

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 64
Bradford Corinth Hudson Kenduskeag Stetson

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 29, 2019

The members of the Board of Directors of RSU 64 met in the Central High School cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 28, 2019 in response to agenda dated October 24, 2019. The agenda was distributed to members electronically.

Members Present: Rhonda Williams, Wanda St. Peter, Kim Hikel, Katherine Waite, Anne Kenneson, Sherry Horn, David Nichols, Nicole Kelley, Teresa Harvey, James Connolly, Jodi Brasslett, Parvanah Withee, Robert Young, Chad Crooker

Student Representatives
Present: None

Members Absent: Amy Bean, Curtis Chadbourne, Tonya Wozneak, Haley Emery

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Rhonda Sperrey, CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp, CHS Assistant Principal Matthew Arsenault, CMS Principal Sandra Cookson, CCES Principal Dawn Nickerson, Curriculum Coordinator Jennifer Nickerson, Special Education Director Riley Donovan, Maintenance Supervisor Dan Roy, Teachers' Association Representation Sherry Blanchard and Peter Marsh, and members of the public.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rhonda Williams at 7:04 p.m. A roll call and check of attendance found a quorum of 14 members present, and 4 members absent.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second of Jodi Brasslett, the Board voted to approve the minutes of Regular Monthly Board Meeting (September 23, 2019) and Building Committee Meeting (October 3, 2019) as presented, and to place the minutes on file as part of permanent Board records.

Unanimous

Petitions and Communications – Chair Williams indicated the District has received a letter of resignation from Hillary Williams (CMS “A” Cheering Coach) and Emma Campbell (CMS “B” Girls Basketball Coach).

Chair Williams called for Public Forum items. No items were presented.

Reports

Standing Committees

Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the following administrative topics:

UTC - Region 4 Update

United Technologies Center provides career and technical education programming for students in Region 4. Enrollment at UTC this year has increased significantly to the 640 students currently enrolled; an increase of 80 compared to 560 students last year. Currently, RSU 64 has 62 students enrolled; 42% of

the junior and senior classes. Now that funding for CTE programming comes directly from the EPS formula, it has become apparent UTC is operating excellent programs at reduced expense. According to the formula, UTC should be receiving an additional \$700,000, if and when, the State removes the 'hold harmless' clause put in place last year.

Telephone Expansion Project

The District has contracted with Nightscape, Inc. to install new telephones at Central High School and Central Middle School. Although the high school project is nearing completion, we have been experiencing an issue that requires staff to reboot phones after periods of nonuse. Once the system is fully functional and all concerns have been addressed, the middle school project will begin. Each building has unique needs where the telephone expansion is concerned. With the project however, the District has had an opportunity to enhance the network infrastructure and gather additional information about how to improve the networks going forward.

Facility Improvements and Safety Updates

The District has purchased and is installing new security cameras at Central High School and is working on acquiring additional screening cameras for the two backdoor areas at Central Middle School. Maintenance staff have worked to improve the visibility for motorists at the top of the entrance driveway to the middle and high school campus by clearing away undergrowth on the right side and trimming overhanging tree branches so as to better expose the yield signs.

Maintenance Supervisor Dan Roy added there will be an upcoming 3-year boiler inspection scheduled in November. Mr. Roy also shared he is in the process of reviewing energy saving measures for all three school facilities.

Superintendent Sperrey has implemented a District-wide Emergency Management Team which includes administrators, facility supervisors, and guidance counselors. The Team had their first meeting on October 1, 2019 and focused on a review of the current District Emergency Management Plan, which addresses several different kinds of potential emergencies. The goal of this team's work is to put plans, procedures, and training in place that will empower all students and staff to make wise and informed decisions in the midst of an emergency, whether one occurs at school or some other location. Superintendent Sperrey recently participated in three safety trainings and notes the following highlights:

- Being unable to predict unsafe behavior does not remove the need to do all we can to prevent it.
- School violence has declined across the nation, however media reporting has increased significantly.
- Fear and anxiety can significantly prevent individuals from behaving wisely during times of stress. Fear and anxiety can also significantly alter an individual's perception of reality. Informed and trained individuals are much less likely to be immobilized by fear and anxiety.
- There have been 389 school shootings in the 6 years since Sandy Hook compared to the 600,000 shootings that have occurred outside of schools. Schools continue to be the least likely place a shooting will occur when compared to homes, streets, parking lots, restaurants, businesses, and hotels.
- Making a threat and posing as a threat can be two different things. Just because someone makes a threat it does not mean they pose a threat. Every threat must be investigated so potential risks can be assessed and appropriate response plans can be put in place.

Although the District entered into a sales agreement with a bidder for the purchase and removal of the portable classroom at the former Morison Memorial School site, the purchaser has not removed the structure. Unable to contact the purchaser by phone, Superintendent Sperrey informed the purchaser via registered mail the portable would soon be deemed unclaimed property should it remain where it is. The District has been notified of an interested buyer should the Board wish to enter into a new viable sales agreement.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Chad Crooker, members directed Superintendent Sperrey to negotiate a sales agreement with the interested party after receipt of the undelivered registered letter to the original buyer.

Unanimous

CCES New Construction Project & State Board of Education Visit

The District received communication from the Department of Education on October 3, 2019 indicating the elementary school project is now closed and that no additional State of Maine expenditures will be allowed. In compliance with Chapter 61, Section 13, a DOE staff member from the Office of Finance and Administration will be contacting the District to schedule the final compliance review. Superintendent Sperrey is working with bond counsel to determine all applicable arbitrage computations.

