

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community High School
August 30, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Minutes of Meeting**

Members Present: Chair Cathy Jacobs, Keltie Beaudoin, David Guillemette, Rebecca Lambert, Shawn Roderick, Dennis Ruffing, Melissa Tobin, David Twitchell, Dane Wing
Members Absent: Kim Bowie, Tyler Dunn, Patty Gordon, 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, Technology Director Diane MacGregor, Finance Manager Brigitte Williams

1. Call to order: Chair Jacobs called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Health and Safety Protocols:

a. Review Health and Safety Protocols/Board Discussion

Chair Jacobs reported that the special meeting was called to review and discuss further the health and safety protocols. The main goal is to have students back in school as safely as possible. Since last Tuesday, many community members have spoken or written to board members. She asked that if citizens have already contacted the Board to allow those who have not already talked to speak first, then the Board can hear from other audience members.

Chair Jacobs asked for the Board's approval to rearrange the agenda to start with Board discussion and then ask for citizens' comments. Agreed.

MOTION by Jacobs to allow non-resident staff to address the Board. Second by Twitchell.
Motion Carried: 8 in favor, (Ruffing did not vote).

Chair Jacobs noted that the board will not be responding to questions and comments from the public. Any decisions made tonight will be reviewed on October 6th based on updated data. She asked that everyone model respectful citizen participation.

Chair Jacobs read statements from board members who were unable to attend. Dane Wing reviewed the CDC's four exemptions relating to isolation and quarantining when close contacts are determined. Superintendent Charette reviewed the updated data for the district since the August 24th meeting. He is waiting to hear back about pool testing, but expects it to be late September at the earliest. Families will need to submit permission slips for students to take part in the pool testing.

Request was made to remove the wording "if vaccinated" from the Safety Protocols. Masks should be worn whether or not vaccinated.

b. Citizens' Comments:

Citizens addressed the Board regarding the safety protocols, sharing their views on both sides of the masking mandate. In addition to the emails/letters and phone calls the Superintendent

and Board members received on both sides of the masking protocols, 25 people spoke in favor of requiring masks in schools and 6 people spoke opposing universal masking in schools.

c. Board Discussion:

The Board further discussed the information shared this evening. Superintendent Charette noted the pool testing application is ready to be submitted tomorrow. Ventilation improvements have been made in all the school buildings and portable units are in all the rooms that don't have fresh air ducts.

Regarding having a remote option for students, Superintendent Charette reported that if students have medical documentation from a physician, staff is prepared to offer a remote plan. Last year, as part of the emergency order from the Governor, schools were required to offer a remote option. This year the emergency order is not in place and with the district's stance to get everyone back in school, the remote options does not exist unless there is medical documentation.

MOTION by Wing to go back to the mandatory masking policy, and to revisit this on October 6th. Second by Tobin.

Further discussion ensued. Question was asked about what the mask breaks will look like.

Motion Carried: 6 in favor, 3 opposed (Beaudoin, Roderick, Ruffing)

3. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 9:16 p.m.

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