

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 64  
Bradford Corinth Hudson Kenduskeag Stetson

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 20, 2021

The members of the Board of Directors of RSU 64 met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 19, 2021 in response to an agenda dated July 14, 2021. The agenda was distributed to members electronically.

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

Student Representatives

Present: None

Members Absent: Julie Byers, Haley Emery, Tonya Wozneak, Jodi Brasslett, Terri Jane Casavant, Robert Young, Chad Crooker

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Rhonda Sperrey

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 11 members present, and 7 members absent.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second of Amy Bean, the Board voted to approve the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting (July 13, 2021), Regular Monthly Board Meeting minutes (June 28, 2021), and Hiring Committee Meeting minutes (June 28, 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 Heather Martin (CCES Grade 1 Teacher), Angela Stubbs (GT/Reading Interventionist), Bethany Healy (CCES Ed Tech III), and Kyle Mason (CHS Custodian).

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 second part of the ARP ESSER III (American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) application was made available to districts on Thursday, July 8. After recent adjustments to the allocations, RSU 64 is expected to receive \$2,785,336. The District welcomes input from all school community stakeholders in the drafting of the application. An invitation to be included in the application process will go out specifically to staff prior to the beginning of the school year. The application deadline is September 29, 2021.

### **Coronavirus Response - Fall Planning**

The US CDC announced updated guidelines for school opening in the fall on Friday, July 9. This document has now replaced the State level guidance that was used during the 2020-2021 school year and can be found on the Maine Department of Education website. The federal guidance aligns very closely with the health and safety requirements and recommendations that were previously provided to Maine schools, and which helped to keep schools safe and open for the 2020-2021 school year. The administrative team met on Monday, July 12 to review the recent guidance and update planning for the fall. Although these items are subject to change, the following is being planned:

- Per the US CDC order related to public transportation, all students and drivers will be required to wear masks or face coverings on buses and in District vans. However, physical distancing on buses is no longer required.
- Pooled testing will be available as a resource for early detection of COVID-19. It is free to schools and participation is voluntary for students and staff. A school that has 30% participation is able to forego certain cohorting, testing, and quarantine protocols. More information will be provided to staff and families closer to the start of the school year.
- Schools will be required to report and respond to COVID-19 cases in schools. Contact tracing will still be required and quarantines will still be required for unvaccinated close contacts. If an individual participates in the pooled testing program, quarantine may be avoided if that individual is identified as a close contact but has tested negative.
- Parents, students, and staff will be encouraged to screen for symptoms of illness prior to coming to one of the school buildings or boarding a school bus or van. If symptoms of illness are present in an individual, they are encouraged to stay home and to consult their primary care provider for further assessment and possible testing.
- Physical distancing is not required inside schools however, distancing will be in place when feasible and practicable. A minimum distance of 3 feet between seated students will be maintained whenever possible.
- Masks and/or face coverings will not be required. However, unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to wear a mask or face covering inside school buildings. Teachers and administrators will support the wishes of parents with regard to the masking of their own children regardless of their age or vaccination status.
- Handwashing and/or hand sanitizing will be encouraged upon entry of the school buildings and throughout a student and staff member's day. Hand sanitizer will remain available throughout the schools, on buses, and on the athletic grounds.
- All classrooms and office spaces will be sanitized daily. Individual staff may additionally sanitize their spaces throughout the day. Cleaning products will be kept available in all areas for this purpose.
- Plexiglass is no longer advised as a transmission prevention strategy and is not required in public facing areas of the schools however, it is available should staff wish to have it in place.
- Visitors will be welcomed into school buildings. Unvaccinated visitors are encouraged to wear a mask or face covering. Open House, Parent Teacher Conferences, concerts, plays, etc. will return to in person environments.
- Field trips will resume as part of the regular curriculum. Staff and students will follow all protocols of individual establishments being visited.
- All extra-curricular and co-curricular activities and clubs will resume.
- Breakfast and lunch will be free for all students. Parents will be strongly encouraged to complete the NSLP application though given this information is still used for many other funding purposes.
- Cafeteria spaces will be used. Breakfast will continue to be served in classrooms at the elementary level given more students eat and students eat more in this environment. Plans are being made for breakfast carts in the middle school and high school to encourage students to make breakfast a regular part of their school day by having easy access to a breakfast meal.

- Teachers will be expected to create and maintain Google Classrooms for each course/content area given the need to keep students connected digitally may arise with individual health needs. In the very early grades, the SeeSaw learning management system may be used.
- The District will continue to monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and the occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies used at the local level.

### **Facilities Assessment**

Carpenter Associates have begun their analysis of the middle and high school buildings. They will work to create a comprehensive report for the Board of Directors summarizing each building's needs and prioritize aspects of the work to be done for improvement. Their analysis will include, at minimum:

- Condition and operation of all existing equipment
- Site drainage, pavement, lighting, etc.
- Building envelope - foundation, slab, exterior walls, windows, doors, roof, etc.
- Interior finish - floors, walls, interior doors, etc.
- Plumbing system - sinks, lavatories, showers, domestic hot and cold water, waste systems, venting, etc.
- Electrical systems - service configuration and capacity, power, lighting, etc.
- Communications and security systems
- Accessibility
- Mechanical systems - heating, ventilation, indoor air quality, etc.

It is expected the report will be available for the Building Committee to consider by the end of September.

### **Administrator Reports**

No administrator reports were given.

### **New Business**

### **Budget Update**

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Wanda St. Peter, members voted to authorize the Superintendent discretion to transfer amounts not exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers pursuant to 20-A M.R.S. §1484(4) for fiscal year 2020-2021 and that the local policy of a seven-day notice period be waived. If transfers are needed, the Superintendent will provide these amounts for member approval at a subsequent meeting.

Unanimous

Upon the motion of Katherine Waite and second by Amy Bean, in consideration of the change in State revenue realized through the State funding their share of the cost of education at 55%, resulting in an additional amount of \$313,994.66 to RSU 64, members voted to reduce each town's assessment previously approved by the voters for the fiscal year 2021-2022. A revised schedule of payments will be issued to each town.

Yea – 10  
Nay – 1 (Kenneson)  
Abstention – 0

### **Annual Food Service Approval**

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Wanda St. Peter, members voted to approve the District's participation in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the filing of the application and policy statement. The District will be operating under the NSLP-SSO (Seamless Summer) waiver (or

comparable program) during the 2021-2022 school year which provides meals to students at no cost.

Unanimous

**Personnel Nominations**

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

CCES Guidance Counselor – Natalie Knowlton

Unanimous

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's Schedule B appointment for 2021-2022:

CHS Varsity Field Hockey Coach – Hannah Farrar

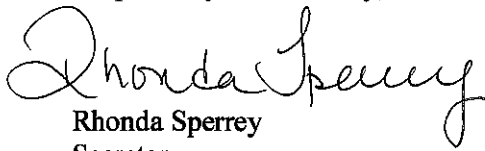
Upon the motion of Anne Kenneson and second by Amy Bean, members agreed to set the next Regular Monthly Meeting date as Monday, August 16, 2021 so as to provide the District with ample time to implement any potential changes in the opening of school the following week on August 26, 2021.

Unanimous

Upon the motion of Anne Kenneson and second by Wanda St. Peter, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by,

  
Rhonda Sperrey  
Secretary