

## MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37

September 29, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the School Directors of RSU #37/MSAD #37 was held at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items of business:

**Board Members present:** Jeffery Beal, Chris Chartrand, Stephen Dunham, Shelby Greene, Beth Hartford, Grace Kennedy, Ronald Kennedy, Debra Murphy, David Perham, Tiffany Strout, and Mark Wright

**Board Members absent:** Everett Grant

**Other persons present:** Ronald Ramsay, Denise Vose, Susan Meserve, Lorna Greene, Maria White, Mary Ellen Day, Todd Emerson, Lori Mathews, Dave Mathews, Ron Green, Michael Benner, Kim Taylor, Chris Greene, Amanda Kowalsky, Anna Emerson, Leann Beal, Elizabeth Chipman, Ashley Cirone, Candy Tucker, Alahna Roach, Monica Chipman, Kyle Kennedy, 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.**  
Several individuals asked to speak to the board regarding the mask mandate and their dismay that it has not been lifted yet. These included Kim Taylor, Leann Beal, and Kyle Kennedy. Alahna Roach thanked the board, teachers, and administrators for keeping the mandate in place for the safety of our students, staff, and community.

Supt. Ramsay noted that we have had 19 cases in our school so far this year. As far as we know, they have all come in from outside the school and none have been passed from student to student. We have had to quarantine some classes, and other classes have not been quarantined but parents opted to keep their kids home while the quarantine was in place. If we want to keep our schools open, we have no choice but to mask right now. If not, we would likely be closing and going 100% remote every time there was a positive case in the school. He realizes many are not happy, but we must follow the CDC guidelines, masks or not. Our mask mandate will be lifted when the cases go back down. We have more cases right now than we did all last year, so he doesn't see how we can not be masking. He also noted that remote instruction this year due to quarantines looks different than last year. We are not turning cameras on in the classroom and expecting teachers to teach both in-person and remote at the same tie.

2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. **August 18, 2021 Special Meeting**  
Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by David Perham, and voted (unanimously) to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2021 special meeting as printed.
  - b. **August 25, 2021 Regular Meeting**  
Motion by David Perham, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (821-yes, 90-abstentions) to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2021 regular meeting as printed. (Chartrand abstained as he was absent from the meeting.)
3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**  
**INFORMATION:** Supt. Ramsay noted that he attended a three-hour Drummond Woodsum workshop today on new laws that go into effect on October 18<sup>th</sup>. It is not good news on things that were passed. He will report out next month after he has time to thoroughly review them all.

He noted that the first five weeks of school were not what we had hoped for as a start. Everyone is stressed. He's met with many people since the mask mandate was instituted to continue improving our plans. We will offer remote to any student that we require to quarantine, but those who decide to stay home on their own won't be offered it. We just don't have the staff right now due to COVID quarantines and regular illness to do all that we want to do.

4. **RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**INFORMATION:** Supt. Ramsay noted that July and August statements represent the first two months of our fiscal year, and everything is looking good there. There are a few lines that are overdrawn such as computer leases, licenses & subscriptions at NHS, and copier leases. He will investigate those before next meeting to provide an explanation. The computer lease lines are showing the cost of year one of our new lease, but we will have revenue coming back in from grants or sales of old devices to offset those lines.

He reported that we ended FY21 in good shape with enough money to cover our balance forward for FY22 as well as to put some aside in undesignated until next budget cycle so that we can create an outside article for the roof replacement at NHS.

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

**INFORMATION:** Denise Vose reported that it has been a busy start for special education with most of the homeschooled and remote special ed students from last year back in school. Staff is working hard to get their paperwork caught up. We still do not have a psychological evaluator, so she has been busy doing testing. We are serving 165 special ed students right now.

Susan Meserve noted that Harrington has 121 students enrolled. Students have been harvesting fresh produce from the school garden. The cross-country team has 25 students and soccer has 12. The PTSG had a successful mum sale. Kelly Hinkle donated a copy of his book, Maddox the Moose, for the Book Walk outside on the trail. EdGE starts Monday and progress reports go home Friday.

Lorna Greene reported an enrollment of 96 at DW Merritt. Students are settling in well. Hazel Stark, of the Outdoor School, is working with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades this year. The cross-country team has 39 students and soccer has 11. EdGE begins October 5<sup>th</sup>. The outdoor classroom is being used on a regular basis. Professional development—Staff will be involved in an all-day workshop on October 12<sup>th</sup> to review our Best Practice Training, Suicide Prevention training, and CPI training. ESEA—The grant application has been submitted and we are waiting for final approval. Title I staff held a meeting on 9/8 to plan for Family Nights. We are currently serving 138 students in math/reading. G/T—Teachers are doing differentiated instruction in the classroom for G/T students. They will also participate in additional activities with a “Seasons” theme.

