

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 64
Bradford Corinth Hudson Kenduskeag Stetson

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 27, 2021

The members of the Board of Directors of RSU 64 met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2021 in response to an agenda dated April 22, 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, Julie Byers, Curtis Chadbourne, Chad Crooker

Student Representatives

Present: None

Members Absent: Tonya Wozneak, Robert Young, Haley Emery, Amy Bean

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Rhonda Sperrey, CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp, CMS Principal Sandra Cookson, CCES Principal Dawn Nickerson, CCES Assistant Principal Kerri Wyman, Curriculum Coordinator Danette Kerrigan, Special Education Director Riley Donovan, Superintendent Kevin Jordan (AOS 94), and members of the public.

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 14 members present, and 4 members absent.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second of Anne Kenneson the Board voted to approve the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting (April 7, 2021), Transportation Committee Meeting (April 6, 2021), Regular Monthly Board Meeting (March 22, 2021), and Hiring Committee Meeting (March 22, 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 Heidi Conroy (Library/Media Specialist), Cary Libby (CHS Golf Coach), Adam Pollock ("A" Boys Soccer & "A" Boys Basketball Coach), Rebecca York (CCES Special Education Teacher), and Alison Lane (CHS Guidance Counselor).

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

Comprehensive Regional Technical High School Concept Presentation

Superintendent Kevin Jordan (AOS 94) presented summary information about the comprehensive regional technical high school project currently being explored by a joint committee representing MSAD 4 (Guilford), MSAD 41 (Milo) and AOS 94 (Dexter). Four years ago, the three districts prepared and submitted an application for consideration to the Maine Department of Education for a comprehensive regional technical high school. At the time, the application was third on the list approved by the State of Maine. At the present time, the other two applications that had been approved have now dissolved and this project has moved to the number one spot on the list. This project has been awarded approximately

100 million dollars in support of moving forward. Given RSU 64 was initially approached about being included in the application process, the group moving forward wanted to extend another opportunity to the RSU 64 communities to consider joining this effort.

Superintendent Jordan shared information about the integration of programs that is being considered for the new facility. The comprehensive high school will be modeled after comprehensive high school programs that have currently proved to be very successful in both urban and rural areas of Massachusetts. A student's program in the model that was presented include an exploratory phase in several areas of industry, a focus area selection process and a final year in a major to include an internship, apprenticeship, or other experiential higher education environment. Partners in this program include higher education entities such as the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System. The comprehensive high school would span grades 9 through 16 with the potential of students graduating from high school with an associates' degree with the opportunity to continue with four additional years of education. Several industry partners have been identified that would be represented at the facility daily in training modules and career orientated clusters. In addition to the opportunity for students to graduate with a traditional college preparatory diploma including access to advanced placement courses, the career oriented clusters would act as a direct "pipeline" to provide industry partners and other regional employers with the specifically skilled workforce needed, and provide students with real-world, authentic, and relevant training and opportunities, with the goal of a stronger regional economy.

Next steps in the process include conversations within RSU 64 about the potential that exists for students in partnering with this effort, work within the exploratory group on the creation of a governance structure for the new school entity, and comprehensive site exploration and selection.

Reports

Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the following administrative topics:

Coronavirus Relief Funds

The District submitted the DOE Commitment Report regarding currently committed CRF funds on April 16, 2021. At the time of the report, all but \$153,300 of funds were committed. The ESSER II application remains in draft form but it is expected to be finalized and submitted by April 30, 2021. The application for the ESSER III funds has not yet been released.

Coronavirus Response

Although the CDC has moved away from their initial guidance on surface cleaning, students and staff in RSU 64 continue to sanitize hands and disinfect contact surfaces as much as possible. There is much conversation going on about the continued need for masking given the number of adults that are now fully vaccinated across the state and in our schools. There is also much conversation going on about the continued need, or not, to mask while outdoors. At this time, masking is still required both inside and outside in all public settings. This includes our schools and outdoor play areas.

