

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 64
Bradford Corinth Hudson Kenduskeag Stetson

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 25, 2022

The members of the Board of Directors of RSU 64 met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 24, 2022 in response to an agenda dated January 20, 2022. The agenda was distributed to members electronically.

Members Present: Rhonda Williams, James Connolly, Wanda St. Peter, Katherine Waite, Anne Kenneson, Julie Byers, David Nichols, Steven Ingalls, Jodi Brasslett, Tonya Wozneak, Amy Bean, Sherry Horn, Nicole Kelley

Student Representatives
Present: None

Members Absent: Haley Emery, Terri Jane Casavant, Robert Young, Chad Crooker, Curtis Chadbourne

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Rhonda Sperrey, administrators, and members of the public

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rhonda Williams at 7:00 p.m. A roll call and check of attendance found a quorum of 13 members present, and 5 members absent.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second of Katherine Waite, the Board voted to approve the draft minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting (January 18, 2022), Policy Committee Meeting with Professional Discussions Committee (January 4, 2022) and the Regular Monthly Board Meeting (November 22, 2021) and to place the minutes on file as part of permanent Board records.

Unanimous

Petitions and Communications

Chair Williams indicated the Board is in receipt of a letter of resignation from Nicole Allen (Food Service Assistant), Kristy Davis (CMS Field Hockey Coach), Julia Fasano (CHS Spanish Teacher), Tammy Giles (CHS Art/Science Teacher), Rick Speed (JV Softball Coach), and Jennifer Williams (CCES Ed Tech I).

Chair Williams called for Public Forum items.

Ron Ireland (Corinth) expressed concerns regarding the student achievement data he has collected from the Maine DOE website. Mr. Ireland requested the Board have a discussion about the lack of success students in RSU 64 are having on the state assessments.

Julie McCarthy (Bradford) introduced herself as a homeschooling mother with concerns about the District. Ms. McCarthy asked for the name of the teachers' union. Teacher Association leadership present provided her with the information she was requesting.

Reports

Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the following administrative topics:

CCES Well Update

Although the new well at CCES has been online for several weeks, the District has not been able to lift the Boil Water Order that was put in place back in September. Results from most recent testing indicated no bacteria in the samples taken. Mr. Cole continues to work closely with Maine Rural Water Association for testing and the Maine Drinking Water program for regulatory compliance.

Mr. Cole answered member questions about the stability of the water distribution system within the elementary school building.

Chair Williams thanked Mr. Cole for his diligent efforts managing and responding to the power outage impact over the past weekend.

Budget Update

All building level budgets are due to the Superintendent by February 18, 2022. Maine DOE released the ED 279 report for local school units on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, well ahead of schedule. The funding printouts are based on the \$1.3 billion in General Purpose Aid funding recommended for FY 2022-2023 by Governor Janet Mills in her FY 2022-2023 biennial budget. This amount is an additional \$41.1 million from the FY 2021-2022 enacted amount, and reflects the Governor's commitment to the State's share of 55% of education funding. The increased State share in funding this year has resulted in a decrease to the mill expectation for education. The mill expectation determines a unit's required local share when multiplied times its fiscal capacity. This year it is 7.10 mills, down from 7.26 in FY 2022. The Finance Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet on February 10, 2022 to discuss goals related to continued budgetary planning for FY23.

ESSER Funding

Federal monies are currently being used to support additional technology needs, PPE purchases, staffing supports and professional development in the use of digital platforms to support remote learning for students and staff in quarantine. Mr. Cole is working on specifying project needs related to a significant HVAC renovation at Central High School. The CHS Credit Recovery Program is scheduled to begin on February 1, 2022 and preliminary conversations are being held regarding planning for upcoming summer programming.

PEPG Steering Committee

The Performance Evaluation and Professional Growth (PEPG) Steering Committee is actively working on proposed revisions to the PEPG Model. This year, the PEPG process has been modified given the waiver in place from the State level due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This has provided an opportunity for the Steering Committee to engage with all stakeholders in potential revisions around the SLO (Student Learning Objectives) process. The Committee has assisted in facilitating staff meeting discussions about the model and how evidence of student learning could be collected outside of the SLO process currently in place. The Committee has also distributed a District-wide survey to all teachers so feedback can be collected about the process. The Committee intends to propose revisions to the model to the Board of Directors based on the work being done at all levels with staff. The PEPG Steering Committee is comprised of 17 staff members which includes both teachers and administrators across all grade levels and content areas. The Committee Co-Chairs are Casee Hart and Danette Kerrigan.

FY21 Audit

The RSU 64 FY21 Fiscal Audit has been filed with the Department of Education. The auditors noted ineffective control over financial closing processes, specifically with liabilities, and ineffective internal control over Student Activity Funds. Both of these items have been addressed in the corrective action report filed with the auditors and the Department of Education.

Afghan Refugee Resettlement

Although RSU 64 has not been made aware of any resettlement of Afghan refugees in our area yet, there are several non-profit organizations in the region that are working on partnering together in an effort to support the refugees that are currently being held on US Military bases across the country. Support in our region may be in the form of resettlement of the refugees, and for families, that will mean enrollment of children in schools.

COVID-19 Case and Pool Testing Update

| School | # of Cases Since January 3, 2022 | Current Cases (as of January 24, 2022) |
|---------------|---|---|
| CCES | 48 | 16 |
| CMS | 17 | 7 |
| CHS | 27 | 5 |

During the past two weeks of pool testing, participation has averaged 73% and 74%.

