

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 64
Bradford Corinth Hudson Kenduskeag Stetson

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 25, 2021

The members of the Board of Directors of RSU 64 met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24, 2021 in response to an agenda dated May 20, 2021. The agenda was distributed to members electronically.

Members Present: Rhonda Williams, James Connolly, Wanda St. Peter, Katherine Waite, Anne Kenneson, David Nichols, Sherry Horn, Jodi Brasslett, Terri Jane Casavant, Nicole Kelley, Parvanah Withee, Curtis Chadbourne, Robert Young, Amy Bean

Student Representatives
Present: None

Members Absent: Tonya Wozneak, Haley Emery, Julie Byers, Chad Crooker

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Rhonda Sperrey, CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp, CMS Principal Sandra Cookson, CCES Principal Dawn Nickerson, Curriculum Coordinator Danette Kerrigan, Special Education Director Riley Donovan, and members 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 14 members present, and 4 members absent.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second of Nicole Kelley the Board voted to approve the draft minutes of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting (April 26, 2021), and Hiring Committee Meeting (April 26, 2021) and to place the minutes on file as part of permanent Board records.

Unanimous

Petitions and Communications

Chair Williams indicated the Board is in receipt of a letter of resignation from Patricia Gillis (Special Services Driver), Denise Johnson (CHS Spanish Teacher), Carli Peat (CHS Ed Tech III), and Jamie Russell (Fields and Grounds).

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

Reports

Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the following administrative topics:

Coronavirus Relief Funds

The District submitted the ESSER II application and is waiting for approval. The ESSER III (American Recovery Act) application will be issued in several parts. In order to inform the State level application, local school units were required to upload data sets to the Department of Education reflecting several demographic groups and report out on the various modes of school - in person, hybrid, or remote for each demographic for a specific attending period during the pandemic. Once the data was uploaded, the Superintendent was required to sign assurances pertaining to the Federal funds in how they will be used. The next step in the process is to complete the draft application once it becomes available to do so. There is no established deadline for submission as of yet.

Coronavirus Response

As cases of COVID-19 decline across Maine, Penobscot County has seen a steady 15-35 new cases each day recently. The District continues to see new cases emerge in students and their families. The two most recently confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in our students within this past week did not require any contact tracing at school given the students had not been in school during the infectious period. The District will continue to monitor student health and will notify the public if quarantines are necessary.

Monday, May 24, 2021 marks the end of the masking and physical distancing mandates in Maine for public settings. However, there is no change to the masking and physical distancing requirements for students and staff inside school buildings during the school day. Given the large number of individuals ages 4-18 that are not vaccinated, districts have been advised to continue to limit and further modify large gatherings. Students and staff are not required to mask outdoors therefore, teachers are encouraged to take students outside for lessons as much as possible. Thankfully, the weather has been very cooperative this spring.

The State of Maine has provided a system of Pooled Testing for all public schools; available immediately but most predominately for next year. If 30% of a school's population participates in the Pooled Testing Program, they are able to forego the need for 3 foot distancing in classroom spaces. Pooled Testing would require students and staff to be swabbed once a week and tested in a pool. If a positive case emerges within the pool, the students and staff included in that pool would need to be tested individually. The goal of this testing program is to identify positive cases early, before viral loads result in virus transmission. At this time, with pooled testing in place, a 6 foot distance will still be required at breakfast and lunch.

As the end of the school year quickly approaches, it has become evident the need for remote learning for the next school year will not be present. In addition, administrators are reaching out to homeschooled families to let them know of the supports that are available to them as they make decisions over the summer to continue homeschooling or to return to in person learning.

PCHC (Penobscot Community Health Care) is hosting a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at CCES on Thursday, May 27 at 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. for anyone ages 12 and older. The clinic is able to provide 8 vaccines every 5 minutes. Appointments are available by calling one of the school nurses. Pre-registration by appointment is required so PCHC will know how many vaccines are needed.

Facilities and Maintenance Assessment

The ESSER III (ARP) application process includes a focus on student learning as well as improved indoor air quality. It is expected additional funding may also become available for construction projects for schools through the Federal government's infrastructure vision for the nation. To prepare for the allocation of these funds, RSU 64 will be contracting with Carpenter Associates for a comprehensive facilities assessment for Central Middle School and Central High School. The data collected through this assessment will help to inform the District's applications for future funding.

