

MAINE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #50
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
MINUTES
SOUTHERN AROOSTOOK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
6:30 P.M.

Before the meeting was called to order, Robert Betschner, recently named "**Custodian of the Year**" by the Educational Plant Maintenance Association (EPMA) of Maine was honored. Robert received the **A. Burleigh Oxtun Award for Excellence** presented by Andy Madura, president of EPMA. Additionally, this award includes a \$1500 scholarship which will be presented to a Southern Aroostook Community School graduate seeking higher education.

Robert was honored by the Board with a reception attended by his family, administration and co-workers.

Board members present: Barbara Burton, Marilyn Burton, Shannon Crandall, Laura Farnsworth, Stephen Porter, Greg Ryan and Paula Stevens

Carman Lilley was absent.

Other staff present: April Bates, Brittany Brewer, Jessica Greene, Gerry Guilbeault, Todd Kuindersma, Elaine Small, Sarah Williams and Natasha Winslow.

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Flag Salute
The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:50 p.m. and a quorum declared.
2. Approval of the Minutes
The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August were considered for approval.
Moved to approve by: Greg Ryan
Seconded by: Marilyn Burton
Vote: Unanimous
3. Time Period to Hear from Citizens: Tony Binotto was in attendance and stated he was "glad to be back".
4. Adjustments to the Agenda: Under Item #6, a co-curricular appointment will be added.
5. Reports:
 - a. Board Chair
 - b. Vice Chair – Laura commented on the participation of many SACS students in the 150-year sesquicentennial parade held in Island Falls on August 7, 2022.
 - c. Committee Reports –
Building & Grounds – Sept. 1 @ 5:30 p.m. This report is included in the Superintendent's report.

Education – scheduled for Nov. 3 @ 5:30 p.m.

Finance: Warrants were signed.

Negotiations – N/A

Policy – will be considered under Item #7.

Region II – Meeting on September 13th, supper at 5:30 – meeting to follow.

- d. Principals: April's report included opening events for school year 2022-23, the upcoming Open House for SACS families, the Elementary Fall Fundraiser, Tier III overview, NWEA testing schedule and the Spirit of America Award received by the elementary school for their participation in Winter Kids Games. (Her report is included.)
 - e. Special Services Director: Janet's report is included.
 - f. Business Manager: Natasha explained her monthly financial report and also detailed the upcoming Annual Audit which will include payroll and a Federal Audit for FY22.
She reported briefly on upcoming Esser funds, Earned Paid Leave, Summer School funding and the grant for electric school buses in Maine.
 - g. Superintendent: Jon's report included an update on Region Two numbers, the upcoming college fair, the recent Building and Grounds meeting, updates on student events, as well as other upcoming events. (His report is included.)
6. Announcement of Appointments, Resignations, and Retirements
 - Olivia Shields - Volunteer asst. for Girls Varsity Soccer
 - Amanda Burpee & Diana Betschner – Co-advisors, Junior Class
 - Kristen Fitzherbert – Sophomore Class Advisor
 7. First Reading/Review of Policies:
 - EBCA: Comprehensive Health and Safety Emergency and Management Plan
 - JEA: Compulsory Attendance
 - JHB: Truancy
 - Moved to approve the First Reading by: Greg Ryan
 - Seconded by: Laura Farnsworth
 - Vote: Unanimous
 8. Second Reading/Review/Adoption of policies: n/a
 9. Other Business – Old/New
 - a. MSMA Annual Fall Conference and Delegate Assembly
 - Delegate Assembly MSBA Sat. October 22 @ 9:30 a.m. (virtual)
 - Fall Conference Oct. 27 & 28
 - Barbara Burton and Greg Ryan expressed their interest in attending the Fall Conference.

- b. Approval of the SACS Student Handbook for-2022-23 (included in August Board packet). No amendment is required – language will remain at “a 3.0 average at mid-year”.

Moved to approve by: Greg Ryan

Seconded by: Marilyn Burton

Vote: Unanimous

10. Future Agenda Items

11. Upcoming Meetings and Event

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Region II Board | Tues. Sept.13 @ 5:30 p.m. |
| - Open House, PreK-12 | Wed. Sept. 14, 6:00 p.m. – 7 p.m. |
| - Policy Committee | Tues. Oct. 11 @ 5:45 p.m. |
| - Finance Committee | Tues. Oct. 11 @ 6:15 p.m. |
| - Regular Board Meeting | Tues. Oct. 11 @ 6:30 p.m. |
| - Region II Board | No October Meeting |

Respectfully Submitted:



Jonathan Porter, Superintendent
Regional School Unit 50

Special Education - Janet Vose

School Board Notes 9/12/22

We had an excellent start of the school year. For us in special ed it felt seamless and like we never left. I have to give most of that credit to my special education staff. They worked over the summer at summer school, they did professional development, they came in early to get rooms and programs set up, all of that hard work paid off for them and the students. I'm very proud of them!