The State Board of Education has requested to use a meeting space in the Central Community Elementary School for their November 13, 2019 meeting. The workshop portion of the meeting will begin at 9am and will include a tour of the school and various forms of student presentations that are yet to be determined. Board members will eat lunch in the cafeteria and conduct a business meeting at 1pm. The meeting is open to the public.

New Legislation

The first session of the 129th Legislature saw hundreds of bills become law. The second session, which will begin in January, has several new laws that will be introduced and others that may be acted upon given they have been carried forward. Bills pertaining to a minimum salary for school support staff and bills pertaining to improving workforce development of bus drivers are just a few that will be discussed.

Superintendents in the region are working with their colleagues in the southern part of the state and attorneys to draft a procedural framework that will support the implementation of LD1370, An Act to Address Dangerous Behavior in the Classroom. Although a policy is not required, a procedure will help significantly to address the ambiguity in the law.

District Enrollment (As of October 1, 2019 compared to September 1, 2019)

CCES – 516 (+1)
CMS – 249 (+5)
CHS – 285 (-7)
Total = 1050 (-1)

Administrator Reports

Chair Williams asked if administrators had any items to add to their previously distributed reports.

CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp – Mr. Hoogterp shared an update regarding fall sports. The Girls Soccer team will play Mt. View on Tuesday, October 29 at 3pm. The Boys Soccer team will travel to Mt. View on Wednesday, October 30.

CMS Principal Sandra Cookson – Dr. Cookson shared an update regarding fall sports. The CMS Cross Country Team won the league Sportsmanship Award again this year. This is the fourth year in a row the team has won this award. This year's award is also the fifth award for CMS in the past six years.

After a brief discussion of the challenges the District has experienced with the purchase and delivery of cheering mats that student athletes raised money for last year, and upon the motion of Chad Crooker and second by Jodi Brasslett, members approved the purchase of mats from the FY20 budget.

Yea – 13
Nay – 1 (Nichols)
Abstention – 0

CCES Principal Dawn Nickerson – Mrs. Nickerson shared CCES is in receipt of a donation of 44 dictionaries for second grade students from the Bangor Elks Club Lodge #244.

Curriculum Coordinator Jennifer Nickerson – No items were added.

Special Education Director Riley Donovan – No items were added.

Old Business

New Business

Presentation from CTE Region #4 (United Technologies Center) Liaison Steven Rich

Steven Rich presented information to members regarding current UTC enrollment, programming, and funding mechanisms and his recent representation of the Region #4 Board at the Maine School Board Association's Fall Conference on October 24 & 25, 2019.

Right of Way Discussion

Property neighbor, Randy Bean, presented information about a potential business endeavor he is exploring with a cell tower contractor for the installation of a tower on his farm property behind RSU 64 property. Mr. Bean shared with members his desire to relocate the right of way he currently has deeded access to that is located up the middle school/high school driveway, through the middle school parking lot, and along the athletic field tree line, to the driveway of the former Morison Memorial School site. The proposal also includes the potential purchase of an acre of land from the school district, which would allow Mr. Bean and a cell tower contractor to develop an access road to his farmland.

After significant discussion, members directed the Superintendent to seek legal counsel about the proposal and how a potential change may impact long term facility planning and land development for the school district's educational purposes.

Approval of Revisions to Policies

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Wanda St. Peter, members approved the recommendations of the Policy Committee on revisions of policies:

1. GDAA – Fiscal Management and Office Positions
2. GDAB – Building and Grounds Management Positions
3. IKF – Graduation Requirements

Yea – 12
Nay – 1 (Nichols)
Abstention - 0

Central High School Potential Addition Update

Building Committee Chair, Theresa Harvey, presented information from the Committee about the potential addition of an office space and bathrooms at Central High School. Consensus among members was that the District should continue to work with Carpenter Associates to complete the design and specifications for the potential office addition and to explore a secondary bid for additional restrooms off of the main corridor. Member, James Connolly, expressed a desire to have the District consult with security specialists for other assessments of potential facility alterations that may enhance facility safety.

MSBA Annual Delegate Assembly Report

Members Anne Kenneson, Wanda St. Peter, and Nicole Kelley (Delegate to the Assembly) provided a brief report of their participation at the Maine School Board Association Fall Conference on October 24 & 25, 2019.

Possible Executive Session 1 MRSA §405(6)(A) – Superintendent Evaluation

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Anne Kenneson, members entered Executive Session under 1 MRSA §405(6)(A).

Time: 9:16 p.m.

Unanimous

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Jodi Brasslett, members returned to Public Session.

Time: 9:48 p.m.

Unanimous

Personnel Confirmations for 2019-2020

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's Support Staff Appointments for 2019-2020:

CCES Ed Tech I – Milo Campbell
CCES Evening Custodian – Tyler Cook
CMS Ed Tech I, Special Education – Joan Ireland

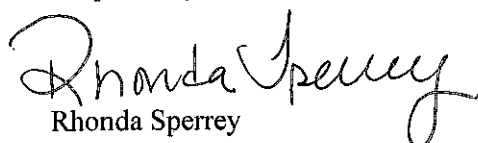
Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's Schedule B Appointments for 2019-2020:

CCES Student Council Advisor – Casee Hart
CMS Athletic Waiting Room Monitor – Cheryl Goldsmith
CMS "A" Boys Basketball – Adam Pollock
CMS "B" Boys Basketball – Robert Pomeroy
CMS "B" Girls Basketball – Leonard Dorion
CMS "A" Cheering – Taylor Buswell
CMS Intramurals – John Curry

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Jodi Brasslett, and having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by,


Rhonda Sperrey
Secretary