PEPG Steering Committee Update

The PEPG (Performance Evaluation Professional Growth) Steering Committee has been meeting to revise the evaluation model currently in place so as to align it with the most recent language in statute. The statute no longer requires teachers to use the Student Learning Objective (SLO) process to provide evidence of effectiveness. School unit evaluation models have the option of using the SLO process but are also able to design alternate pathways of evidence of impact on student learning. The Committee will be updating the Board and seeking approval of changes prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The PEPG Steering Committee is made up of teachers and administrators.

Budget Update

Governor Janet Mills has introduced budget legislation that has the State of Maine funding the cost of education at 55%, for the first time in the 15 years since this legislation was initially passed. Should the

budget proposal be adopted, the state allocation to school districts will not change, rather the cost sharing amounts will change. The Essential Programs and Services required mill rate will move from 7.90 to 7.26, thereby increasing the State share and reducing the local share. The change in RSU 64 results in an increase of State funding of \$313,994.66.

District Enrollment (As of May 1, 2021)

CCES – 451 (-4)

CMS – 272 (-4)

CHS – 302 (-1)

Total = 1025 (-9)

Total students in fully remote learning = 95 (-5)

Administrator Reports

Administrators updated the Board on various items relative to their school and/or department.

CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp shared updates relative to end of year activities for seniors.

CMS Principal Sandra Cookson shared updates relative to positive cases of COVID-19 at CMS in recent days, student and staff participation in the MLTI conference, NWEA data use, and the need for volunteers to assist in the assembly of bikes for the PE program.

CCES Principal Dawn Nickerson had nothing to add to her previously distributed report.

Curriculum Coordinator Danette Kerrigan had nothing to add to her previously distributed report.

Special Education Director Riley Donovan had nothing to add to his previously distributed report.

New Business

Comprehensive Regional Technical High School Discussion

Members reviewed the previously presented information from Superintendent Kevin Jordan regarding the proposed Comprehensive Regional Technical High School in the region and engaged in significant discussion about the potential that exists for students in RSU 64. After lengthy discussion regarding concerns and questions that remain, and upon the motion of David Nichols and second by Curtis Chadbourne, members agreed to continue to explore potential involvement by joining future informal discussions with the planning group.

Yea – 10

Nay – 4 (Connolly, Waite, Williams, Young)

Abstention – 0

Member volunteers joining the regional discussions are: Parvanah Withee, David Nichols, Jodi Brasslett, and Terri Jane Casavant.

Discussion and Consideration of a School Social Worker Position

Members reviewed the job description of a School Social Worker. Upon the recommendation of the Hiring Committee and the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, members directed the Superintendent of Schools to move forward in filling this position for the 2021-2022 school year using Federal grant money.

Unanimous

2020-2021 Extended School Year Services

Special Education Director Riley Donovan and Curriculum Coordinator Danette Kerrigan updated members on the planning for extended school year services. Extended school year services are being planned for all three school buildings for 3 days per week in July. The programs will include math and literacy instruction with a particular focus on a well-rounded, whole child experience. The high school program will focus on credit recovery and augmentation. Breakfast, lunch, and transportation will be provided.

Annual Authorization to Borrow Funds

Upon the motion of Jodi Brasslett and second by Anne Kenneson, members authorized the Superintendent of Schools and Board Chair to borrow an amount not to exceed the amount of \$400,000 in the event they deem it necessary in order to meet District obligations.

Unanimous

Personnel Nominations

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Jodi Brasslett, members approved the recommendation of the Hiring Committee of Superintendent Sperrey's recommendation of Professional Staff appointments for 2021-2022:

CCES Grade 5 Teacher – Macy Ward
CMS Special Education Teacher – Tracy McKay
CHS Library Media Specialist – Casey Twist

Unanimous

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's recommendation of Professional Staff transfers for 2021-2022:

CCES Grade 1 Teacher – Dawn Nickerson
CHS Guidance Counselor – Sherry Blanchard

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's recommendation of Schedule B appointments for 2020-2021:

Special Olympics Coach – Carrie Carr
Special Olympics Assistant Coach – Cindy Shorey

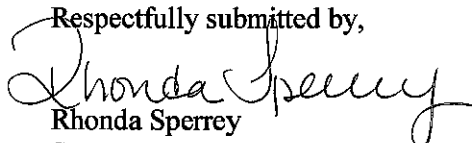
Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's recommendation of the following Schedule B appointment for 2021-2022:

CHS Golf Coach – Gary Collins

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Anne Kenneson, and having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by,


Rhonda Sperrey
Secretary