What's Happening in September:

- Back to school assessments have started
- Behavior plans are up and running and were on day 1!
- Students started services on day 1!
- Schedules are starting to settle already
- IEP meetings have already started
- I've attended the MADSEC regional group meeting for the start of the year. I will be attending one meeting a month in Augusta and then as the regional leader hosting one meeting in Medway with the collaboration of Stacie Smith, Superintendent/Director of East Millinocket who is part of our regional group
- I started to train myself on how to use the new Kindergarten screener. I already feel like it's going to be very user friendly.
- 2 staff, Hillary Lawlor and Dawn Merry are going to attend QBS Safety Care trainer training at the end of this month. They are taking over as trainers for Brittany Brewer and myself.
- Staff safety care training will happen on early release days and upcoming workshop days

August Numbers

IEP - 71

504 - 11

Total - 82

of Meetings

IEP - 1

504 - 0

Total - 1

Change from June

IEP's = 78

504's = 14

Total = 92

between graduation and students moving, we are currently down 7 IEP's and 3 504's

Elementary Report 9-12-22

We have had a great start to the school year. See updates below:

- We currently have 156 students Prek-5 with 2 more students registering next week.
- Pre-k students started September 6, 2022 with a total of 15 students in the class of 2036. There are 2 sessions with 8 students in the morning and 7 in the afternoon.
- Dr. Candace Bray spent 2 hours with the Prek-3 staff on August 29th teaching them how to use the beginning of the year phonological (global awareness of sounds and how to manipulate them) and phonics (sounds of letters and groups of letters) screeners. The plan was to have her work with this staff for the whole year focusing on the science of reading, but she has informed us that she is no longer available since her husband is ill. We are working on an alternative plan for Tier III funds.
- The ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) application was submitted in July and has been approved.
- This is our 3rd and last year for Tier III money. We are awarded \$37,596.04 for FY23. The Leadership Team will be meeting biweekly to develop a professional development plan to use this money before September 30, 2023. Last year we used the Tier III money for PD in math, reading and Responsive Classroom.
- Open House is September 14th. We are happy to invite families back into the building to meet teachers and see classrooms.
- The elementary fall fundraiser starts September 15th.
- 4th graders will be picking potatoes at the Long Farm on September 16th.
- NWEA testing for grades 3-5 will open October 3rd-28th. We will test grades K-2 the week of September 26th.
- Southern Aroostook Elementary School has received the 2022 Spirit of America Tribute for its outstanding volunteerism and participation in the WinterKids Games last winter. See the attached letter.

Spirit of America Foundation

P.O. Box 5637
Augusta, Maine 04332

Dear Southern Aroostook Community School,

Congratulations!

Spirit of America Foundation's Maine chapter, impressed by your WinterKids Winter Games efforts, selected you as the 2022 Dyer Brook Spirit of America Foundation Tribute winner for outstanding volunteerism!

Spirit of America Foundation is an Augusta, ME 501(c)(3) public charity encouraging volunteerism & its Spirit of America Foundation Tribute for commendable community service may be presented in the name of any Maine municipality. You can find more info about the Foundation on its website at <https://spirame.org>

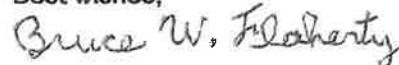
These are 2022 Spirit of America Tribute winners in Aroostook County: Adopt-a-Block of Aroostook (Houlton), Adopt-a-Block of Hodgdon. Dan Berube (Van Buren), Varney Brackett (Weston), Dwight Coperthwaite (Littleton), Brian Cote (Portage Lake), Garrett Cowger (Weston), Rebecca Drew (Island Falls), Farmers of Our Community (Wade/Washburn), Faye O'Leary Hafford Library (Allagash), Fort Fairfield Middle High School JMG Program, Four Seasons Trails Association (Madawaska), Friends of St. Francis, Girl Scout Troop #1133 (Castle Hill/Chapman/Mapleton), Long Lake Public Library (St. Agatha), Maine Precepton Tau Sorority (Limestone), Melford Pelletier (Wallagrass), Perkins-Plourde Post 136 & Unit 136, SACS Boys & Girls 2022 Basketball Champion Teams (Merrill/Smyrna), Southern Aroostook Community School (Dyer Brook), St. John Valley Technology Center Students (Frenchville), Lendell Tarr (Ashland), Upper Valley Economic Corporation Pantry (Sherman), Woodland Consolidated School.

