

RSU #38 Board of Directors  
Maranacook Community Middle School  
December 1, 2021  
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Chair Cathy Jacobs, Vice Chair David Twitchell, Keltie Beaudoin, Kim Bowie, Tyler Dunn, David Guillemette, Rebecca Lambert, Betty Morrell, Jade Parker, Shawn Roderick, Dane Wing

Members Absent: Patty Gordon, Melissa Tobin

Students Present: Carter Bennett, Celia Bergdahl, Joseph Couture, Morgan Boynton, Rocco Scott

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, Finance Manager Brigitte Williams, Finance Director Mandy Fitzgerald, Student Services Director Brant Remington

1. Call to Order: Chair Jacobs called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.  
Superintendent Charette announced that the zoom link is currently for listening only; there will be no virtual public participation and the chat feature will not be used at this meeting. Citizens wishing to speak may sign up for in person speaking; please identify the town you are from and keep comments to 3 minutes. He also asked that if someone has stated your view to state your support for the previous comment.
2. Pledge of Allegiance:
3. Recognition: Girls' Soccer Team Class C State Champions:  
The Girls' High School Soccer Team was recognized for attaining State of Maine Class C Champions, which is the first time in Maranacook girls' soccer team history. A video was shown featuring the soccer season. Other awards for the Girls' Soccer Team include KVAC Champions, and Class C South Regional Champions.
4. Student Representative Reports:  
Middle School Student Representatives Carter Bennett, Celia Bergdahl and Joseph Couture reported on team projects and school wide events, including the school wide activity of holding small assemblies to talk about the issue of behaviors and how students can address them.  
High School Student Representatives Morgan Boynton and Rocco Scott reported on student senate projects, student council and the start of planning winter extra-curricular activities.
5. Presentation: Update on Indoor Athletics:  
Mr. Remington reported on other team successes for the fall season, including Boys' Cross Country - MPA Class C South Sportsmanship Award, Girls' Cross Country - Class C South Regional Champions, and Football - 8-man South Regional Champions, State Runner-Up.  
Mr. Remington read a statement from the student body requesting permission to attend home basketball and hockey games. Mr. Charette, Dr. Conway, Dr. Levesque and Mr. Remington met to review the MPA protocols and discuss what other schools are doing. The document agreed upon was to require masks for spectators as well as players. Home spectators were determined by taking the number of players and offering each player 4 tickets to be used as they choose for home games. No visiting fans are allowed at this time. Live streaming is available. As the season progresses the protocols will be reevaluated. The goal is to maintain the sports schedule; when we go to another school's facility we will adhere to their rules; visiting teams agree to follow our rules.



Discussion ensued about the protocols and what could be done to open up the games for more spectators. Mr. Charette reported that they agreed that when transmissions drop, they will re-evaluate the protocol. There is a meeting tomorrow to look at the spectator capacity and what can be done to allow more spectators at home games. They have heard loud and clear from community members.

Chair Jacobs noted that the protocol is an administrative decision. The Board can offer their thoughts on the subject and it has been reported that there is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow to review the spectator limits.

**MOTION** by Bowie to change the sporting policy this evening to determine that students are allowed to attend and to allow 50% capacity. Second by David Guillemette.

Further discussion ensued about the capacity of the middle school and high school gyms, and doing what is best for the kids.

**MOTION** by Roderick to table the vote until the next meeting, second by Twitchell.

**Motion to table the vote Carried:** 6 in favor, 3 opposed (Bowie, Dunn, Parker), 2 abstained (Beaudoin, Lambert). The tabled motion will be brought forward at the January 5, 2022 meeting.

6. Citizens' Comments:

Tony Plante addressed the Board about the truth regarding Covid and what can be done to flatten the curve. Chair Jacobs asked that Mr. Plante provide the Board with a copy of his statement so that they can read the information he has gathered.

7. Additions/Adjustment to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:

Chair Jacobs added item 8d, recognition.

Superintendent Charette added the following items: 9j. Consideration of first probationary contract teacher, MES, Grade K, Sarah Ventimiglia, and 9k. Consideration of first probationary contract teacher, Elementary Guidance, Molly Zahorik.

8. a. Reports: (provided in Board packet)

Ms. Beaudoin had a question about the Health Center report. Superintendent Charette will connect her with Sarah Morrill to provide her with more information about the Maranacook Health Center.

Mr. Wing asked about recess time at the elementary schools; what does recess look like? The elementary principals spoke about recess.

b. Committee meetings:

Correction made to Facilities/Transportation Committee. There is a special meeting scheduled for December 14, 6:00 p.m. for a presentation from ReVision Energy. This will be a zoom meeting and the Superintendent invited other interested board members to attend. He will share the link when it is available.

c. Ad Hoc Committee: Awesome Bear Society (ABS) – correction, next ABS meeting – 12/8/21

d. Recognition:

Chair Jacobs recognized Brigitte Williams for her years of service to the District. After over 32 years, Brigitte is retiring from her position to start a new chapter in her life.