Facilities and Maintenance Report

The spring season usually allows for several facilities and maintenance projects to be completed with the assistance of an alternative sentencing program however, this program is no longer available to school districts. A number of projects have recently been completed however, in addition to several previously unanticipated projects that have emerged due to COVID-19 and the expenditure of CRF funding. The following is a summary of some of the recent work:

- New shades for the new CMS windows are scheduled to be installed.
- New windows at CMS are complete with the exception of the two kitchen windows being installed Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

- New digital sign components at CCES have been ordered. The electrical is now installed. Waiting on the inspection and permit process to be completed.
- New digital sign components at CMS have been ordered. The electrical is now installed.
- CMS sign slab will be installed the week of April 26, 2021. CMS sign masonry will be completed after the slab work.
- CHS sign electrical repairs have been completed.
- CCES kitchen hood fire suppression has been converted to a conventional Ansul system.
- CCES kitchen hood propane heater will be evaluated by a Maine licensed propane technician and more conventional controls are to be installed. This will provide more consistent operation of the hood.
- CHS gym ERV system install is in progress. As soon as the ground conditions are appropriate, the slab will be poured and the ERV and duct work will be installed. The electrical has been completed.
- CHS/CMS Touchless faucets are complete at CHS with the kitchen restroom faucet to be completed the week of April 26. CMS 1st floor has been completed. The 2nd floor will be done after school from 3 to 5 p.m. starting the week of May 3, 2021.
- Paving project contractor is ready to begin as soon as material is available. The CCES back loop road and walkways to the building will be completed.
- The CMS front entrance area will be paved. The shared parking for CHS/CMS is also to be done as well as a portion of the road leading to the previous Morison Memorial School site and the back entrance to CHS. Coordination and scheduling with the contractor have been started.
- Tents will be put up as soon as the wind subsides.
- Outdoor hand washing stations are to be installed the week of April 26, 2021.
- Sample lead test will be taken at CHS to determine if the faucet conversion will assist with the lead monitoring action plan.
- CCES bus loop road has been graded to repair springtime damage.
- The parking lots will be swept once a date is coordinated with the vendor.

Apptegy

The District is partnering with Apptegy for the creation of a communication app for the public. The current website will transition over to a new platform that will better support a smart phone/mobile user experience and will streamline communication actions for school administrators and District leaders. The app will replace both the current website hosting platform and the One Call Now notification system. It is projected the app will be launched on July 1.

District Enrollment (As of April 1, 2021)

CCES – 455 (+3)

CMS – 276 (+5)

CHS – 303 (-1)

Total = 1034 (+7)

Total students in fully remote learning = 100 (-31)

Administrator Reports

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

CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp had nothing to add to his previously distributed report.

CMS Principal Sandra Cookson had nothing to add to her previously distributed report.

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

CCES Assistant Principal Kerri Wyman had nothing to add.

Curriculum Coordinator Danette Kerrigan updated members on the process being used with staff to analyze and select a new mathematics program for grades K-8 that will support both the use of in person print materials and the delivery of digital instruction.

Special Education Director Riley Donovan updated members on the number of student referrals and evaluations for special education services.

New Business

Proposed 2021-2022 Budget

Superintendent Sperrey and the Finance Committee presented a draft budget for member consideration.

Review of Revenue

- For FY22 planning, the Finance Committee has prepared a budget with anticipation of \$9,696,718.08 in state funding. This figure includes debt service in the amount of \$1,891,411.35 which is \$26,664.87 less than last year. The local portion of debt service will decrease by \$303 in FY22. The total amount of subsidy projected is \$103,092.41 more than was received last year.