District Enrollment (As of January 1, 2022)

CCES – 490 (+1)

CMS – 241 (-3)

CHS – 306 (-4)

Total = 1037 (-6)

Administrator Reports

Administrative reports are distributed to Board members in advance of each monthly meeting.

CCES Principal Carrie Carr – Mrs. Carr highlighted the Winter for Kids program being implemented at CCES.

CMS Principal Sandra Cookson – Mrs. Cookson highlighted recent athletic contests for basketball and cheering and updated members on the postponement of the Polar Plunge the Outdoor Adventure Club is participating in.

CHS Principal Brett Hoogterp – Mr. Hoogterp added information about the high school credit recovery program beginning on February 1 to his report. This program will focus on seniors and juniors who need additional credits in order to meet graduation pathway goals.

Curriculum Coordinator Danette Kerrigan – Ms. Kerrigan shared information related to recent data available on the ESEA Dashboard and local NWEA data.

Comprehensive Regional Technical High School Update – Superintendent Sperrey and Member David Nichols shared information from the most recent work of the stakeholders group. Mr. Nichols shared comments about his impressions of a recent tour held in Massachusetts. Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the timeline for special legislation that would create the Grades 9-16 district with the sole purpose of a new school construction project and the process for legal representation for each of the four districts engaging in the project planning.

Members engaged in a lengthy discussion about the potential benefits and drawbacks of such a significant change in culture and structure in a comprehensive regional high school. Members expressed concern and questions about governance of the new district, cost sharing, site selection, etc.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Nicole Kelley, members approved the District continued involvement in the process, in recognition of no financial commitment on the part of the District, and voluntary membership in the stakeholder group.

Yea – 10
Nay – 3 (Williams, Bean, Waite)
Abstention – 0

Superintendent Sperrey agreed to send meeting invitations for future stakeholder group meetings to the full Board. Members David Nichols, Steven Ingalls, and Nicole Kelley agreed to attend future meetings.

New Business

Update on Reopening of Schools Plan

Superintendent Sperrey reviewed the updated Reopening Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Superintendent Sperrey thanked the school community for their support and assistance in diligently communicating with the schools and engaging in daily screening for illness. Highlights of the changes in the plan focused on changes in the Standard Operating Procedure and potential closure considerations due to staffing impacts.

Member Wanda St. Peter made a motion to accept the proposed revisions as presented. Member Katherine Waite seconded the motion.

Unanimous

Discussion and Consideration of a Transfer of Funds Between Categories

Upon the motion of Katherine Waite and second by Wanda St. Peter, members approved a transfer of \$1,451 from Student and Staff Support to School Administration and that the local policy of a seven-day notice period be waived so that the FY21 accounts could be balanced in accordance with appropriate practices.

Unanimous

Presentation by Staff of Revisions to Math and Social Studies Standards

Principal Brett Hoogterp and CHS Math Teacher Carol Quimby presented information on the work staff has engaged in pertaining to the revised mathematics standards. Upon the motion of Jodi Brasslett and second by Tonya Wozneak members approved the revisions to the math standards as presented.

Unanimous

Principal Sandra Cookson and CMS Social Studies Teacher Michael Viani presented information on the work staff has engaged in pertaining to the revised social studies standards. Upon the motion of Jodi Brasslett and second by Tonya Wozneak members approved the revisions to the Math standards as presented.

Unanimous

Discussion and Consideration of a Professional Staff member's Request for Sabbatical Leave of Absence

Upon the motion of Nicole Kelley and second by Anne Kenneson, members approved a sabbatical leave request of CHS Science Teacher Michael Dennis for the 2022-2023 school year in accordance with the criteria outlined in the Negotiations Agreement between the Teachers' Association and the Board of

Directors and in alignment with additional provisions to be coordinated between Mr. Dennis and the Superintendent of Schools.

Unanimous

Discussion and consideration of Acceptance of Donations to Central Community Elementary School

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, members approved the donation of \$5,000 from Dunkin Raise A Cup to Teachers, and \$4,260 from All Kids Bike Kindergarten Program to Central Community Elementary School.

Unanimous

Discussion and Consideration of a Request for an Overnight Trip from the CHS Project Adventure Club

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, members voted to conditionally approve the request for an overnight trip of the CHS Project Adventure Club depending on the status of the pandemic at the time of the trip (May 2022).

Unanimous

Discussion and Consideration of a Request for an Overnight Trip from the CHS Key Club

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, members voted to conditionally approve the request for an overnight trip of the CHS Key Club depending on the status of the pandemic at the time of the trip (April 2022).

Unanimous

Discussion and Consideration of New Draft Policies

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Amy Bean, the following new draft policies and revisions to current policies were approved:

GBGB – Workplace Bullying
KDA – Public Information Program
BCH – Board Relationship and Communications with Staff (revised)
IHBAC – Child Find (revised)

Unanimous

Personnel Nominations

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Tonya Wozneak, members approved the Professional Staff appointment for 2021-2022 of:

CHS Art Teacher .5 FTE – Hannah Farrar

Unanimous

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's Support Staff appointments for 2021-2022:

CCES Ed Tech III, Title IA – Phillip Bennett
CCES Ed Tech III, Title IA – Caitlin McGuire

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rhonda Sperrey".

Rhonda Sperrey
Secretary