

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 64

Bradford

Corinth

Hudson

Kenduskeag

Stetson

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 26, 2019

The members of the Board of Directors of RSU/MSAD No. 64 met in the Central Community Elementary School cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2019 in response to agenda dated March 20, 2019. The agenda was distributed to members electronically.

Members Present: Rhonda Williams, James Connolly, Wanda St. Peter, Anne Kenneson, Kim Hikel, David Nichols, Jodi Brasslett, Curtis Chadbourne, Amy Bean, Nicole Kelley, Teresa Harvey, Haley Emery, Robert Young, Tonya Wozneak

Student Representatives

Present: Ian Wright

Members Absent: Amy Bishop, Chad Crooker, Parvanah Withee, Sherry Horn

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Rhonda Sperrey, CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp, CHS Assistant Principal & Athletic Director Matt Arsenault, CMS Principal Sandra Cookson, CCES Principal Dawn Nickerson, Special Education Director Riley Donovan, Curriculum Coordinator Jennifer Nickerson, Teachers' Association President Colin Bacon, several teachers and staff, and members of the public.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rhonda Williams at 6:04 p.m. A roll call and check of attendance found a quorum of 14 members present, 4 members absent, and one student representative present.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second of Jodi Brasslett, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting (March 18, 2019), Finance Committee Meeting (March 18, 2019), Hiring Committee Meeting (March 14, 2019), Special Board Meeting (March 12, 2019), Transportation Committee Meeting (February 28, 2019), Regular Monthly Board Meeting (February 25, 2019), and the Finance Committee Meeting (February 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 retirement from Jamie Russell (CHS Physical Education Teacher), and a letter of resignation from Caitlin Socoby (CHS Varsity Field Hockey Coach).

*Superintendent Sperrey shared Mr. Russell has indicated he will not be retiring and will return for the 2019-2020 school year.

Chair Williams called for Public Forum items.

Adam Pollack (Corinth) – Mr. Pollack identified himself as having experience in the military in the area of emergency response and as a current employee of Homeland Security. Mr. Pollack expressed concern about the emergency management procedures in place in the District and requested additional information on how and when the emergency response procedures and protocols were drafted. Mr. Pollack also expressed knowledge of federal funding obtained by the Maine Department of Education in reference to

the development of emergency response procedures and questioned if the District would be participating in any of that training.

Kristen Holmes (Corinth) – Mrs. Holmes shared information relative to an app that is available for school districts to purchase that may have a significant impact on the response time of emergency personnel when activated. Mrs. Holmes provided the Board with materials on how to get further information. Mrs. Holmes also expressed her support of the Board’s work in pursuing the hire of a School Resource Officer.

Mike Viani (CMS Teacher) – Mr. Viani expressed support for the administration in how the BB gun incident on March 6, 2019 was handled. He shared his gratitude that the incident was handled in a calm and effective manner. Mr. Viani also expressed support for the Board’s work in pursuing the hire of a School Resource Officer.

Paul Doak (Bradford) – Mr. Doak identified himself as a parent of four children in the District and a First Responder. Mr. Doak spoke about the response time involved when an emergency occurs in the area. Mr. Doak also expressed his feelings that the RSU 64 schools are the safest around.

Shannon Roy (Kenduskeag) – Ms. Roy expressed concern about how parents were notified about the BB gun incident on March 6, 2019, indicating communication could have been better.

Cary Libby (CHS Teacher) – Mr. Libby expressed support for the administration in how the incident on March 6, 2019 was handled. He also shared his belief that a 1-minute email could have stopped the rumors that circulated by social media posts and other individuals that did not have accurate details about the incident. Mr. Libby also expressed support for the Board’s work in pursuing the hire of a School Resource Officer and reminded the Board and audience of a recent statistic that indicates 223,000 children have been impacted by gun violence.

Reports

Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the following administrative topics:

Legislative Email

Superintendent Sperrey referenced an email she sent to Senator Stacey Guerin, and that the Board of Directors had been copied on, concerning LD240, LD1177, and LD1041. These bills, if approved, will significantly change the voice of the local school board in the design and implementation of educational policy, and salary and health benefit negotiations, removing their elected authority. Superintendent Sperrey encouraged members to reach out to their legislative representatives about these bills.

School Safety Update

Superintendent Sperrey shared with members the work that has been happening with regard to the Board’s desire to pursue the hire of a School Resource Officer. In two recent telephone conversations, Superintendent Sperrey was made aware Penobscot County Sherriff’s Department does not currently have the funding to support a partnership with RSU 64 in the hire of an SRO. The most practical way this resource could be secured would be if the Town of Corinth also had the desire to engage with Penobscot County for such services. The school District would be looking to secure an SRO for 182 days however, an officer would most likely be looking for a year round contract. The hire of an SRO also requires the covering and accountability of a law enforcement agency.

Superintendent Sperrey indicated she would continue to explore this topic and possible funding mechanisms with the County Commissioner.

