

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37

July 28, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the School Directors of RSU #37/ MSAD #37 was held at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items of business:

Board Members Present: Jeffery Beal, Chris Chartrand, Steve Dunham, Everett Grant, Shelby Greene, Grace Kennedy, Ronald Kennedy, Debra Murphy, David Perham, and Tiffany Strout

Board Members Absent: Beth Hartford and Mark Wright

Other persons present: Ronald Ramsay, Susan Meserve, Lorna Greene, Maria White, Denise Vose, Mary Ellen Day, Ron Smith, Ron Green, Anna Emerson, Leann Beal, Moriah Nichols, Kandi Robertson, Brenda Beal, Dawn Fickett, and other citizens

MINUTES

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. **The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Debra Murphy.** She noted that directors Hartford and Wright were excused from the meeting tonight due to other obligations.
2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 30, 2021**
ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (647-yes, 205-abstentions) to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2021 minutes as printed. (Beal and R. Kennedy abstained as they were absent from that meeting.)
3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**
INFORMATION: Superintendent Ramsay reported on the following:
 - a) Dr. Shah will be holding a webinar tomorrow at 8 a.m. for school staff to discuss COVID-19 recommendations from the CDC, Maine CDC, governor's office, and DOE. Right now, it is recommended that masks be worn inside, but it is not a mandate because we are not in a state of emergency. Mr. Ramsay noted that he plans to schedule a special board meeting for mid-August for the board to vote on the plan for the start of the school year. Hopefully, we will have more answers at that time. We do know that masks are required on all public transportation, including school busses.
 - b) Remote education—His plan currently is not to offer remote education to students. We do not have the staff needed to do it. As it is, we are having trouble filling the existent vacancies in the schools. He also does not plan to have teachers do both regular and remote teaching as they did last year. We will be prepared to shut down and go remote should that become necessary because of outbreaks.
 - c) There are several positions we still need to fill, including music, jr. high science, 9-12 health, special education, and ed tech positions.
 - d) The ESSER III application has been opened. We are still in the planning stages for what to use the money for. He met with a heating specialist to look at what would be needed should we decide to install more heat pumps. He will hold a facilities/maintenance subcommittee in August for board input.
 - e) The Athletic Subcommittee will meet on August 18th to discuss junior high athletics.
 - f) Financial statements are not ready this month as the office is working to close out the 2021 fiscal year. We are in good shape and were able to use funds from the 2020-2021 budget to cover the \$80,000 roof repair at NHS. \$17,000 was transferred from the Regular Elementary Instruction cost center to the Maintenance cost center to allow this to happen.

Leann Beal asked who would make the decision on wearing masks in the school if it is not a mandate. Supt. Ramsay noted that the school board will decide based on his recommendation. He will make his recommendation based on discussions with administrators and parents. Kandi Robertson asked if pool testing was going to happen. Mr. Ramsay noted that he is not planning on doing it now. He can't see that it

serves any purpose right now. If things change, and there becomes some incentive to do it, then we could revisit the issue later. Anna Emerson asked if the Department of Education puts requirements in place, do we have to follow them. Supt. Ramsay noted that if the state required things by declaring a civil emergency again, and the DOE required it because of that, then we would have no choice but to follow those requirements. Leann Beal wondered if the district would be required to offer remote instruction if requirements were put into place that parents didn't want. Mr. Ramsay noted that remote instruction was never a requirement, just a recommendation. Many districts discovered last year that remote instruction did not work for most students. We don't have the extra staffing to be able to have people just teach remote while teachers stay in the classroom.

4. RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INFORMATION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Everett Grant, and voted (unanimously) to table this article as we wait for the fiscal year to be closed out.

5. RE: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (Including Professional Development, ESEA, and G/T)

INFORMATION: Denise Vose noted that the Local Entitlement application has been submitted. She has been busy interviewing along with other administrators to fill vacancies we have. Currently 154 students are signed up for special services and 15 have 504 plans.

Susan Meserve reported that her custodians have been busy, and the school looks great. Some work has been done on the playground. Summer school ends this week. They had fifteen students participate. The school garden is flourishing.

Lorna Greene noted that the custodians have been working to clean, paint, and repair the building. Supplies are being received. Title IA summer school is going well. PD—A speaker has been scheduled for opening day workshop for staff in August to kick off the year. ESEA—the application has been completed and is ready for submission, pending board approval tonight. G/T—She shared a list of the programs offered to G/T students this past school year.

Maria White reported that Milbridge had around 27 in the summer school program, along with 70 in the EdGE summer program. All the students seemed to be engaged and having fun. She met with the Island Readers & Writers last week regarding plans for the coming year. If allowed, they will hold an Open House in the spring with a Maine author.

Mary Ellen Day noted that work is ongoing at the high school to get the building ready for the new school year. Several of the new hires have been in to get keys and check out their classroom spaces. The senior class held a bottle drive and collected a mountain of bottles and cans! Mary's Garden is thriving with lots of flowers and vegetables growing.

6. RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

7. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

ACTION: Motion by Everett Grant, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to table this article as there are no adjustments required tonight.

B. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. RE: CONSIDERATION OF 2ND READING OF REVISED POLICY JFABD-EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUTH AND ADDITION OF JFABD-E(1) AND E-(2) CHECKLISTS**
ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Everett Grant, and voted (unanimously) to approve the 2nd reading of this policy and checklists as recommended by the Superintendent. These now become district policy.

