REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 64
Bradford Corinth Hudson Kenduskeag Stetson

REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 28, 2020

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, January 27, 2020 in response to an agenda dated January 23, 2020. The agenda was distributed to members electronically.

Members Present: Rhonda Williams, Wanda St. Peter, Katherine Waite, Anne Kenneson, Sherry Horn, David Nichols, Nicole Kelley, James Connolly, Parvanah Withee, Robert Young, Curtis Chadbourne, Tonya Wozneak

Student Representatives Present: None

Members Absent: Kim Hikel, Jodi Brasslett, Chad Crooker, Amy Bean, Haley Emery, Teresa Harvey

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

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rhonda Williams at 7:01 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 the Regular Monthly Board Meeting (November 25, 2019), Building Committee Meeting (December 2, 2019), Hiring Committee Meeting (December 10, 2019), Special Board Meeting (December 10, 2019), Policy Committee Meeting (January 6, 2020), and Transportation Committee Meeting (January 13, 2020) as presented, and to place the minutes on file as part of permanent Board records.

Unanimous

Petitions and Communications – None

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

Reports

Standing Committees

Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the following administrative topics:

Telephone Expansion Project
The telephone expansion project at Central Middle School is 99% complete. Two athletic office phones are the only ones remaining to be installed.

Right of Way Update
Superintendent Sperrey spoke to abutting property owner Randy Bean about the progress of the research by attorneys regarding the Right of Way he has on RSU 64 property. Attorneys have noted no Right of Way was recorded by the Registry of Deeds. Mr. Bean will present an updated proposal once he learns more from his attorney.

Legislative Update
The second session of the 129th Legislature has begun. Several bills are of concern and will be worth watching including the following:

LD 1965 - An Act to Set a Minimum Wage for School Support Staff - This bill undermines the collective bargaining process by setting a minimum $16/hour wage statewide for support staff. Also, although it has the potential to level the field temporarily, it will be incredibly costly to each school unit and has the potential to create a significant increase of wages throughout the scale. If this bill becomes law, it will cost the taxpayers millions of additional dollars or cost school districts a number of positions.

LD 2016 - An Act Regarding School Discipline for Maine's Youngest Students - This bill restricts the school unit's ability to remove a student (suspension or expulsion) in Grade 5 or below thereby having the potential of increasing unsafe environments for our elementary student population. Although suspensions and expulsions of students at this level are very rare, restricting our ability to remove a student, should we need to in order to maintain a safe school environment, will create an unnecessary burden on the school system.

Budget Update
Administrators have submitted their building level budgets. The budget information is being reviewed and amounts are being entered into the FY21 draft budget. It is expected that districts will receive their ED279 report by February 1. This report indicates the State revenue that districts should expect to see in the upcoming fiscal year. The Commissioner of Education presented anticipated funding projections to the State Board of Education on January 15 which included $135 per pupil for system administration, $94 per pupil for members of Education Service Centers, and an increase to the Minimum Special Education Adjustment from 45% to 50%. Targeted funds have also been proposed for musical instruments for rural schools and educator directed professional development.

Vision and Mission Work
The District is planning a District Visioning Community Forum on February 26 at 6:30 p.m. All interested stakeholders are invited to join the Administrative Team for an evening of exploration of what the future may hold for RSU 64. Members of the Future Search process that took place in October 2011 will be specifically invited to attend to hear an update on the work that has taken place since that event and to engage in dialogue about the future. All interested participants are invited to attend.

District Enrollment (As of January 1, 2020)
CCES – 511 (-9)
CMS – 254 (0)
CHS – 280 (0)
Total = 1045 (-9)

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

CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp – Mr. Hoogterp shared with members the recent Northern Maine Cheering Competition Runners Up award the CHS Cheerleaders won on Saturday, January 25, 2020. The Cheerleaders will now compete at the State level on February 8, 2020 in Augusta.

CMS Principal Sandra Cookson – Dr. Cookson shared the middle school cheerleaders will be competing in Howland on the upcoming weekend.

CCES Principal Dawn Nickerson – Mrs. Nickerson shared with members CCES PTO hosted a very successful Father Son Activity Night on Friday, January 24, 2020.

Curriculum Coordinator Jennifer Nickerson – No items were added to Ms. Nickerson's previously distributed report.

Special Education Director Riley Donovan – No items were added to Mr. Donovan's previously distributed report.

Old Business

New Business

Drama Club Request for Overnight Trip
Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by David Nichols, members approved an overnight trip for the CHS Drama Club should they qualify for state level competition.

Unanimous

Key Club Request for Overnight Trip
Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Anne Kenneson, members approved an overnight trip for the newly formed CHS Key Club to attend the upcoming state level convention.

Unanimous

NWEA Assessments
Teachers Tara Lewis, Rachel Emery-Russell, Britney Dorr, and Gary Collins joined Curriculum Coordinator Jennifer Nickerson for a brief presentation on the implementation of the NWEA assessment program.

Central High School Office Addition Project Update
Members of the Building Committee presented updated planning and design information relative to the potential office addition project at Central High School.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Curtis Chadbourne, members voted to use a select bid process for the project.

Unanimous

Approval of Policy Revisions
Policy Committee Chair James Connolly presented revised language for policy ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession and ADC-R – Tobacco Use and Possession Administrative Procedure.

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Sherry Horn, members approved the revised policies as presented.

Unanimous

Approval of 2020-2021 School Calendar
Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Robert Young, members approved the proposed 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented.

Unanimous

Transportation Committee Update
Superintendent Sperrey and members of the Transportation Committee presented information relative to the District's current transportation contracts and the regional work happening among superintendents in reference to transportation.

Upon the motion of Curtis Chadbourne and second by Robert Young, members directed Superintendent Sperrey to draft a one-year extension addendum for each of the current contracts.

Unanimous

Substitute Pay Rate Adjustment
Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Robert Young, members approved an increase to the substitute pay rate to reflect the January 1st increase of minimum wage to $12.00 per hour.

Unanimous

Capital Reserve Fund Transfers
Given the previous authority provided by the voters at the District Budget Meeting held on June 6, 2019, and subsequent Budget Validation Referendum held on June 11, 2019, and upon the motion of James Connolly, and second by Anne Kenneson, members approved the transfer of $1,000,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding school construction, maintenance, and capital equipment purchases.

Unanimous

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Anne Kenneson, members approved the transfer of $50,000 to the Technology Capital Reserve Fund to fund the purchase of computers, office equipment, peripherals, and related equipment and software.

Unanimous

FY19 Cost Center Transfers
Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Anne Kenneson, members approved the transfer of funds between Cost Center Categories within the FY19 Budget as follows:

From Regular Instruction to Facilities & Maintenance - $50,000
From Special Education to Facilities & Maintenance - $50,000
From Special Education to Transportation & Buses - $30,000

Unanimous

Upon the motion of Curtis Chadbourne and second by Nicole Kelley, members set Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. as the date and time of a Special Meeting solely for the purpose of an Executive Session for members to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation process rubrics and to calibrate on the content.

Unanimous

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Robert Young, and having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by,

Rhonda Sperrey
Secretary