Review of Expenditures

- Cost of health insurance premiums will increase in FY22 by 2.7%.
- Negotiated contracts will be implemented with salary and benefit increases for both professional and support staff. The Board has worked hard to negotiate contracts that are competitive and fair within the region and capture anticipated increases in minimum wage. The Board is working to meet the minimum teacher salary requirement of \$40,000 in FY23.
- Workers Compensation rates for the District have declined over the past several years resulting in a considerable savings.
- Heating fuel and propane costs are currently locked in for Heating Fuel (\$2.178/gallon) and Propane (\$1.499/gallon). The pellet bid was awarded at \$194.50/ton delivered.
- Implementation of a student swim program for elementary school aged special education students.
- The current draft budget includes \$50,000 for the purchase of a "new to the District" maintenance vehicle.
- Transportation costs continue to increase each year. The new contracts include a 3% increase.
- The current draft budget represents an overall increase of expenditures less than 2%.

The total FY22 budget draft totals \$15,410,067. This is a 1.63% increase over the total budget for FY21. This budget represents an increase in each town's assessment as follows:

Bradford – 3.08%
Corinth – 1.72%
Hudson – 4.36%
Kenduskeag – 2.78%
Stetson – 2.51%

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Chad Crooker members voted to approve the proposed RSU 64 Budget for 2021-2022 as recommended by the Finance Committee, and approve the Warrant for the District Budget Meeting and that a District Budget Meeting be called for Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Central Community Elementary School for the purpose of voting on the annual budget for the District for the 2021-2022 fiscal year; that the District Budget Validation Referendum be called for Tuesday, June 8, 2021 for the purpose of approving the Budget adopted at the District Budget Meeting for the 2021-2022 fiscal year; that the form of Notice of Amounts adopted at Budget Meeting be approved, in accordance with the District Budget Meeting on June 3, 2021, and to deliver attested copies

of said Notice to the clerks of each municipality in the District for posting at all polling places for the June 8, 2021 District Budget Validation Referendum.

Unanimous

Possible Executive Session under 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) for Discussion of a Personnel Matter

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Anne Kenneson, members voted to enter Executive Session.

Unanimous

Time In: 8:04 p.m.

Upon the motion of Chad Crooker and second by Katherine Waite, members voted to return to Public Session.

Unanimous

Time Returned: 8:16 p.m.

Upon the motion of Chad Crooker and second by Parvanah Withee, members voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to contract with Mrs. Dawn Nickerson for 12 days during the summer months to assist the District with the transition of the new principal at Central Community Elementary School, and to further approve in said motion, the appointment of Mrs. Carrie Carr as the principal at Central Community Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year.

Yea – 11

Nay – 3 (Casavant, Kenneson, St. Peter)

Abstention - 0

Personnel Nominations

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

First Year Probationary Contract to Second Year Probationary Contract:

Ray Arsenault, CCES Grade 3
Amy Bean, .5 FTE School Nurse
Connor Chu, CHS Math Teacher
Terri-Lynn Fowler, CHS Science Teacher
Denise Johnson, CHS Spanish Teacher
Annette Nelligan, CMS Guidance
Jennifer Plourde, CHS Physical Education

Unanimous

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

Second Year Probationary Contract to Third Year Probationary Contract:

Kelley Bean, CCES Grade 4
Gary Collins, CMS Special Education

Marcilla Jackson, CCES Grade 5
Terri Jenkins-Suggs, CHS English
Jennifer MacArthur, CMS Grade 7 ELA
Carol Quimby, CHS Math
Michael Roman, CMS Grade 8 Math

Unanimous

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

Third Year Probationary Contract to Continuing Contract:

Hope Buswell, CMS Special Education
Rachel Emery-Russell, CCES Grade 2
Stephanie Fogler, CCES Grade 3
Lindsey Peterson, CMS Grade 6 ELA
Sherri Poulin, CCES Grade 5
Jennifer McKenzie, Technology Integrator
Stacey Shaw, CMS Grade 7 Math

Unanimous

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's recommendation of Support Staff appointments for 2021-2022:

Nicole Allen, Food Service Manager II
Ashley Babcock, CCES Ed Tech I
Hattie Bean, CCES .5 FTE CMS Secretary
Elizabeth Bell, CCES Ed Tech I
Laura Bell, CMS Ed Tech I
Amy Bubar, CCES Ed Tech I
Arlen Burns, CHS Ed Tech I
Lauren Caisse, Food Service Assistant
Tami Call, CMS Ed Tech III, Library
Erica Churchill, CCES Custodian
Nichole Clark, CCES Secretary II
Emily Clement, CMS Office Manager
David Craig, CHS Ed Tech III
Connie Crocker, Food Service Assistant
Nika Day, CCES Ed Tech III
Nicole Demoranville, Food Service Assistant
Bryan Doughty, CMS Custodian
Nicole Dow, Food Service Assistant
Patricia Gillis, Special Services Driver
Cheryl Goldsmith, Food Service Assistant
Beth Goodwin, CHS Guidance Secretary II
Dennis Goodrow, CCES Custodian
Karen Graham, CCES Ed Tech II
Joanne Gray, CCES Ed Tech III
Hilary Gross, CCES Custodian
Josephine Hanson, CCES Ed Tech I

Nicole Harrison, CCES Ed Tech I
 Renee Harvey, CCES Custodian
 Bethany Healy, CCES Ed Tech III
 Stephanie Helstrom, Food Service Assistant
 Michele Hewitt, CCES Ed Tech I
 Joan Ireland, CMS Ed Tech I
 Dorothy Iverson, CCES Ed Tech III, Library
 Kathy Jackson, CHS Ed Tech III
 Caryle Janicki, CCES Ed Tech III
 Carin King, CMS Custodian
 Jonathan King, CMS Custodian
 Moriah King, CCES Ed Tech III
 Mary Lord, CMS Ed Tech I
 Kyle Mason, CHS Custodian
 Jason McCutcheon, CCES Ed Tech III
 Steven McGowan, CHS Custodian
 Amy Miller, Food Service Assistant
 Amber Mitchell, CCES Ed Tech II
 Shawna Neal, CMS Ed Tech III
 Louise Noyes, CCES Custodian
 Jeffrey O'Bar, CHS Custodian
 Sally Page, CMS Ed Tech III
 Wayne Page, District Day Custodian
 Carli Peat, CHS Ed Tech III
 Robert Pomeroy, CMS Ed Tech III
 Christopher Pullen, CCES Custodian
 Makenzy Randall, CCES Ed Tech I
 Stachia Randall, CHS Secretary II
 Michael Reynolds, District Maintenance
 Cassandra Rice, CCES Ed Tech I
 Rhonda Roberts, Food Service Assistant
 Jayna Robinson, CCES Ed Tech I
 Diane Rollins, CHS Office Manager
 Jillian Roy, CCES Ed Tech I
 James Russell, Special Services Driver
 Jamie Russell, Fields & Grounds
 Jennifer Russell, CCES Ed Tech III
 Angel Sawyer, CCES Office Manager
 Cynthia Shorey, CHS Ed Tech I
 Laura Shorey, CCES Ed Tech II
 Ann Smith, CCES Ed Tech I
 Doug Smith, CHS Ed Tech III
 Luanne Speed, Food Service Manager I
 Tavia Storman, CCES Secretary II
 Doreen Strout, District Driver
 Wendy Tate, CHS Ed Tech I
 Jessica Thompson, Secretary, Central Office
 Laura Ward, CHS Ed Tech III, Library
 Alicia Werenko, CCES Ed Tech I
 Connie Weymouth, CCES Ed Tech II
 Holly Weymouth, CCES Ed Tech I
 SontaRae Weymouth, CMS Ed Tech I

Jennifer Williams, CCES Ed Tech I
Don Wilson, CHS Ed Tech III

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

CMS "A" Softball Coach – Casey Noyes
CMS "B" Baseball Coach – Park Coelho

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

Food Service Assistant – Elaine Allen
Food Service Assistant – Janet Montgomery
CHS Custodian – Gavin McIntyre
CMS Ed Tech – Jessica Commeau
CMS Ed Tech – Maija Overturf
CHS Ed Tech – Quanah Gaitings-Harrod

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by James Connolly, and having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by,


Rhonda Sperrey
Secretary