

RSU #38 Board of Directors  
Maranacook Community Middle School  
November 17, 2021  
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Vice Chair David Twitchell, Keltie Beaudoin, Kim Bowie, Patty Gordon, David Guillemette, Rebecca Lambert, Betty Morrell, Jade Parker, Shawn Roderick, Melissa Tobin, Dane Wing  
Members Absent: Chair Cathy Jacobs, Tyler Dunn  
Students Present: Carter Bennett, Celia Bergdahl, Abigail Allen, Morgan Boynton  
Administration Present: Superintendent Jay Charette, Principals Jeff Boston, Tina Brackley, Dwayne Conway, Janet Delmar, and Abbie Hartford, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Karen Smith, Technology Director Diane MacGregor, Adult & Community Education Director Steve Vose, Finance Manager Brigitte Williams

1. Call to Order: Vice Chair Twitchell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance:
3. Student Representative Reports:

Middle School Student Representatives Celia Bergdahl and Carter Bennett reported on team projects and school wide events, noting that the girls' soccer team was undefeated this season.

High School Student Representatives Morgan Boynton and Abigail Allen reported on student senate projects, student council and extra-curricular activities. The girls' soccer team are the Class C State Champions.
4. Citizens' Comments:

Citizens addressed the board regarding the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) being followed. Requests were made for the Board to start evaluating real data and policies, and to re-evaluate the mask requirements.

Requests were also made to hold the course and to not consider any changes until after the winter break.

Comment was made that some buses are running without the windows open.

Mrs. Philbrook stated her questions from a previous meeting were not answered and asked that she receive responses to her questions.
5. Additions/Adjustment to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent: none
6. a. Celebration:

Superintendent Charette announced that at the MSBA Annual Conference the RSU #38 Nurses were awarded distinguished service awards. Congratulations to Sarah Morrill, Health Center Director, Jada Clark at Readfield Elementary School, Erin Foth at Manchester Elementary School, Angela Palmer at the Middle School and Anya Davidson at the High School.

b. Reports: (see board packet)  
c. Committees:

Facilities – Rebecca Lambert reported on Monday evening's meeting. A recommendation will be made to the Board at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to provide flex screens, sound systems, and risers for the Visual and Performing Arts programs at the schools. The Committee also reviewed a request from the Mt Vernon Select Board to split the cost for a generator at Mt. Vernon Elementary, but the

Committee decided not to bring to the full board because it would only benefit one school. Minutes of the meeting will be provided with the December 1<sup>st</sup> board packet.

Policy – Patty Gordon reported on the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, stating the Committee discussed the work plan for the year. There are 3 policies presented for first readings: GBGB, Workplace Bullying which is a new policy; IHBAC, Child Find; and JKAA, Use of Physical Restraint & Seclusion, which have revisions due to legislative changes. Later on the agenda is a sample policy BED, Remote Participation in School Board Meetings, which the Committee would like input from the full board before presenting it for first reading.

d. Ad Hoc Committee – Awesome Bear Society (ABS)

Kim Bowie volunteered to be the board representative on the ABS Committee. She reported that the new restrooms were used for a couple events at the end of the fall season, noting this is another area that school staff will be responsible to clean. The ABS will be holding a basket fundraiser, which will be available to bid on after Thanksgiving.

7. Action Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2021 Meeting

**MOTION** by Morrell, second by Gordon to approve the minutes of October 20, 2021 as presented. **Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Tobin)

b. Acceptance of Donations

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

**Motion Carried:** unanimous

c. Acceptance of teacher resignation effective 12/22/21, MES Grade K, Brianna Holmquist

**MOTION** by Lambert, second Bowie to accept the resignation of Brianna Holmquist.

**Motion Carried:** unanimous

d. Health and Safety Procedures and Protocols

**MOTION** by Morrell, second by Bowie that the RSU #38 health and safety protocols remain unchanged through the months of November and December, and be reviewed again in January at the Board of Directors business meeting.

Superintendent Charette provided an update on pool testing and additional covid cases in the District. He responded to questions about staffing and the lack of substitutes. He reported that everyone is pitching in to cover classes, including administrators, interventionists, and in some cases office staff.

The vaccination rate for staff is currently: district-wide 87.5%; HS 94%; MS 90%; WES 86%; MTV 88%; MES 85% and RES 81%. CO 84% (which includes itinerant staff).

Mr. Roderick stated that a lot of this is out of the district's control; people need to go beyond the school board. Our role is to keep kids in school; there are perfectly healthy children who are home. He asked people to get involved and make their voices heard in Augusta.

Ms. Beaudoin asked about the boundaries before there is loss of funding. The Superintendent responded that it is his job to bring and expect compliance from our staff when it comes to following the SOP. There are a couple of risks and one is sports. It is about making sure the kids are at school.

Mr. Wing asked if there is a way we can look at the food that is being served in the school.

The Superintendent encouraged athletes to participate in pool testing because it will keep them in school/playing. Pool testing will give a little wiggle room for students to continue to play sports.

Ms. Bowie asked if there were any recommendations from the MPA. Mr. Remington will be doing a presentation at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, but at this time everyone is wearing masks at this time, except for swimming.

Vote on the motion: **Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 1 opposed (Beaudoin).

8. Discussion/Informational items:

a. Sample Policy BED, Remote Participation in School Board Meetings

The policy committee is looking for guidance and feedback on how to proceed with this. Superintendent Charette reported that the Board can decide whether or not they want to allow remote meetings. Certain criteria need to be met if the Board wants to have remote meetings that allow participation by board members. There is no state of emergency in place now. He reviewed some of the exceptions that are acceptable for allowing remote participation. The policy needs to define what the Board would find acceptable to be remote (ex. illness, child care, weather, work travel). There is not a clause in the law to allow being remote because a person doesn't want to go out. If one board member is remote, than we have to allow remote participation in some capacity; the board can define what that looks like. If a member is remote, all votes must be done through a roll call vote. We are not allowed to have the annual budget meeting remote. Mr. Charette also noted that there is cost for providing remote meetings that we did not have before.

Discussion ensued. Questions asked included: asking board members to inform the Board Chair by a certain time so that there is time to inform the public; is there a way to include citizen participation whether or not a board member is at home; is it manageable to have the public participate via zoom; can we just say every meeting allows for remote public participation; do we have to have a policy in place before we try it to see if it is manageable? Mr. Charette responded that the Board does need to have a policy in place before remote participation meetings can be offered, but the Board can revisit the policy if it becomes unmanageable.

Superintendent Charette will bring the Policy Committee together for a special meeting to work on a draft for the Board to consider at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. The Board can vote at that meeting to suspend the procedural rules pertaining to the adoption of this policy so that they can adopt the policy at that time.

b. Reports from Board members who attended MSMA Fall Conference

Superintendent Charette shared a summary from the MSMA fall conference sessions, for members to review on their own time.

9. Adjournment: Motion and second to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Charette, Superintendent of Schools  
D. Foster, Recorder