

**MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37**  
**October 27, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the School Directors of RSU #37/MSAD #37 was held at the Daniel W. Merritt Elementary School on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items of business:

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

**Board Members absent:** Stephen Dunham, Everett Grant, Bethany Hartford, and Grace Kennedy

**Other persons present:** Ronald Ramsay, Denise Vose, Susan Meserve, Lorna Greene, Maria White, Todd Emerson, Ron Green, and Dawn Fickett

**MINUTES**

**A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS**

1. **The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Debra Murphy.**
2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2021**  
**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, second by David Perham, and voted (unanimously) to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2021 meeting as printed.
3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**  
**INFORMATION:** Supt. Ramsay reported that COVID numbers were trending downward a couple of weeks ago but are holding steady again now. Until we have a more significant drop in cases in our area, he is not comfortable dropping the mask mandate. We have had 34 cases in our schools this year, although none have been transmitted within the school. We've also had 296 students/staff in quarantine at various times. We currently have eight in quarantine. Contact tracing has become a nightmare for schools and we hope at some point the state and the CDC will drop that and only have us quarantine those who test positive. We are expecting to offer COVID vaccine clinics for students by December 9<sup>th</sup>. The CDC is hoping to have both shots administered to those who want them before Christmas break.

He noted that our schools are functioning remarkably well given the circumstances. This isn't the same as last year and we have had more behavioral issues this year with both kids and adults. There has been more absenteeism, and everyone is feeling the stress. We need to keep the focus on education and not on the issues causing the anxiety, which is difficult to do when you are stressed.

He also noted that he has finally received a proposal from an engineering firm to do the specs to renovate the space that was formerly Bush's Clothing Store in the CTE building. He plans to sign the contract and move forward so that we can get biddable specs prepared. The cost for the engineer will be \$85,000, which will include taking our 2D concept drawings and turning them into biddable blueprints, and then staying on as engineers through the bidding and building renovation projects. They plan to have specs to us by January 1<sup>st</sup> so that we can get it out to bid and begin the work next summer if all goes as planned. This is the only engineering firm he has been able to find. The plan will be to move the CNA program, Law Enforcement, and a new CDL truck driving program into some of that space and still have room for further program expansion.

We are still waiting for final approval for our ESSER III grant. Projects that we hope to fund with the grant include the CTE renovations, more heat pumps, computer infrastructure, and additional

staffing.

He reported on the legislative updates that passed this year, affecting schools. There are 28 new laws that apply. He has previously mentioned some. Others include the following. June 19<sup>th</sup> is now a federal holiday, so should schools still be in session, we must be closed that day. The SAT will no longer be used as the assessment test for Grade 11; the NWEA will be used instead. If seniors were unable to graduate last year, they can ask the state to issue them a diploma because of COVID. Schools can no longer spray round-up on school property, regardless of whether students are present or not. Schools are now allowed to stock and administer Narcan. Parents can be reported as abusive/neglectful for their child's truancy. Remote instruction cannot be recorded, shared, or transmitted by parents, students, etc. Grandparents are now included under FMLA leave. We can no longer ask applicants if they have prior arrests, convictions, etc. We can ask during the interview process, but not on the application for employment.

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

**INFORMATION:** Supt. Ramsay noted that we are right on track with where we should be for the time of year. The statement reflects a quarter of our fiscal year gone by.

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

**INFORMATION:** Denise Vose, Director of Special Education, reported that we are serving 163 students with IEP's and 17 with 504 plans. The Local Entitlement end-of-year report has been completed. We have had a significant number of high needs students move in since school started that we were not expecting. The staff has done an outstanding job meeting their needs given the stress everyone is under.

Susan Meserve, Principal at Harrington, reported an enrollment of 119. Cross-country and soccer have finished up. Students enjoyed participating and parents were happy to be able to attend games/meets. The fire department visited for Fire Safety Week. Ashley Cirone (grade 1 teacher) and Hazel Starks (Outdoor School director) secured a grant for \$1,500. NWEA testing is underway. The Student Council has been collecting socks for the homeless shelter in Ellsworth during "Sock-tober." The nature trail has been decorated for Halloween, and the staff will be dressing up as characters from Harry Potter on Friday. Students will participate in a trunk-or-treat put on by the PTSG.