Maria White noted that Milbridge has 130 students enrolled. She noted that plans are not perfect for quarantine/remote, but they are working on it. The cross-country team has 14 students and soccer has 14. A Veterans’ Day celebration is being planned.

Mary Ellen Day reported 312 students enrolled at Narraguagus. The start of school went as well as it could under the circumstances. Kids are happy to be back five days a week. All students now have computers and have been trained on using email and Google Classroom/Google Meets in case we must shut down and go remote. Students have been busy with soccer, volleyball, cross-country, and golf. They are hoping to start on e-sports club for students and have 22 interested at this time.

6. **RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**a. Athletics/Student Activities**—Mark Wright reported that the ad hoc committee met regarding jr. high athletics. Report/recommendations from the committee are in board packets, and the board is asked to act on the recommendations later on the agenda.

**b. Curriculum & Instruction**--none

**c. Negotiations & Grievance**--none

**d. Policy & By-laws**--none

**e. Facilities, Maintenance, Safety & Transportation**--none

7. **RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, second by Christ Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to table this article as there are no adjustments necessary.

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. RE: HIRING ELEMENTARY/JR. HIGH FALL COACHES**

**ACTION:** Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Bethany Hartford, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of the following fall coaches for elementary and junior high as recommended by the Superintendent: DW Merritt—Soccer: John Batson and vol. asst. Matt Payne; Cross-country: Amanda Kowalsky Harrington—Soccer: Lucas McLain; Cross-country: Anna Emerson Milbridge—Soccer: Matthew Walsh; Cross-country: Donald and Richard Parker Narraguagus 7/8—Volleyball: Jennifer Kearns; Cross-country is vacant, but students interested can participate with their sending elementary school.

**2. RE: HIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION ED TECHS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Shelby Greene, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Sarah Lynch and Julie Hinkle as Special Education Ed Techs as recommended by the Superintendent.

**3. RE: HIRING PART-TIME COOK AT NJSHS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Tracy Reynolds as part-time cook at Narraguagus as recommended by the Superintendent.

**4. RE: HIRING SUBSTITUTE COOK/CUSTODIAN**

**ACTION:** Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Karrie Cramer as a substitute cook/custodian as recommended by the Superintendent.

**5. RE: HIRING BUS DRIVER**

**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to table this article.

**6. RE: CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JR. HIGH ATHLETIC ADHOC COMMITTEE**

**ACTION:** Mark Wright noted that the ad hoc athletic committee has met a few times. A survey was sent out to jr. high parents and students. Survey results were shared with the board, as well as a list of recommendations from the committee for the board to consider. The priority would be to create the position and hire a K-8 Athletic Director. Then that person could help lead the work to make changes.

Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by David Perham, and voted (unanimously) to accept the recommendations of the Ad hoc Committee as outlined.

**7. RE: CONSIDERATION OF AN E-SPORTS TEAM AT NARRAGUAGUS**

**ACTION:** Supt. Ramsay noted that we do not currently have an E-sports team, thus the board would need to vote to create the club and the coaching position to go with it, as well as establishing a stipend for the first year.

Tracie Martin noted that this is a new thing that the MPA is supporting. This means students are held to the same eligibility requirements as other sports. This will target a different group of kids. There are two seasons, fall and spring. She is not sure that we can get in for the fall season this year but can try. If not, it would begin with the spring season.

Michael Benner, a teacher at NHS, noted that he would be interested in acting as coach for this club. E-sports are organized video game competitions, held online with over 13,000 students across the country participating. We have 22 high school students interested with only two that participate on other teams. E-sports promotes and fosters the same things that regular athletics do, such as teamwork, good sportsmanship, etc. Students can earn scholarships just like regular athletes do, and there are many career opportunities tied to it. It gets kids involved that might not usually be involved in group activities like this. There is no transportation required since it is all done online. Start-up costs are minimal (less than \$2,000) to enroll teams and order supplies.

Motion by Ronald Kennedy, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to approve forming an E-sports Club for a probationary period of one-year, to be revisited next summer. The club can begin October 1, if ready. The Superintendent, Athletic Director, and High School Administration will bring a recommendation for the coaching stipend in October.

**8. RE: ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** Motion by Tiffany Strout, and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald C. Ramsay  
Secretary to the Board

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2021, MEETING SUMMARY**

**A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS**

1. APPROVED Minutes of the August 18, 2021 special meeting and August 25, 2021 regular meeting as presented;
7. TABLED agenda adjustments;

**B. OLD BUSINESS-none**

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

1. HIRED fall coaches for elementary and junior high sports;
2. HIRED Sarah Lynch and Julie Hinkle as special education ed techs;
3. HIRED Tracy Reynolds as part-time cook at NHS;
4. HIRED Karrie Cramer as substitute cook/custodian;
5. TABLED hiring bus driver;
6. APPROVED recommendations of Ad hoc Athletic Committee for junior high athletics; and,
7. APPROVED E-sports club for probationary one-year period, to be revisited next year.