

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 64
Bradford Corinth Hudson Kenduskeag Stetson

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 26, 2021

The members of the Board of Directors of RSU 64 met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021 in response to an agenda dated January 21, 2021. The agenda was distributed to members electronically.

Members Present: Rhonda Williams, Wanda St. Peter, Katherine Waite, Anne Kenneson, Sherry Horn, James Connolly, Amy Bean, Kim Hikel, Curtis Chadbourne, Terri Jane Casavant, Parvanah Withee, Nicole Kelley, Haley Emery

Student Representatives

Present: None

Members Absent: David Nichols, Jodi Brasslett, Chad Crooker, Robert Young, Tonya Wozneak

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Rhonda Sperrey, CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp, CHS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Jared Foster, CMS Principal Sandra Cookson, CCES Principal Dawn Nickerson, CCES Assistant Principal Kerri Wyman, 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 7:03 p.m. A roll call and check of attendance found a quorum of 13 members present, and 5 members absent.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second of Anne Kenneson the Board voted to approve the draft minutes of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting (November 23, 2020), 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 (CHS Advisor/Advisee Program Coordinator) and Brooklynn Mason (Temporary Food Service Assistant).

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

Reports

Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the following administrative topics:

Central High School Entrance Renovation

With the installation of the lights and building signage, the CHS Entrance Renovation project is now complete. Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor, Dan Roy, has prepared a budget and scope of work for the renovation of the exterior lighting covering the parking areas and driveway. This will be presented at the next meeting of the Building Committee which has not yet been scheduled.

Mr. Roy is also working on the addition of security cameras at the rear entrance to the middle school. This will round out the items the Building Committee and Board of Directors had identified in their planning last winter as priorities in enhancement of safety and security.

Funding

Coronavirus Relief Funds - RSU 64 has received or is in the process of receiving four allocations of money to support reopening and operations of its schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ESSER I - Deadline to expend September 2021	Federal Government - Trump Administration Initial Stimulus Package to Schools	\$297,991.48
CRF 1 - Deadline to expend December 30, 2020 Now extended to June 2021	State Government - Governor Mills Initial Allocation to Schools for Reopening in Fall 2020	\$880,000.00
CRF 2 - Deadline to expend December 30, 2020 Now extended to June 2021	State Government - Governor Mills Secondary Allocation to Sustain School Operations in Fall 2020	\$925,000.00
ESSER II - Deadline to expend September 2023	Federal Government - Trump Administration Stimulus Package of December 2020	\$1,239,830.39

These monies have made it possible for RSU 64 schools to remain open while adhering to the health and safety protocols in place. The Administrative team will be working on the application for the ESSER II funds over the next several weeks. The focus of these grant monies is to be on student learning and air quality.

It is expected that districts will receive their ED 279 reports by the end of January. The ED 279 report communicates the anticipated state revenue for school districts that is used to inform budget planning for the upcoming fiscal year.

COVID-19 Update

RSU 64 has experienced relatively low incidences of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 that would impact daily programming for students. When the district is made aware of a confirmed positive case, school nurses coordinate the contact tracing for students and staff. It is clear the hybrid schedule at CMS and CHS has been instrumental in keeping the number of students identified as close contacts low. In general, positivity rates for COVID-19 in schools remain very low when compared to the general public.

COVID-19 Related Employee Leave

The federal emergency leave put in place for employees at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic (FFCRA - Families First Coronavirus Response Act) expired on December 30, 2020. However, in RSU 64 we continue to track and honor available leave related to COVID-19 for teachers and staff. Very few staff have been affected thus far with their own need to quarantine or the closure of their child's school or day care. Once an employee exhausts the 80 hours of additional leave, they will need to use their own sick leave to cover lost time from work. The additional substitute costs being incurred when staff are in quarantine is being covered by federal funding.

Vaccination Administration

Vaccination administration for COVID-19 is well underway in Maine with the current focus on healthcare workers, residents over 70 years of age, and those individuals that have particular vulnerabilities. School superintendents have been told that vaccines should become available for school staff by the spring. It has also been widely reported that by this time, it is expected that enough vaccines will be available so that individuals who want to be vaccinated will be able to do so at a local clinic or health care provider. At

this time, it is not expected schools will become host vaccination sites. However, the Department of Education has advised districts to create a list of employees who have close contact with students on a daily basis so they will be considered a priority if there is a shortage of vaccine available when widespread administration becomes available for school staff. Regardless of when the vaccines become available, individuals wanting to get vaccinated should discuss this personal decision with their health care provider.

