

RSU #38 Board of Directors
Maranacook Community Middle School
January 19, 2022
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Chair Cathy Jacobs, Vice Chair David Twitchell, Keltie Beaudoin (6:35), Kim Bowie, Tyler Dunn (remote), Patty Gordon, David Guillemette, Rebecca Lambert, Betty Morrell, Jade Parker (remote), Shawn Roderick (6:40), Melissa Tobin, Dane Wing
Administration Present: Superintendent Jay Charette, via zoom - Principals Jeff Boston, Tina Brackley, Janet Delmar, and Abbie Hartford, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Karen Smith, Finance Director Mandy Fitzgerald

1. Call to Order: Chair Jacobs called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Chair Jacobs reported, *this business meeting is being held both in person and virtually, through zoom in compliance with RSU #38 policy BED Remote Participation in School Board Meetings. The meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the maranacook.org YouTube channel.*

Please be aware that the “microphones” of the viewing audience will be muted except during the identified portions of public comments at this meeting. For today’s agenda that is Item #5. If you would like to speak during this agenda item, please use the chat feature to signal to Mrs. MacGregor and she will communicate with the Board Chair. In person speakers please sign up on the clipboard by the door. All individuals that wish to speak, whether in person or virtual, please identify yourself with first and last name and the town you live in. Please note that individuals that do not live in our member communities may or may not be granted permission to speak at the discretion of the Board Chair. Speakers are asked to limit individual comments to 2 minutes and if someone speaks ahead of you that has a similar view please reference their comment. All votes will be taken by Roll Call.

Pledge of Allegiance:

2. Citizens’ Comments: none

3. Additions/Adjustments:

4e. Appointment of first probationary contract teacher, MES Grade 1, Miska Jarvinen-Bergdahl

4f. Discuss possibility of having a student board member

Mr. Twitchell asked about adding to a future meeting a discussion about having a board evaluation, similar to the Superintendent evaluation, where the school community would take part.

Mrs. Parker read a comment from a parent regarding sports, specifically asking for clarification on the use of school gymnasiums for rec/community sports, and the unfortunate decisions to have both of the MS basketball teams cancelled.

Superintendent Charette added, he is working on a plan that would allow for the rec. programs to use the gyms on Saturday. Regarding the MS games, the decision to forfeit tournaments are made by the league and not the individual schools. Mr. Charette offered to reach out to the parent, but Mr. Wing stated he already had and Mrs. Parker stated should would talk with the parent.

4. Action Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of January 5, 2022

MOTION by Guillemette, second by Beaudoin to approve the minutes of January 5, 2022 as presented. **Motion Carried:** 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Tobin)

- b. Nomination of Interim High School Principal, Michael Harris
MOTION by Morrell, second by Lambert to accept the nomination of Michael Harris as Interim Principal for Maranacook Community High School.
Superintendent Charette introduced Mr. Harris to the Board.
Motion Carried: unanimous
- c. Appointment of first probationary contract teacher, RES Grade 4, Sara St. Laurent
MOTION by Morrell second by Lambert to appoint Sara St. Laurent to a first probationary contract as recommended. **Motion Carried:** unanimous
- d. Appointment of first probationary contract teacher, WES Grade 4, Sydney Goodridge
MOTION by Twitchell second by Beaudoin to appoint Sydney Goodridge to a first probationary contract as recommended. **Motion Carried:** unanimous
- e. Appointment of first probationary contract teacher, MES Grade 1, Miska Jarvinen-Bergdahl
MOTION by Gordon second by Twitchell to appoint Miska Jarvinen-Bergdahl to a first probationary contract as recommended. **Motion Carried:** unanimous
- f. Discuss possibility of have a student board member
Chair Jacobs reported that she has spoken to several board chairs about their experiences with having student board members who attend the meetings, take part in discussions and vote (although votes do not count as official). She asked the board for their sentiment on investigating the possibility of having one or two student members. Currently we have representatives from the middle and high schools, who report each month, but do not take an active part in the meetings. A process would need to be put in place in terms of how they are selected, etc. The board gave a “thumbs up” to continue working on this.

5. Budget Workshop

- a. Goal Statement
The Board members shared Ideas on a budget goal statement.
- Replace “success” with “growth”
 - Include a focus on staff retention and emotional wellbeing
 - Statement should be for everybody.
 - Continue to develop, preserve and maintain the academic institution
 - Preserve the academic institution for long-term sustainability
 - To support all students and staff; have staff part “professional growth”
 - Preserve, maintain, protect and serve
- Request was made for the Superintendent and Assistant work to wordsmith the board’s comments above and bring it back for the next meeting. Superintendent Charette stated he would send out a draft ahead of the next meeting for comments/suggestions.
- b. Enrollment
Superintendent Charette shared the enrollment figures as of January 14th as well as a historical/projected enrollment report compiled by New England School Development Council (NESDC).
- c. Superintendent’s Directives
Superintendent Charette reviewed his directives to the administrators and managers in developing the FY23 budget, asking that they use a range of no more than 1-2% increase in budgeting and eliminating wish list budgeting. The preliminary ED 279 was received late yesterday and it looks as though we are up a little from last year.
Questions were asked about the growth rate for supplies over the past few years; whether the state plans to cover the costs for food service another year; what the district budgets for the health

center; and what the carryover is. Question was also asked about what funds are set aside to help students catch up on the learning that has been lost due to Covid. Superintendent Charette responded, in total \$190,000 (\$80,000 set aside; \$80,000 for summer school and \$30,000 in enrichment funds. Mr. Dunn added it would be helpful to know what percent of students are behind where they were pre-Covid.

Mr. Roderick reminded everyone that the supplemental budget is coming up at the legislature, so it is important to contact your legislators.

d. Citizens' Comments Regarding Budget

Mt. Vernon resident John Harker asked about the listing of the mask mandate and establishing a Covid health and awareness program that would include funds for nutritional supplement packets, educational inserts to help parents and students understand how to build their immunity. He projects the cost would be around \$20,000. The program could be developed and deployed by health teachers and health center. He offered to answer any questions on this proposal if the Board chooses to move forward with this idea.

6. Adjournment: MOTION and second to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.

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