

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 64  
Bradford Corinth Hudson Kenduskeag Stetson

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 24, 2019

The members of the Board of Directors of RSU 64 met in the Central Community Elementary School cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 23, 2019 in response to agenda dated September 18, 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, Curtis Chadbourne, Amy Bean, Tonya Wozneak, Teresa Harvey

Student Representatives

Present: None

Members Absent: James Connolly, Jodi Brasslett, Haley Emery, Parvanah Withee, Robert Young, Chad Crooker

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Rhonda Sperrey, CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp, CMS Principal Sandra Cookson, CCES Principal Dawn Nickerson, Curriculum Coordinator Jennifer Nickerson, Special Education Director Riley Donovan, Teachers' Association Representation Sherry Blanchard and Peter Marsh, and a member of the public.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rhonda Williams at 7:00 p.m. A roll call and check of attendance found a quorum of 12 members present, and 6 members absent.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second of Anne Kenneson, the Board voted to approve the minutes of Building Committee Meeting (September 16, 2019), Special Board Meeting (September 3, 2019), Regular Monthly Board Meeting (August 19, 2019), and Hiring Committee Meeting (August 19, 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 Ann Merrill (Ed Tech III, Title 1A).

Chair Williams called for Public Forum items.

Sherry Blanchard, RSU 64 Teacher's Association President, thanked the Board and Superintendent Sperrey for the recent communications regarding new legislation impacting Maine schools.

Reports

Standing Committees

Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the following administrative topics:

### **Student Transportation**

The District has been participating in a regional discussion about the rising costs of student transportation. Several districts in the region are considering best options around a regional bid process. However, given the particular needs of the districts engaged in this dialogue, the group has decided to hold off on pursuing a regional bid process for at least another year.

### **Budget Update**

The District has been working in consultation with the auditing firm, Brantner, Thibodeau & Associates, in the creation of the capital reserve accounts, as approved by the voters in June, and the salary accrual process. The year-end audit is expected to be completed and submitted to the Department of Education well before the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

### **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, staff still need additional training on the new software and a static issue has been identified that will need resolution. 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.

### **Child Development Services Potential Transition into Public School (LD 1715)**

With the closure of the Legislature in the spring, LD 1715 was carried over to the next session. This proposed law would move the responsibility of children age 3 through 5 with disabilities from Child Development Services to the public schools. There are several unknowns relative to this potential change that include future short term and long term funding, personnel, facilities, least restrictive environment considerations, and Child Find obligations. It is expected the transition would span up to five years and that the Legislature will make a decision on this topic in the next session.

### **New Legislation**

Last legislative session saw an unprecedented number of new bills introduced and several of those bills become laws. Included as new laws are the requirement to allow students to use sunscreen in schools, the ability to donate food waste to swine producers without first determining whether or not the swine producer holds a valid license, the mandate that 80% of school counselors' time is spent providing direct and indirect services, the addition of instruction on sexual assault and affirmative consent, the prevention of food shaming, the prohibition of tobacco possession on school grounds by any student, employee, or visitor, options for make-up days, curriculum focused on de-stigmatizing mental illness, exclusions for unimmunized children, attendance requirements for 5 and 6 year olds enrolled in school, the prohibition of hazing among elementary students, pay equity, earned leave, pregnant worker protections, pay averaging, educator evaluation, probationary teacher period changes, investigation reporting for certified employees, minimum teacher salary increases, removal of 120-day notice of intent to negotiate, the requirement new employee personal information be shared with collective bargaining unit leadership, changes in Maine State Retirement provisions, changes in school organization and finance, and an act to address dangerous behavior in the classroom, to name several. Some of these laws went into effect on Thursday, September 19, 2019, others require rule making and even others will require a moderate approach to implementation given the ambiguity and uncertainty in some of the language.

### **Building Committee Work**

Superintendent Sperrey reminded Building Committee members of the need to meet in the coming weeks to make decisions regarding the design components of the potential addition at Central High School. A firm timeline will need to be adhered to in order to have specifications ready for a bid package to be distributed by the end of December or early January.

**District Enrollment (As of September 23, 2019 compared to June 1, 2019)**

CCES – 515 (-7)  
CMS – 244 (+8)  
CHS – 292 (+1)  
Total = 1051 (+2)

**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 Homecoming activities. Students and staff are looking forward to many events scheduled for the upcoming week and weekend, to include a focus by student leaders in the newly formed Key Club on educating students on the dangers of vaping.

CMS Principal Sandra Cookson – Dr. Cookson shared Central Middle School Student Council has received a donation in the amount of \$200 from the Penobscot County Chapter for Maine Retired Teachers. The money has been designated for the purchase of additional recreational equipment for recess and for specific health needs of students.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Anne Kenneson, members approved acceptance of the donation.