Aroostook County typically presents a certificate to each Spirit of America winner. Your county officials haven't finalized their plans for this pandemic year. In any case, stay tuned to hear from The County.

Most Maine municipalities honor their Spirit of America winners in some way (perhaps at a Selectmen's meeting). I'd call Town Manager Florence Hardy to ask if she or another Dyer Brook official could at least pose for a congratulatory photo with your Principal, but I don't know Florence. Could your school contact Hardy or another town official and arrange for the photo (for submitting to a local newspaper and/or posting in town office)? With your school's outstanding WinterKids efforts, they should oblige! If anyone has any questions, they may call me.

Once again, congratulations on your Spirit of America selection for your magnificent accomplishments & hoping you'll get the public recognition you deserve!

Best wishes,



Maine Spirit of America, President
622-7311 bwflah@gmail.com

P.S. Municipalities familiar with Spirit of America this year typically presented the Tribute winner with a certificate (or resolution) adorned with the town's seal and signed by officials – it might have been worded as simply as:

"The 2022 (Municipality's Name) Spirit of America Foundation Tribute honors (Winner's Name) for commendable community service."

RSU 50 Superintendent Report RSU 50 Board Meeting September 12, 2022

1. Region Two Report

- a. One student from So. Aroostook attended OSHA 30 course the week of August 22-26. This is an opportunity for our high school students to earn three college credits. Junior Conner Walker successfully completed the course.
- b. Next Region Two Board meeting will be held on September 13th at 6:00pm
- c. College & Career Fair at Region Two on September 30th. Over 50 college and career representatives will attend.
- d. FY 22-23, forty-nine(49) students from So. Aroostook High School are attending Region Two

2. Building & Grounds Committee Meeting, Agenda & Notes

Time: Thursday September 1, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.

Attending: Stephen Porter, Robert Betschner, Gerry Guilbeault, Natasha Winslow, Jon Porter

a. Potential List of Needs:

- a. Bleachers
- b. Fire Alarm System Upgrade-see quote from Siemens
- c. Paving (rotating schedule to address needs) & sealing cracks
- d. Replace Main Switch
- e. (3) Roof mounted Air Handlers
- f. (4) Gym Units and New Ductwork Design-replace with 2 units
- g. Large Soccer field, 1/2 playing surface & Stump removal near small soccer field
- h. intercom/phone system-looking into through IT department
- i. Replace lighting in some areas
- j. Library Windows & Siding
- k. Doors(middle school entrance, high school hallway, 3-5 entrance, K-2 entrance) and 2 windows in the high school
- l. Small tractor to replace the tractor burned in fire
- m. Manhole replacement for septic tank, \$500.00
- n. Manholes drains cleaned out, 13-14 around the building
- o. Cement for entryways
- p. Asbestos tile removal
- q. Outlets in middle school
- r. Outside hose hook-up near elementary
- s. Pump house-tin
- t. Rubber mulch for playground
- u. (44) Exhaust Fan Replacements??? Check with Siemens

b. ESSER II & III -working document of ESSER Funds

Use of ESSER Two Funds for Facilities, very specific guidelines to use funds

ESSER II Funds **Must obligate by 9/2023**

ESSER II Funds appropriated to RSU 50 \$582,720.58

ESSER II Funds Funds Potential Projects	Cost
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Air quality and student learning loss	
1. Air handlers-rooftop (Original units) \$295,000 each, Siemens	\$511057.70
2. Remaining windows (7) ($\$10,000 \times 7 = \$70,000$), Building Etc.	-\$59298
	Total funds accounted budgeted thus far: \$570,355.70 Remaining funds: \$12,364.88

ESSER III Funds **Must obligate by 9/2024**

ESSER III Funds appropriated to RSU 50 **\$1,308,707.65**

ESSER III Funds Funds Potential Projects	Cost
Air quality and student learning loss 20% research based ed. Support for students	
1. Positions for social distance and learning loss: a. Elementary teacher \$55,000 x 2 years b. Elementary teacher \$55,000 X 2 years c. Ed tech monitor/interventionist-HS \$40,000 X 2 years d. MS/HS Curriculum /RTI coordinator \$20,000X 2 years *2021-22 school year and 2022-23 school year 20% of allocation must go to research based ed. support for students-learning loss-\$261,741.53	\$340,000.00
2. Air handlers-rooftop (Original units) \$295,000 each, Siemens	\$622928.80
3. Bionex and Pooled Testing Coordinator (School Nurse)	\$10,000
4. Unit Vents (7) (Original units) Siemens	-\$56,753.43
5. Library Windows and Siding (Original Windows) Building Etc.	-\$90,000
	Total funds accounted budgeted thus far: \$1,119,682 Remaining funds: \$189,025.42

c. Update on the Recommendations from Buildings & Grounds Committee FY 22-23 Budget