2. **RE: CONSIDERATION OF 2ND READING OF NEW POLICY DID-INVENTORIES**
ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Everett Grant, and voted (unanimously) to approve the 2nd reading of this policy as recommended by the Superintendent. This now becomes district policy.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. **RE: CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF MLTI OPTION**
ACTION: Supt. Ramsay noted that the state is changing the MLTI program from the format it has used for the last 20 years. The program started by purchasing devices for 7th graders across the state, then added 8th graders the following year. This was funded with state funds. The district decided to continue adding devices at our own cost for high school students in the following years, one grade per year, until all four grades had them. With the change to the program now, the state will be giving each district \$459 per device purchased for 7th & 8th grade students. They sent out an RFP and then the state selected five different devices that districts could purchase and use these funds towards.

In addition, a connectivity grant/rebate program has recently been established that could give up to \$400 towards new machines in addition to the state funds. We also have a company interested in purchasing our current laptops. With these three pools of funding, Supt. Ramsay and Ron Smith, IT director, believe we can pay for MacBooks for the 7th & 8th grades as well as a good portion of machines for 9-12, Although they are the highest priced of all the options, they believe we should continue with the same program we've had for the last 20 years, which is the MacBook. It has proven to be a good machine that holds up well.

We may need to upfront the cost of the machines until we get the rebates, sell the old machines, etc., but the local cost should not exceed what we have in our budget. Apple will finance for 3-4 years at 0% interest, and we can pay them off at any time. This will also include getting new Chromebooks for grades 3-6. We will likely never have the opportunity again to put brand new devices in the hands of every student in grades 3-12 with very low local cost.

Motion by Everett Grant, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to approve the MLTI option to purchase MacBooks as recommended by Supt. Ramsay.

2. **RE: HIRING MUSIC TEACHER**
ACTION: Motion by Everett Grant, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to table this article.
3. **RE: HIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION ED TECH(S)**
ACTION: Motion by Everett Grant, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Marguerite Correia as a special education Ed Tech III and Betsey Benner as a special education Ed Tech II as recommended by the Superintendent.
4. **RE: HIRING AUTOMOTIVE INSTRUCTOR FOR CWCIT**
ACTION: Motion by Ronald Kennedy, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Joshua Wilbur as the CTE automotive instruct as recommended by Superintendent Ramsay.
5. **RE: CONSIDERATION OF 1ST READING OF NEW POLICY IHAI-APPLIED LEARNING PROJECTS AND IHAI-E-GENERAL LIVE LEARNING PROJECT REQUEST FORM**
ACTION: Motion by Everett Grant, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to approve the first reading of policy IHAI as presented.

6. RE: CONSIDERATION OF 1ST READING OF NEW POLICY IMGA-SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

ACTION: Supt. Ramsay noted that we have had a few recent requests to bring service animals to school and considering that and discussions he has had with legal counsel and MSMA, he feels it's time for us to put a policy in place. This policy is a sample directly from Maine School Management. He noted that service animals are to help students perform life functions. There is a difference between a service animal and a therapy or emotional support animal. Therapy animals would need to be used as part of a program established in the school. They are not the same thing as service animals. There was discussion regarding the policy.

Motion by Everett Grant, second by Jeffery Beal, and voted (unanimously) to approve the first reading of policy IMGA as presented.

7. RE: CONSIDERATION OF 1ST READING OF REVISED POLICY JLCB-IMMUNIZATION OF STUDNETS

ACTION: Superintendent Ramsay noted that this revision is based on the new immunization law. Motion by Everett Grant, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to approve the first reading of the revised policy JLCB.

8. RE: APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF THE FY22 ESEA APPLICATION, INCLUDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS


ACTION: Superintendent Ramsay discussed the ESEA application and what services are funded with the grant. He provided the breakdown on the different titles in the grant and what each is used for. He opened the floor for any public questions or concerns. There were none. Motion by Everett Grant, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to approve submission of the ESEA FY22 application as presented.

TITLE:	USE:	AMOUNT:	
Title IA	Reading Recovery, Title IA Ed Techs	\$ 343,669.25	inc. \$10,000 transfer from IIA and \$10,000 from IVA
Title IIA	Professional Development (presenters and consortium fees), Teacher Leaders	\$ 40,603.11	inc. the transfer to IA
Title IVA	Well-rounded students: STEM presenters and supplies/equipment	\$ 20,239.34	inc. the transfer to IA
Title V	Pays a portion of a Title I Ed Tech	\$ 15,096.31	
		\$ 419,608.01	

9. RE: ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion by Tiffany Strout, and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


 Ronald C. Ramsay
 Secretary to the Board

MEETING SUMMARY, July 28, 2021

A. Introductory Business:

2. APPROVED minutes of the regular meeting;
7. TABLED agenda adjustments;

B. Old Business:

1. APPROVED 2nd reading of JFABD, JFABD-E(1), AND JFABD-E(2);
2. APPROVED 2nd reading of DID;

C. New Business:

1. APPROVED purchasing MacBooks for MLTI program;
2. TABLED hiring music teacher;
3. HIRED Marguerita Correia and Betsey Benner as special education ed techs;
4. HIRED Joshua Wilbur as CTE automotive instructor;
5. APPROVED 1st reading of IHAI AND IHAI-E;
6. APPROVED 1st reading of IMGA;
7. APPROVED 1st reading of JLCB revision;
8. APPROVED submission of ESEA grant application