

PLEASANT POINT PASSAMAQUODDY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

May 11, 2021  
Community via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alberta Newell, Chairperson,  
Frank Cleaves, Vice-Chairperson, (7:00 p.m.)  
Carol Taylor-Sprague, Theresa Sapiel, Holly Cleaves.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Reza Namin, Superintendent,  
Dan Morang, Principal,  
Beth Clifford, Curriculum Coordinator  
William "Eric" Altvater, Facilities Manager  
Nina Clement, High School Community/School Liaison,  
Jasmine Bassett, Passamaquoddy Child Care Program Director  
Beth Clifford, Maine Indian Education Curriculum Coordinator  
Leigh Peake, Gulf of Maine Research Institute  
Trish Carr, Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness

1. Chairperson Newell calls the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.
2. Motion by Ms. Cleaves, and seconded by Ms. Sapiel to approve the April 13, 2021, minutes as written. Voted Unanimously.
3. Presentation by Leigh Peake, Gulf of Maine Research Institute Culturally Sustaining MWEES: Building Watershed Investigations that Start from Cultural Science Project Proposal. Maine Indian Education and its schools will be involved with the Culturally Sustaining MWEES: Building Watershed Investigations that Start from Cultural Science project proposal as funded. During our conversations, both virtually and via email, Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Leigh Peake, has articulated the importance of centering cultural knowledge in all aspects of this project. This is a critical component that will significantly impact all aspects of programming in our schools. Our educators will be strongly encouraged to participate in this project. The professional development outlined in the project will support the expanded use of culturally relevant content and pedagogy in science and engineering as well as in all content areas. The opportunity to collaborate with WaYS and GMRI couldn't be better timed. District Leadership has been talking about strategies to increase cultural relevance in our programming. Through this project, our teachers will be immersed in the process of developing units of study that reflect the culture and its peoples. The members of the board expressed their support to the logic model and proposed timeline in the Culturally Sustaining MWEES proposal. The plan to utilize a three-year cycle on a specific area of study will allow our students to acquire the background information and foundational content knowledge needed to move beyond a "novice" level of understanding. It also provides a known context for introducing increasingly more advanced content and skills as their understanding deepens. During a conversation with Leigh, we discussed the

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progression of learning in the statistics and probability strand. This is just one of many examples in which our students' learning can be grounded in a meaningful and relevant context. Maine Indian Education's curriculum coordinator, Beth Clifford, will be engaging in the professional development training and supporting teacher engagement with planning and instruction during the grant. She has been eager to engage teachers in culturally centered practices for some time and is a strong proponent of this collaborative opportunity. Beth will work with teachers as they develop units of instruction (CS-MWEEs) and will monitor the alignment of curriculum, instruction, and assessment with the articulated standards and learning targets for each unit. We are pleased that this project aligns with our teachers' efforts to implement Maine's Learning Results (NGSS) adopted by Maine's legislature in the spring of 2019.

4. REPORTS:

HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY/SCHOOL LIAISON'S.

Significant outreach to the students and their families to keep them in school. There are about ten students expected to graduate from the receiving area high schools--Shed High School, Calais High School, and Washington Academy. We also have a student taking part in HiSet and Alternative Education.

PRINCIPAL'S. (Exhibit A)

SUPERINTENDENT'S.

Dr. Namin expressed his support to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute Culturally Sustaining MWEEs: Building Watershed Investigations that Start from Cultural Science Project Proposal to bring the Maine Indian Education Goal to bring Rigor, Relevancy, and Relationship into the Maine Indian Education curriculum. He also informed the school board that Beth Clifford is a Finalist for Curriculum Coordinator of the Year with the Maine Curriculum Director's Association.

5. COMMUNITY COMMENTS.      There were no community comments.

6. Motion by Ms. Sapiel, and seconded by Ms. Cleaves to go into executive session under 1.M.R.S.A & 45 6(A) (1) to have a discussion where the public discussion could be reasonably expected to cause damage to the individual's reputation or the individual's right to privacy would be violated. Voted Unanimously. Time In: 6:53 P.M. and Time Out: 7:25 P.M.

7. Motion by Ms. Taylor-Sprague, and seconded by Ms. Cleaves to adjourn. Voted Unanimously. Time Out: 7:26 P.M.

*Reza Namin, PhD*

Dr. Reza Namin, Superintendent of Schools  
Maine Indian Education, Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy School Department