Lorna Greene, Principal at DW Merritt, noted that they have 98 students enrolled. PreK screenings have been completed. For safety week, students were participated in fire safety, bus safety/evacuation drills, and police safety. Each grade participated in a scarecrow contest, which Kindergarten won. Students will hold a costume parade outside on Friday. They will also hold a trunk-or-treat on Saturday. **Professional Development**—Staff participated in an all-day workshop on October 12<sup>th</sup> at their own schools. They reviewed our Best Practices plan, did suicide prevention training with Maria Frankland and CPI training with special ed, as well as spent time on their book study of Positive Mindset Habits for Teachers. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be a half-day workshop where staff will do required trainings across the district. **ESEA**—The annual Performance Report is being completed for submission to the state to report how we spent our funds in FY21. Title I staff are working on at-home Family Nights. We are currently serving 142 students in our Title IA program. **Gifted & Talented**—Eleven students in grades 9-12 hiked the Baker Hill Preserve on October 21<sup>st</sup>. There are three more hikes scheduled for the other grade levels.

Maria White, Principal at Milbridge Elementary, reported an enrollment of 129 students. She noted they are busy doing things for safety week and Halloween. Mia Dorr, a grade four student, grew a 12# cabbage in the Great Cabbage Contest and won a \$1,000 college scholarship. They have had their first virtual session with Island Readers & Writers and students are enjoying the book, Pay Attention, Carter Jones.

Todd Emerson, Assistant Principal at Narraguagus, reported an enrollment of 317 students with 204 in the high school and 113 in junior high. They registered six new students last week. Progress reports for the first quarter have gone out. The volleyball team held a Volley for the Cure to raise awareness for cancer. They raised over \$7,000, which was donated to the Lyford family who are dealing with cancer right now. The Maine Outdoor School worked with science classes on October 18<sup>th</sup>. NWEA testing began yesterday and will be finished tomorrow. Fall sports are wrapping up.

**6. RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**a. Athletics/Student Activities--none**

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

**c. Negotiations & Grievance**—Supt. Ramsay noted that this will be a negotiations year with the Teachers' Association. He is waiting to hear from them to request beginning negotiations.

**d. Policy & By-laws**—Supt. Ramsay noted that we will need do some policy work. We will be reviewing our policies soon to see what is needed and then schedule some meetings.

**e. Facilities, Maintenance, Safety & Transportation**—Supt Ramsay noted that we will be meeting soon to look at the CTE renovations and the heat pump work.

**7. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Christ Chartrand, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) to approve an adjustment to the agenda to consider acceptance of a bid for the roof replacement at Narraguagus.

Supt. Ramsay noted that Walter Barshdorf, of Independent Roof Services, put the bids out for the replacement of the roof at NHS next year. It may seem early to accept the bids now, but he's been told if supplies don't get ordered now, we may not have them in time for next summer's work. We received three bids as follows: Kevin W. Smith & Son-\$434,800; Hahnel Bros. Co.-\$501,635; and Roof Systems of Maine-\$611,553. Supt. Ramsay recommended accepting the bid from Kevin W. Smith. He has done a lot of roof work for us in the past and we have had no issues.

Motion by Jeffery Beal, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) to accept the bid from Kevin W. Smith & Son to replace the roof at Narraguagus next summer.

**B. OLD BUSINESS--none**

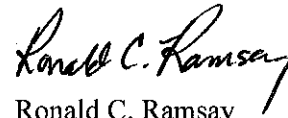
**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. RE: APPROVAL OF STIPEND FOR E-SPORTS COACH AT NARRAGUAGUS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to approve a stipend of \$1,250 for the e-sports coach as recommended by the Superintendent and the Athletic Director. Supt. Ramsay noted that this will need to be added to negotiations this year.

2. **RE: HIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION ED TECHS**  
**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (557-yes, 108-abstentions) to ratify the hiring of Amber Robinson and Nicole Ripley as Ed Tech III's as recommended by the Superintendent. (Strout abstained.)
3. **RE: HIRING COMPUTER TECHNICIAN**  
**ACTION:** Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by David Perham, and voted (613-yes, 52-abstentions) to ratify the hiring of Dexter Wright as a Computer Technician as recommended by Supt. Ramsay. This position will be funded with ESSER III grant funds.
4. **RE: ADJOURNMENT**  
**ACTION:** Motion by Tiffany Strout, and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald C. Ramsay  
Secretary to the Board

#### OCTOBER 27, 2021 MEETING SUMMARY

- A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS
  1. APPROVED Minutes of the September 29, 2021 regular meeting as presented;
  7. APPROVED agenda adjustment; ACCEPTED bid from Kevin W. Smith & Son for roof replacement at Narraguagus;
- B. OLD BUSINESS-none
- C. NEW BUSINESS
  1. APPROVED stipend for E-sports coach;
  2. HIRED Amber Robinson and Nicole Ripley as special education ed techs;
  3. HIRED Dexter Wright as a computer technician.