Cancellation Days Update

Based on the past 10 years, the District has used on average 5 cancellation days due to inclement weather or facility issues. To date, RSU 64 has used 6 cancellation days this year. Given the approved calendar for

the 2018-2019 school year included 4 cancellation days already, the final student day is currently scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2019. Should additional cancellation days become necessary the final student day will be moved forward.

March 8 In Service

On Thursday, March 7 and Friday, March 8, parents and professional staff had an opportunity to learn from Heather Forbes, a licensed clinical social worker and author of the text, "Help for Billy." Ms. Forbes' work focuses on a beyond consequences approach for helping challenging children in the classroom. The parent night held in Bangor was an opportunity for parents to gain insight into practical strategies they can employ with their children in the home and how those strategies relate to school. On Friday, professional staff joined 1,400 other educators for a focused keynote and several other breakout sessions focusing on the impact trauma has on learning. The response to these events was overwhelmingly positive from staff.

Food Service Audit

The Department of Education completed an audit of the District Food Service Program on March 6, 2019. The District was commended on several items including application verification, meal counting and claims, and record keeping. A significant notation focused on our resource management given the Food Service program does not use General funds to operate. Corrective action will be required concerning meal components and quantities given the review showed a missing vegetable sub-group. Given this was a repeat finding, there will be a fiscal action of \$3,503.49 reflected in the next claim.

District Enrollment (As compared to March 1, 2019)

CCES - 527 (1)
CMS - 240 (-1)
CHS - 303 (1)
Total = 1070

Administrator Reports

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

CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp – Mr. Hoogterp updated members on the State Drama competition that took place on Saturday, March 23, 2019. By all accounts, Central High School had their very best performance at this competition. CHS placed fourth overall.

CHS Assistant Principal & Athletic Director – Mr. Arsenault updated members on the addition of pole vaulting as an event for both winter and spring track. Planning is in place to include pole vaulting as an event for CHS students for the winter 2019-2020 season with the potential of expansion to the spring program.

CMS Principal Sandra Cookson – Dr. Cookson updated members on the overwhelmingly positive response and participation the middle school is seeing with the intramural program.

CCES Principal Dawn Nickerson – No items were added.

Curriculum Coordinator Jennifer Nickerson – No items were added.

Special Education Director Riley Donovan – Mr. Donovan reminded members of the Department of Education review of the Special Education Department taking place on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

Old Business

New Business

Budget Update

The Finance Committee met briefly on Monday, March 18 prior to the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors that evening. The Committee took action on locking in for #2 heating fuel for the 2019-2020 school year at \$2.399 per gallon and propane for the CCES back up boiler at \$1.3485 per gallon. The committee also directed the Superintendent to pursue a one-year extension option on the plow and sand contract with Justin Libby. The Committee also reviewed the pellet bids and prepared a recommendation for the full Board of Directors.

The District learned on March 21 the maximum increase in health insurance premiums for FY20 will be 7%. The District should be receiving the specific increase for RSU 64 by April 5. For the time being we have decreased the anticipated increase from 10% to 7% on our planning documents. The District is expected to receive anticipated cost estimates for building and liability insurance on March 26. At this time, it is expected the District will also receive information relative to the potential cost of workers compensation insurance. The District has enjoyed significant decreases in workers compensation costs in the past 2-3 years however, it is expected rates will increase in the next year or two given recent employee accidents that have occurred on site.

The Negotiations Committee will meet on Thursday, March 28, after which time budget figures will be able to be established for all administrative and Central Office staff.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Pellet Bid Award for Central Community Elementary School

Upon the motion of Nicole Kelley and second by Anne Kenneson, members awarded the bid for pellets for the 2019-2020 school year to Maine Wood Pellets, LLC in the amount of \$190 per ton including delivery.

Unanimous

Plowing and Sand Contract

Upon the motion of Nicole Kelley and second by Anne Kenneson, members directed the Superintendent to extend the current plow and sand contract with Justin Libby for the 2019-2020 school year.

Unanimous

Discussion and Consideration of Student Transportation Bid

Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the transportation bid process and the recent meeting of the Transportation Committee. The Transportation Committee recommended the Board award the Bradford, Corinth, Hudson, Kenduskeag, and special education transportation bid to Cormier's Bus Service for the 2019-2020 school year.

Upon the motion of Jodi Brasslett and second by Anne Kenneson, members voted to award the bid for transportation of District students residing in Bradford, Corinth, Hudson, and Kenduskeag and all special education students for the 2019-2020 school year to Cormier's Bus Service and directed the Superintendent to prepare a contract aligned to the bid specifications.

Unanimous

Annual Evaluation of Administrators – Executive Session under 1 MRSA §405(6)(A)

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Nicole Kelley, members voted to enter Executive Session at 6:45 p.m.

Unanimous

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Nicole Kelley, members voted to return to public session at 7:57 p.m.