Unanimous

CCES Principal Dawn Nickerson – Mrs. Nickerson shared information about an upcoming event for parents on the topic of grit and growth mindset. This October 9<sup>th</sup> event will be facilitated by Sherry Blanchard and Stephanie Reynolds and is a follow up to work done with elementary students about the same topics.

Curriculum Coordinator Jennifer Nickerson – Ms. Nickerson updated members on the District’s ongoing work in reviewing the summer school program. Administrators are concerned about the high cost of the program and the relatively low impact on improving student achievement. This past summer, over 70 CCES students were invited to attend. Although a majority indicated they would, and staff was secured based on this number of projected attendees, the highest attended day was only 31. The personnel costs amounted to \$13,000 and transportation costs were well over \$12,000 for the 12 days. Administrators will be bringing additional information back to the Board so decisions can be made about future programs.

Ms. Nickerson also shared with the Board a report on the first Zoom session with Heather Forbes that had taken place prior to the Board meeting. Heather Forbes is the author of “Help for Billy” and was the keynote speaker last winter at the regional in service day held in Bangor. RSU 64 hosted 17 educators for the Zoom session that focused on supporting dis-regulated students. There are three more sessions scheduled during the 2019-2020 school year. These sessions are made possible through the District’s partnership with the Southern Penobscot Regional Program for Children with Exceptionalities (SPRPCE).

Special Education Director Riley Donovan – Mr. Donovan shared data relative to the Extended School Year (ESY) program. This program serves the eligible special education population during the summer and is mandated by law. This past summer, RSU 64 had 10 students attend the Extended School Year program.

Old Business

New Business

**Nomination and Approval of Delegate and Alternate to the MSBA Delegate Assembly**

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, members appointed Nicole Kelley to the MSBA Delegate Assembly.

Yea – 11

Nay – 0

Abstention – 1 (Kelley - Subject of Vote)

**Update Life Insurance Beneficiary Designation Forms for Board Members**

Superintendent Sperrey distributed the life insurance beneficiary forms for members to update.

**PreK Enrollment and Programming Update**

Principal Dawn Nickerson presented enrollment information for the current PreK program. CCES currently has 62 students enrolled in PreK, compared to the 36 that had registered in the spring. By statute, the District is required to employ one adult for every 8 PreK students. RSU 64 currently has two classrooms, each with a full time teacher and full time Ed Tech. Given the District is at maximum enrollment for the number of staff hired, a waiting list has been started. Currently there is one student on the waiting list and the District continues to receive inquiries about available slots. Superintendent Sperrey presented three options for addressing the unanticipated large number of enrollments received over the summer and in the week leading up to the opening of school. Superintendent Sperrey suggested seeking a waiver from the Department of Education that would allow additional children to be enrolled, the Board consider the hire of an additional teacher, or the Finance Committee consider the possibility of expanding the PreK program to the third classroom available at CCES for the 2020-2021 school year. After much discussion, consensus was reached that the Finance Committee will include the topic of PreK program expansion in their budget planning for the 2020-2021 school year. The District will continue to address the challenge of late registrations by actively advertising registration opportunities in the spring.

**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: 7:49 p.m.

Unanimous

Upon the motion of Amy Bean and second by Curtis Chadbourne, members returned to Public Session.

Time: 8:19 p.m.

Unanimous

**Executive Session 1 MRSA §405(6)(E) – Pending Litigation**

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Anne Kenneson, members entered Executive Session under 1 MRSA §405(6)(E) for the purpose of an update regarding pending litigation.

Time: 8:19 p.m.

Unanimous

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

Time: 8:28 p.m.

Unanimous

**Personnel Confirmations for 2019-2020**

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

CCES Ed Tech I – Jillian Roy  
CCES Ed Tech III, Title 1A – Jennifer Russell  
CMS .5 FTE Secretary – Nicole Thayer  
CMS Ed Tech III, Special Education – Robert Pomeroy  
CMS/CHS Food Service Assistant – Nicole Demoranville  
Special Education Secretary – Samantha Saunders  
District Fields & Grounds – Brandon Kingsbury

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

District Day Custodian – Wayne Page  
District Maintenance – Michael Reynolds

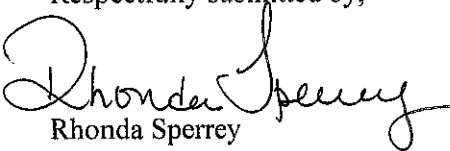
Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's Schedule B appointments for 2019-2020:

CMS Boys "A" Soccer – Adam Pollack  
CMS Boys "B" Soccer – Andrea Hatch  
CHS Math Team Co-Advisors – Colin Bacon and Joseph Thurman  
CHS Yearbook – Scott Bickerstaff  
CHS Junior Class Advisor – Corey Coffin

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Anne Kenneson, and having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by,

  
Rhonda Sperrey  
Secretary

