

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community High School
September 1, 2021
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Chair Cathy Jacobs, Vice Chair David Twitchell, Keltie Beaudoin, Kim Bowie, Tyler Dunn, Patty Gordon, David Guillemette, Rebecca Lambert, Shawn Roderick, Dennis Ruffing, Melissa Tobin, Dane Wing

Member Absent: Betty Morrell

Administrators: Superintendent Jay Charette, Principals Dwayne Conway, Janet Delmar, Abbie Hartford, Kristen Levesque, Assistant Principal Tina Brackley, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Karen Smith, Adult Education Director Steve Vose, Finance Manager Brigitte Williams

1. Call to order: Chair Jacobs called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Nomination of Officers:
 - a. Nomination(s) of Board Chair
Superintendent Charette reviewed the process for the nominations of Board Chair and Vice Chair.
Rebecca Lambert nominated **Cathy Jacobs** for Board Chair. Second by David Twitchell.
No further nominations were brought forward.
Shawn Roderick moved that nominations cease, second by Tyler Dunn.
Shawn Roderick cast one ballot for Cathy Jacobs as Chair, second by Tyler Dunn.
Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained (Jacobs, Ruffing)
 - b. Nomination(s) of Vice Chair
Cathy Jacobs nominated **David Twitchell** for Vice Chair. Second by Tyler Dunn.
No further nominations were brought forward.
Shawn Roderick moved that nominations cease, second by Cathy Jacobs
Shawn Roderick cast one ballot for David Twitchell as Chair, second by Tyler Dunn.
Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained (Ruffing, Twitchell)
3. Presentation – RSU 38 Transportation Department Update – Kelly Thompson
Transportation Manager Kelly Thompson addressed the Board, highlighting her work to recruit bus drivers, and working with Adult Education to train new drivers. There are currently 3 CDL program students who have their CDL permit and plan to drive bus for RSU 38 once they complete the program and pass their test. Mrs. Thompson also reported on the new routing system. RSU 38 is struggling, along with other school districts in filling bus driver positions; her goal is to be fully staffed by the end of September.
4. Citizens' Comments:
Bill Hafford, Manchester – Asked questions about student iPads, asking why students need to take them home; about how students are loading the bus; how seating at lunch is assigned; and whether students will need to wear masks while playing sports. Chair Jacobs referred Mr. Hafford to his students' teacher(s), noting the chain of command is to address

concerns with the classroom teacher, then the principal, then the superintendent, and lastly the school board.

Sarah Dyer, Readfield – commented that her children have had a very good learning experience, but expressed concerns around school transportation. She asked the Board to review how transportation decisions are made.

Unidentified resident spoke about her child being a close contact today and asked what the ramifications are. Superintendent Charette responded that the school nurse will be contacting all parents, and the nurse will explain the next steps.

Tyler Dunn asked, that given delta's rising cases, is it possible to have a system ready to go so we can have synchronous instruction so students won't miss 10 days of school, especially with the investments made last year with the Owl program. Superintendent Charette responded that the students who are out will get their work, but he can't promise it will be synchronous. He will work with administrators to have absent work protocols clearly defined in each school.

5. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:

Superintendent Charette requested an addition to the agenda, Item 7i, Consideration of first probationary contract teacher, MS Health, Amy Jones.

6. a. Celebrations

MS teacher Jean Roesner and students presented on a satellite prototype competition they participated in through USM.

b. Reports: Written reports were included in the board packet.

7. Action Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2021 Special Meeting

MOTION by Twitchell, second by Roderick to approve the Minutes of June 16, 2021 as presented. **Motion Carried:** 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Tobin)

b. Approval of Minutes of July 21, 2021 Special Meeting

MOTION by Gordon, second by Lambert to approve the Minutes of July 21, 2021 as presented. **Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions (Bowie, Tobin)

c. Approval of Minutes of August 18, 2021 School Board Retreat

MOTION by Twitchell, second by Gordon to approve the Minutes of August 18, 2021 as presented. **Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions (Bowie, Tobin)

d. Approval of Minutes of August 24, 2021 Special Meeting

MOTION by Twitchell, second by Dunn to approve the Minutes of August 24, 2021 as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

e. Acceptance of Donations

MOTION by Dunn, second by Lambert to accept the donations as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

f. Approval of revision to SY22 School Calendar – Revised Graduation Date

MOTION by Lambert, second by Gordon to approve the revision to the SY22 School Calendar, changing the Graduation date to June 7, 2022. **Motion Carried:** 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Ruffing)

g. Ratification of Teacher resignations accepted during the summer

MOTION by Twitchell, second by Wing to ratify the acceptance of teacher resignations submitted over the summer, as presented in item 7g. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

