory Business:

2. APPROVED minutes of the 1/27/21 regular meeting;
7. TABLED agenda adjustments;

B. Old Business:

1. APPROVED 2nd reading of EPL policy/procedures GBP and GBP-R;
2. APPROVED 2nd reading of revised policy IJNDB Internet Safety;

C. New Business:

1. HIRED Wayne Robinson as custodian at Harrington Elementary;
2. HIRED 2021 spring coaches for Narraguagus as follows: J. Robertson, baseball; D. Stevens, JV baseball; T. Martin, softball; L. Lyford, JV softball; T. Brown, track/field; B. Benner, track/field asst.; L. Perry, softball volunteer asst.; A. Cirone, jr. high softball; L. McLain, jr. high baseball;
3. HIRED pee-wee basketball coaches as follows: DWM—J. Batson, boys; S. MacLean, girls; HN—H. Thompson, boys; J. Chick, girls; ML—R. Parker, boys; D. Parker, girls;
4. APPROVED 2021-2022 School Calendar starting before Labor Day;
5. APPROVED extending two-year administrative contracts by one year for the following: M. Frankland, M. Day, S. Elliott, T. Emerson, L. Greene, S. Meserve, D. Vose, and M. White; and
6. APPROVED 2.75% increase to administrative salaries for 2021-2022 and increasing support staff salary scales by \$1.25/hour.