9. Action Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2021 Meeting

**MOTION** by Beaudoin, second by Bowie to approve the Minutes of November 17, 2021 as presented. **Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Dunn)

b. Acceptance of Donations

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

**Motion Carried:** unanimous



- c. Approval of first probationary contract nurse, Mt. Vernon & Wayne Elementary, Jennifer Von Deesten

**MOTION** by Twitchell, second by Morrell to approve the first probationary contract nurse, Jennifer Von Deesten as recommended by the Superintendent.

**Motion Carried:** unanimous

- d. Annual Approval of RSU 38 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

**MOTION** by Morrell, second by Dunn to approve the RSU 38 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan as recommended by the Superintendent. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

- e. Consideration of Policy Committee Request to Suspend Procedural Rules pertaining to the adoption of new Policy BED, Remote Participation in School Board Meetings

**MOTION** by Morrell, second by Lambert to suspend the procedural rules pertaining to the adoption of new Policy BED, Remote Participation in School Board Meetings as recommended by the Policy Committee. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

- f. Consideration of Policy BED – Remote Participation in School Board Meetings

**MOTION** by Dunn, second by Lambert to adopted Policy BED – Remote Participation in School Board Meetings as recommended by the Policy Committee. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

- g. Consideration of Bond Funds Request as recommended by Facilities/Transportation Committee – Visual/Performing Arts

**MOTION** by Guillemette, second by Morrell to approve the recommendation of the Facilities/Transportation Committee to purchase free standing flex screens for the Middle School and stage wall panels for Readfield Elementary School from bond proceeds in the amount of \$46,392.76. Superintendent Charette added that a revised recommendation was provided in board folders.

**Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Beaudoin)

- h. Consideration of Revised Calendar Proposal

Members of the Administrative Team presented a revised calendar proposal reviewing the need for more planning time for teachers. The request is for 8 additional early release student days to provide teachers with planning time that has been lost this year due to the need to cover for staff due to staff and substitute teacher shortages, increased duty loads, and more student support meetings. The students have many more needs than last year due to the impact of the pandemic on students.

The Board discussed the request, and asked questions of the administrators.

**MOTION** by Morrell, second by Dunn to accept the calendar changes as presented by the Administrative Team.

Further discussion on how this proposal would affect the class schedule at the high school. Request was also made to send an information flyer home to families explaining the need and requirements for substitutes and school volunteers.

**MOTION to amend the motion** by Parker, removing the half days for April and May, and to re-evaluate those days at a different time. Second by Bowie.

The Board discussed other ways to give teachers extra planning time without taking class time away from students.

**Motion on amendment failed:** 5 in favor, 6 opposed (Dunn, Guillemette, Lambert, Morrell, Roderick, Twitchell)

**Vote on original motion carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Bowie)

- i. Finalize Board Goals:

The Board continued their discussion about the 90% staff retention goal. Superintendent Charette reviewed the handout on Combating Teacher Attrition/Turnover. Suggestion was made for the board to brainstorm more ways to retain staff; that it should not be limited to policy review and perhaps consider more SEL time. Chair Jacobs will take the suggestions and redistribute the goals document.

- j. Approval of first probationary contract teacher, Manchester Elementary, Grade K, Sarah Ventimiglia



- MOTION** by Morrell, second by Lambert to approve the first probationary contract for Sarah Ventimiglia as recommended by the Superintendent. **Motion Carried:** unanimous
- k. Approval of first probationary contract teacher, Elementary Guidance Counselor, Molly Zahorik

**MOTION** by Morrell second by Bowie to approve the first probationary contract for Molly Zahorik as recommended by the Superintendent. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

10. Discussion Item: Snow Days vs. Remote Learning:

Superintendent Charette reviewed the snow days and remote days information provided to the Board, noting that for a remote day to be called, the schools need to be able to provide meals for that day. If we cannot provide meals it has to be a snow day. He will work to have a balance of snow days and remote learning days.

11. Informational: Winter Coaching Nominations:

Superintendent Charette added that Garrett Whitten was hired as the boys' JV basketball coach.

12. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D), labor contract proposal discussions between the Maranacook Area Schools Staff Association and the RSU #38 Board of Directors

**MOTION** by Morrell, second by Twitchell to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D), labor contract proposal discussions between the Maranacook Area Schools Staff Association and the RSU #38 Board of Directors. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. and returned to public session at 9:16.

13. Action Following Executive Session: none

14. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

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