

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Maranacook Community Middle School & Zoom**  
**April 14, 2021**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Members Present: Chair Cathy Jacobs, Vice Chair Wendy Brotherlin, Kim Bowie, Gary Carr, Patty Gordon, Rebecca Lambert, Betty Morrell, Shawn Roderick, Melissa Tobin (6:55), David Twitchell  
Members absent: Dane Wing, Alexander Wright, (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 Jacobs 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.

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 2 is the part of the meeting for citizen general comments, and Item 5b for citizen comments on the budget. 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. Citizens Comments:

Mt. Vernon resident John Harker addressed the Board, thanking Superintendent Charette for his response to his concerns and ideas shared at a previous meeting. Mr. Harker shared additional information from South Dakota and Wyoming where schools have been open and urged the board to reach out to see how some of those schools were able to be open.

3. Additions/adjustments:

Mr. Roderick asked about where we are with school openings and plans; he has had questions about having an earlier start time. Superintendent Charette responded he will provide an update at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

4. Action Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of April 7, 2021

**MOTION** by Carr, second by Brotherlin to approve the minutes of April 7, 2021 as presented. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 9 in favor, 0 opposed

b. Consideration of approval of long-term leave of absence, MES Art Teacher, Rachael Wilson

**MOTION** by Morrell, second by Brotherlin to approve the long-term leave of absence for Rachael Wilson as recommended by the Superintendent.

**Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 9 in favor, 0 opposed

5. Budget Workshop

a. Updates:

Superintendent Charette provided an update. The elementary teacher position mentioned last week will be needed at Manchester Elementary School. The budget is being recommended at a

.93% increase, or \$175,513.93 from last year. On the Local Dollar Calculation Sheet he noted the overall change for 2021-2022 total local contribution at district level and for each town.

The Adult & Community Education proposed budget was presented, with the local share remaining at \$65,000.00.

b. Citizens' Comments (budget related): none

c. Deliberations, follow-up and decision making:

Discussion ensued surrounding the grants received associated with Covid-19. Concern was raised because the grants are not outlined in the budget and the use of funds from the facilities improvement bond to reduce the proposed budget are not listed. Explanation was given that those funds do not belong in the General Summary Budget. Care was given to use the funds for one-time items, and projects listed in the architect's facilities analysis report. For positions hired with the ESSER funds, they were positions clearly advertised and hired for the 2 year grant period. Notations have been made in the superintendent letters for the RSU 38 Annual Report as well as the 4 town annual reports. Also, Article 20 of the RSU 38 Budget Warrant includes the total of ESSERF and CRF grant funds. Information will be added to the Annual Report providing a link and telephone number for citizens wanting more details of the Covid related grants as well as the facilities improvement bond money use to reduce the proposed budget. Discussion also ensued about the carry over funds.

d. Vote on 2021-2022 RSU 38 Budget:

**MOTION** by Morrell, second by Gordon to approve the FY22 budget in the amount of \$19,088,333.00, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: **Motion Carried**: 9 in favor, 1 opposed (Carr)

e. Vote on 2021-2022 RSU 38 Adult Education Budget:

**MOTION** by Morrell, second by Brotherlin, to approve the FY22 Adult and Community Education budget in the amount of \$213,000.00, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: **Motion Carried**: 9 in favor, 1 opposed (Carr)

f. Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted

**MOTION** by Morrell that the vote entitled, "Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted, "be approved in form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting." The motion was seconded by Lambert. (Attachment A)

Roll Call Vote: **Motion Carried**: 10 in favor, 0 opposed

6. 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 Morrell, second by Twitchell 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**: 10 in favor, 0 opposed

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:15 and returned to public session at 7:30.

7. Action Following Executive Session

**MOTION** by Morrell, second by Twitchell to approve the agreement between the RSU #38 Board of Directors and the Maranacook Area School Support Staff as presented.

Roll Call Vote: **Motion Carried**: 10 in favor, 0 opposed

8. Adjournment: **MOTION** to adjourn at 7:34 p.m.

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

**Motion:** I move that the Vote entitled, "Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted," be approved in form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting.

VOTE TO CALL AND APPROVE THE WARRANTS FOR THE BUDGET MEETING AND THE VALIDATION REFERENDUM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE NOTICE OF AMOUNTS ADOPTED

**VOTED:** That the warrant for the Regional School Unit Budget Meeting presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved and that the Regional School Unit budget meeting be and is hereby called for May 19, 2021 for the purpose of voting on the annual budget for the Regional School Unit for the 2021-2022 fiscal year;

That the Warrant and Notice of Election for the Regional School Unit Budget Validation Referendum presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved, and that the Regional School Unit budget validation referendum be and is hereby called for June 8, 2021 for the purpose of approving the budget adopted at the Regional School Unit budget meeting for the 2021-2022 fiscal year; and

That the form of Notice of Amounts Adopted at Budget Meeting presented to this meeting be and is hereby approved, and that the Superintendent of Schools of the Regional School Unit is hereby authorized and directed to complete said Notice by adding the amounts approved by the voters for each expenditure category and the total school budget summary expenditure amount, all in accordance with the Regional School Unit budget meeting on May 19, 2021, and to cause copies of said notice, as completed, to be delivered to the municipal clerks of each municipality of the Regional School Unit for posting at the polling places for the June 8, 2021 Regional School Unit budget validation referendum.