- h. Ratification of Teachers hired during the summer
MOTION by Dunn, second by Lambert to ratify the hiring of first probationary teachers over the summer, as presented in Item 7h. **Motion Carried:** unanimous
- i. Consideration of first probationary contract teacher, MS Health, Amy Jones
MOTION by Twitchell, second by Gordon to approve the first probationary contract teacher for MS Health, Amy Jones as presented. **Motion Carried:** 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Ruffing)

8. Discussion/Informational Items:

a. ESSER III Funds Discussion

Superintendent Charette reviewed the updated document of committed and uncommitted projects included in the ESSER Fund 3 Projects. The application is due September 29th. Twenty percent of the grant must be devoted to learning loss activities, which totals \$299,397. The Administrative Team worked to be creative in addressing some of the learning loss over the last 18 months. The items shaded in green are projects addressing learning loss, which is mandated as part of the grant. The projects highlighted in yellow are committed projects that will be approved based on previous grants. The red highlighted items are projects he is seeking discussion and input from the Board.

Discussion ensued about the proposed projects. The Superintendent is looking for feedback from the Board on how to move forward. Items highlighted in red, are cost estimates. Superintendent Charette spoke about the request for another principal so that the Wayne and Mt. Vernon Elementary Schools can each have a full time principal. Both schools are Title I and Tier III schools. Also, Wayne has a lot of new staff. The amount listed is for 3 years, but the Board could reassess this after one year.

Substitutes will be a challenge. We are starting without long term subs, and are looking at what would be a manageable number for long term subs. The draft includes 7 subs, one sub per building and one special education sub to be used where needed.

Suggestion was made to look into increasing the guidance counselor staff at the elementary level.

Superintendent Charette added that with pool testing, we will need an additional nurse at a cost of approximately \$50,000. There is an immense amount of work that goes with pool testing. The pool testing application was turned in on Friday, so we are awaiting a response. This would be for at least one year.

Mr. Dunn asked about the summer programming number, asking if we can we scale that number out at 2% so we're not cutting the program over the next 2 years.

Mr. Twitchell noted there is not enough to fund a nurse, a principal and the total long-term subs. Mr. Dunn - could we fund a principal for one year and then build it in our budgets moving forward, using the grant as stop gap this year and budget future years. Superintendent – it could be a 3 year investment that is evaluated over time.

Mrs. Beaudoin – could we offer sign on bonuses for bus drivers. Superintendent – unfortunately that will not qualify under the grant.

Mr. Roderick – help so when kids are not in school; remote capabilities when students get sick; we need to be ready to go if requirements change. Several members seconded this suggestion.

Suggestion was also made to look into an additional technology ed tech for the high school, and if needed the position could be made district-wide to assist the Technology Department with all the new technology.

Mr. Twitchell noted that historically, the Board has talked about the additional principal, but it has consistently not made the budget due to the cost. He supports the idea of doing it temporarily and looking at putting it in the regular budget.

Superintendent Charette will rework a few things and send it back to the Board. He asked that Board members reach out to him if there are further questions.

It was requested to add this to the September 15th agenda.

b. Board Committees and Assignments

Chair Jacobs asked Board members to turn their committee sheets in to Donna before Tuesday, 9/7.

c. Procedural adjustment to School Board Agenda – Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent Charette this is a recommendation to make a procedural adjustment to Board meetings, by starting each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Consensus.

d. Update on opening of school

Superintendent Charette thanked Dane Wing and Shawn Roderick for their assistance and creative thinking to help solve the transportation issue. He also thanked MIKA Academies of Manchester for stepping up and volunteering the use of their vans.

Question was asked about mask breaks. Superintendent Charette will be meeting with the principals on Friday to further define the mask breaks.

Question was asked about lunch periods. Superintendent Charette responded they are using a form of assigned seating, sitting 3 feet apart. There are also overflow spaces. The Middle and High Schools are still working on this since not all students were in attendance. Principal Delmar added that the elementary schools have 4 recess breaks and students are changing out their masks at different times of the day.

Chair Jacobs reminded board members that at the retreat the board worked on setting up some norms; she asked that they be send to Jay by Friday. She also reminded Board members that when they get emails from Jay, not to “reply all”.

9. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James Charette, Superintendent/Secretary
D. Foster, Recorder