Unanimous

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Amy Bean, members voted to extend administrative contracts for an additional year, thereby expiring June 30, 2021, for the following individuals and to negotiate other contractual benefits at a later date:

Central Middle School Principal – Dr. Sandra Cookson
Curriculum Coordinator – Jennifer Nickerson
Special Education Director – Riley Donovan

Unanimous

Annual Evaluation of Superintendent – Executive Session under 1 MRSA §405(6)(A)

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, members voted to enter Executive Session at 7:59 p.m.

Unanimous

Upon the motion of Jodi Brasslett and second by Nicole Kelley, members voted to return to public session at 9:15 p.m.

Unanimous

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Jodi Brasslett, members voted to extend the contract of the Superintendent of Schools by one year, thereby establishing an expiration date of June 30, 2022, and to negotiate other salary and benefit provisions with the Negotiations Committee at a subsequent meeting date.

Unanimous

Personnel Nominations and Confirmations

Upon the motion of Kim Hikel and second by Wanda St. Peter, members voted to approve Continuing Contract teachers for 2019-2020:

<u>School/Teacher</u>	<u>2018-2019 Position</u>
<i>Central Community</i>	
<i>Elementary:</i>	
Alice Allard	Kindergarten
Sally Batchelder	Grade 3
Jamie Birmingham	Grade 2
Sherry Blanchard	Elementary Guidance Counselor
Janet Blodgett	Speech
Anna Bryer	Art Teacher
Lynn Chubbuck	Classroom & Choral Music
Brian Clark	Phys. Ed.
Pamela Clukey	Grade 2 (Funding 50% NCLB Title IIA)
Marcie Coffin	Grade 3
Carolyn Donaldson	Grade 2
Casee Hart	Grade 5
Bonnie Harvey	Grade 4
Andrea Hatch	Grade 3

Lee Jack
Shirley Jordan
Natasha Mandigo
Ginna Marsh
Heather Martin
Alexander Maxwell
Shannon Perkins
Melissa Reardon
Stephanie Reynolds
Linda Richards
Marissa Rivard
Monica Sabine
Kendra Sanborn
Angela Stubbs
Lisa Swett
Tabitha Trafton
Sheila Underhill
Cortney Wesley
Marie Wheeler
Cheryl Wood

Itinerant:

Andria Bacon
Amy Clement
Traci Fowler
Heather Gooley
Richard Harriman
Jennifer Soares

Central Middle:

Robin Clukey
Beth Cook
John Curry
Ian Foran
Reuben Fowlow
Elizabeth Levasseur
Tara Lewis
Tammy McCarthy
E. Matthew McDade
Lucienne Moore
Lisa Oliver
Michael Viani

Central High:

Colin Bacon
Scott Bickerstaff
Anne Bowman
Teri Lee Brown
Michael Connors
Heidi Conroy
Michael Dennis
Daniel Furlong
Karen Girvan
Alison Lane

Kindergarten
PreK
School Nurse
Grade 1
Grade 1
Grade 4
Grade 3
Special Education (Funding 100% Local Entitlement)
Math Interventionist
Grade 1
Kindergarten
Reading Recovery (Funding 100% NCLB Title IA)
Grade 1
GT/Reading Interventionist
Kindergarten
Reading Recovery (Funding 100% NCLB Title IA)
Grade 5
Grade 2
Special Education
Grade 4

Music/Band
English
Special Education Evaluator
.5 FTE School Nurse
Technology Integration
Speech Therapist

Grade 8 Science
Grade 6 Science
Phys. Ed. & Health
Grade 8 Social Studies
Grade 7 Science
Grade 7 Lang. Arts
Grade 6 Math
Grade 8 Lang. Arts
Guidance Counselor
Grade 8 Math
Math Interventionist
Grade 6 Social Studies

Math
English
English
Social Studies
Science
Library/Media Specialist
Physical Science
English
English
Guidance

Irene Lane
Cary Libby
Peter Marsh
Charles Neely
Jamie Russell
Karen Ward

Special Education (Funding 100% Local Entitlement)
Social Studies
Special Education
Science
Phys. Ed.
Special Education

Unanimous

Upon the motion of Kim Hikel and second by Wanda St. Peter, members voted to approve the following Professional Staff appointment for 2019-2020:

CHS Spanish Teacher – Alexandra Small

Unanimous

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's Schedule B appointments for 2018-2019:

CMS "A" Baseball – Phillip Cadieux
CMS "B" Baseball – Leonard Dorion
CMS "A" Softball – Emma Campbell
CMS "B" Softball – Alexandra Small
Varsity Baseball – Peter Speed
JV Baseball – Grant Poulin
Varsity Softball – Shawna Neal
JV Softball – Rick Speed
CHS Spring Track & Field – Michael Viani
CHS Spring Assistant Track & Field – John White

Upon the motion of Jodi Brasslett and second by Wanda St. Peter, and having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,


Rhonda Sperrey
Secretary