Comprehensive Regional Technical High School Concept

The Department of Education has committed to the concept of the comprehensive regional technical high school in Maine. The work on one such project has been happening in the St. John River Valley for the past two years. Another such project was being explored in the Houlton area but has recently been halted. Superintendent Kevin Jordan from AOS 94 and the Dexter area has received notification that the regional project in our area will move ahead with a potential 100 million dollars in state funding available. Currently, RSU 80 (Guilford area), SAD 41 (Milo area) and Dexter are working to explore what a regional technical high school concept may look like in our region. The leaders of this work have invited RSU 64 to join their conversation.

Spring Assessment Information

Although a formal announcement has not yet been made, superintendents and curriculum leaders have been told to expect a significant change to spring assessment administration. The Department of Education is in the process of securing a new vendor for the spring assessment process. It appears the new vendor will be one in which several districts, including RSU 64, already have a relationship with. More information is expected to become available in the very near future.

District Enrollment (As of January 1, 2021)

CCES – 441 (-3)
CMS – 269 (+6)
CHS – 305 (+0)
Total = 1015 (+3)

Administrator Reports

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

CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp updated members concerning the various credentialing programs available through United Technologies Center (UTC) highlighting how CHS students have benefitted from this programming.

CHS Assistant Principal & Athletic Director Jared Foster – Mr. Foster updated members on the winter sports season thus far.

CMS Principal Sandra Cookson updated members concerning the installation of the new windows at Central Middle School.

CCES Principal Dawn Nickerson updated members with respect to the staff focus on “gratitude” this month at CCES.

CCES Assistant Principal Kerri Wyman – Nothing was added.

Curriculum Coordinator Danette Kerrigan updated members on the significant work and professional development staff are engaged in during a year that is very different than previous ones.

Special Education Director Riley Donovan highlighted the recent communication from the Maine Department of Education regarding a possible extension of school programming for special education students up until age 22.

New Business

Discussion and Consideration of a Professional Staff Member's Request for Sabbatical Leave of Absence

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Curtis Chadbourne, members voted to approve the request by 8th grade science teacher, Robin Clukey, for a sabbatical leave for the 2021-2022 school year and directed the Superintendent to meet with Mrs. Clukey to discuss the demands and benefits to the District of the proposed professional learning she will engage in during the sabbatical.

Unanimous

NEASC 2-Year Report Acknowledgement

Central High School Principal Brett Hoogterp provided a summary of the NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) 2-year accreditation report. Members acknowledged receipt of the report.

Discussion and Consideration of New Social Studies Elective at Central High School

Central High School Principal Brett Hoogterp and social studies teacher, Corey Coffin, presented an outline for a new elective for high school students: Modern US History – Told Through the Arts.

Upon the motion of Curtis Chadbourne and second by Wanda St. Peter, members voted to approve the elective course as presented and to include it as an option for students in the course of studies for the 2021-2022 school year.

Unanimous

Possible Executive Session under 1 MRSA 405(6)(D) for the Sole Purpose of Updating Board Members Regarding the Negotiations Process

No action taken.

Discussion and Consideration of Ratification of the RSU 64 Teachers' Association Negotiations Agreement

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Nicole Kelley, members voted to ratify the Agreement as presented.

Unanimous

Personnel Nominations

Upon the motion of Kim Hikel and second by Wanda St. Peter, members approved the recommendation of the Hiring Committee of Superintendent Sperrey's recommendation of Professional Staff Appointment for 2020-2021:

CCES Grade 3 – Ray Arsenault

Unanimous

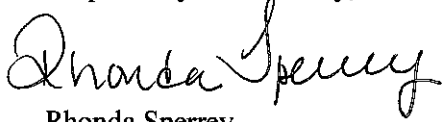
Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's Support Staff appointments for 2020-2021:

CCES Ed Tech I – Ashley Babcock
CCES Custodian – Erica Churchill
CCES Food Service Assistant – Rhonda Roberts
CCES Ed Tech I, PreK – Jayna Robinson
CCES Ed Tech I, PreK (PM .5 FTE) – Alicia Werenko

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, and having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rhonda Sperrey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Rhonda Sperrey
Secretary