Committee recommended the following:

1. Budget \$80,000 in the 22-23 Budget for Capital Improvement Needs
2. Priority List of work to be completed
 - a. **Paving & sealing cracks in pavement \$25,000-done**
 - b. **Septic Tank Clean-up, \$5,500-done**
 - c. Grease Trap in the Kitchen, \$2,500
 - d. **Mulch for Playground-\$2,500-done**
 - e. Masonry work on exterior of the building-\$23,000
 - f. **Electrical Outlets, \$3,000-done**
 - g. Budgeted costs for increase in materials, etc-\$19,000

d. RSU 50 Bus and Vehicle Inventory as of 6/30/22

RSU 50 Bus and Vehicle Inventory as of 6/30/22

Bus Year & Model	#	Mileage As of 6/30/22	Other
2010 Bluebird	23	155,096	
2008 Thomas	2	152,603	
2015 Freightliner	26	127,758	Lift
2011 Thomas	24	121,094	
2014 Thomas	25	102,185	Lift
2014 Thomas	30	98,935	
2020 Thomas Built	31	35,102	80% paid w/ VW Grant Funding
2021 Thomas Built	33	27,994	100% paid w/Covid-19 Fed Funds
2021 Thomas Built	32	10,959	80% paid w/ VW Grant Funding
2020 Thomas Built	1	14,645	White Bus 100% paid w/Covid-19 Fed Funds
School Vehicles Year & Model		Mileage as of 8/15/22	
2011 Dodge Caravan		156,000	Gray Van
2017 Dodge Caravan		51,587	White Van
2020 Dodge Caravan		15,952	Red Van 100% paid with Covid-19 Funds
2013 Chev Pick-up		68,325	
John Deere Tractor			
John Deere Tractor			
Kubota - Zero Turn Mower			

e. Electric Bus Grant Information

- **RSU 50 was at the top of the list for eligibility at 100% funding for The EPS Clean School Bus Program**
- **An application has been submitted by Lion Electric on behalf of RSU 50 for 5 buses that qualify for replacement.**
- **In no way is RSU 50 obligated to accept the funding if we are approved**
- **Grant Funding includes buses and infrastructure for each bus. The cost for an electric school bus is \$375,000**
- **If funding is accepted Lion is paid directly and a bus will be delivered to us at that point we would be required to either sell or junk the bus it is replacing.**
- **Electric school buses have limitations: They can only travel 125 miles before needing to be charged. It takes about 8 hours for a full charge. These buses would not be able to be used for trips.**

f. Tour of the Building

Classroom hallways, gymnasium, kitchen, cafeteria hallway, classrooms, etc.

g. Others

3. Some information about learning

- 17 So. Aroostook High School students are taking 21 college classes this fall semester
- 2 students will be taking an AP course this year, AP Biology & AP History
- 21st Century/After-School Program starts for Middle/High School students on Sept. 12th
- 21st Century/After-School Program starts for Middle/High School students on Sept. 19th
- So. Aroostook Leadership Team first meeting is September 15th. The team will meet twice a month to focus on professional development needs, student achievement, and other priorities. Tier III funding helps support the professional development plans. Five members of the Leadership Team will attend a professional development opportunity by award-winning, educational leader, Jimmy Casas on Thursday, November 10th from 8:30-11:30 AM at Veazie Community School.

4. Upcoming Events

Aroostook Superintendent’s Mtg.	September 13, 2022	9:30am
Region Two Cooperative Board Mtg	September 13, 2022	6:00pm
So. Aroostook Scholarship Fund Mtg.	September 13, 2022	5:30pm
So. Aroostook Open House	September 14, 2022	6:00-7:00pm
So. Aroostook Food Pantry	September 15, 2022	
Early Release Day	September 21, 2022	
MSSA Funding Committee Mtg.	September 26, 2022	
Financial Aid Night for Seniors & Parents	September 26, 2022	6:00pm
RSU 50 Board Meeting	October 11, 2022	6:30pm
Region Two Superintendent Advisory Mtg.	October 14, 2022	8:30am
MELMAC Peer Learning Session	October 17, 2022	
MSMA Fall Conference-Augusta	October 27-28, 2022	

Respectfully Submitted:
Jon Porter, RSU 50 Superintendent
9/12/2022