

**MAINE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #50  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022  
MINUTES  
SOUTHERN AROOSTOOK SCHOOL**

This meeting was also available via Zoom.

Board members present: Danny Barrows, Barbara Burton, Laura Farnsworth, Larry Greenlaw, Carman Lilley  
Stephen Porter and Greg Ryan.

Kasandra Foster and Paula Stevens were absent.

Others present: Staff – Elaine Small and Natasha Winslow  
Anthony Binotto, selectman from Crystal was in attendance.

Attending remotely were: April Bates, Jeni Siltz, Heather Swallow and Janet Vose.

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:30 p.m.; a quorum was declared and the flag salute followed.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Dec. 13, 2021, were considered.

Moved to approve by: Greg Ryan

Seconded by: Barbara Burton

Vote: Unanimous

3. Time Period to Hear from Citizens: Anthony Binotto congratulated the Board on their work.

4. The following adjustment to the agenda was made:

a. Presentation by Siemens of the proposed RSU 50 Roof Top Unit Project.

Darryl Joudrey presented for Siemens on the proposal for the upgrade of air handlers on the roof. The work includes replacement of 4 air handlers, 2 cabinet heaters, rework of four hallway ceilings, all power wiring and controls along with completed mechanical plans and estimates for possible next phase of renovations. This work will meet all current CDC recommendations and will be federally funded.

Following a question and comment time by Board members,

it was moved to approve as presented by: Greg Ryan

Seconded by: Laura Farnsworth

Vote: Unanimous

5. Reports

a. Board Chair: n/a

b. Board Vice-Chair: Laura spoke briefly on the proposed solar energy involvement of local residents. Selectman, Anthony Binotto weighed in on this also with info regarding the Town of Island Falls and its citizens.

c. Committee Reports –

Building & Grounds – to be scheduled

Education – Feb. 3 @ 5:30 p.m.

Finance – warrants were signed

Negotiations – Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. The Board Negotiations Committee met the evening to review the current RSU 50 teacher contract.

Policy – N/A

Region II – Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>

- d. Principals: April's report focused on the upcoming WinterKids Winter Games with the opening date for January 17, 2022. This is an exciting program designed to help students to be active in the winter and also learn healthy habits. Her report is included.
- e. Special Services Director: Janet updated the Board on the State review, the upcoming SPIRE virtual training and the Special Ed. PLC coming later this month. Her report is included.
- f. Business Manager: Natasha's report included the RSU 50 budget by cost center and the percent remaining, as well as a current expenditure report.
- g. Superintendent: The Superintendent's report included: student recognition and Covid-19 updates. (enclosed).

6. Announcement of Appointments/Resignations/Retirements:

Co-curricular appointments:

Middle School Baseball- David Day

High School Baseball - Todd Collier

High School Softball - Paul Sherman

Burton Clark, Jr. has been hired to fill the vacant bus driving position.

7. Policies to consider for a First Reading: N/A

8. Policies to consider for a Second Reading/Amendments: N/A

9. Other Business – Old/New

a. Request for a contribution to Project Graduation for SACS, Class of 2022.

The Board will award \$150.00 to SACS, Class of 2022 in their support for Project Graduation.

Moved to approve by: Larry Greenlaw

Seconded by: Barbara Burton

Vote: Unanimous

b. Consideration of action regarding last month's presentation by NOVEL to join a solar garden.

After updated materials were made available, discussion and a legal opinion rendered, it was moved that the vote entitled:

"Vote to authorize the Purchase of Net Energy Billing Credits," be adopted in form presented at this meeting. The Superintendent will pursue a 7 year vs. a 10 year contract.

Moved by: Larry Greenlaw

Seconded by: Carman Lilley

Vote: Unanimous

c. Update on Standard Operating Procedures with regard to Covid-19.

The Superintendent addressed the changes in the new SOP from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention designed for schools.

9. Future Agenda Items:

The completed audit for 2021 will be available.

Joe Fagnant, Adult Ed. Director for RSU 29 and MSAD 70 will make a brief presentation to the Board.

School Calendar for 2022-23

Shared Services

11. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Region II Board Meeting	Tues. Jan. 11, 6:00 p.m. Region II
- Education Committee	Thurs. Feb. 3, 5:30 p.m.
- Policy Meeting	Mon. Feb. 14, 5:45 p.m.
- Finance Committee	Mon. Feb. 14, 6:15 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting	Mon. Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m.
- Region II Board Meeting	no meeting in February

12. Executive Session Executive Session under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A) to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation.

Motion to enter: Laura Farnsworth

Second: Greg Ryan

Vote: Unanimous

Time in: 8:04 p.m.

Motion to leave: Barbara Burton

Second: Carman Lilley

Vote: Unanimous

Time out: 8:28 p.m.

Action as a result of the Executive Session:

Motion by: Greg Ryan to extend the Superintendent's contract for 2 years with salary to be negotiated at a later date.

Second: Laura Farnsworth

Vote: Unanimous

13. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. by: Laura Farnsworth

Second: Barbara Burton

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted



Jonathan Porter, Superintendent  
Regional School Unit 50



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ryan Pelletier or April Bates  
Southern Aroostook Community School  
Phone: 207-757-8206  
Email Contact Information  
ryanpelletier@rsu50.org  
abates@rsu50.org

### Students at Southern Aroostook Community School are Going for the Gold in the 5th Annual WinterKids Winter Games!

**Dyer Brook-** Students from RSU 50 are participating in the WinterKids Winter Games for four consecutive weeks beginning the week of January 17th, 2022. Our opening ceremony will be January 14th. Students compete in a series of outdoor physical activity and nutrition challenges designed to help them be active in the winter and learn healthy habits. Each school is encouraged to involve volunteers, parents, healthy eating and active living organizations in their community, and hold a winter carnival to close out the month's events. This year's WinterKids Winter Games theme is the Winter Olympic Games.

Schools applied for entry into the Winter Games, in hopes of earning the top prize-\$10,000! All elementary schools in Maine's sixteen counties were eligible to participate. This year, 22 schools reaching 3805 children and over 900 teachers and staff, will be competing. RSU 50 is one of the Aroostook County schools for 2022. Schools competing in the WinterKids Winter Games receive a toolkit full of resources and incentives to help students earn points, including the brand new WinterKids Learn Outside Guide- an easy to use resource to help kids move, learn, and explore outdoors while meeting education standards.

This fantastic opportunity is spearheaded by our elementary gym teacher Ryan Pelletier with the support of the elementary principal April Bates. Southern Aroostook is thrilled to be selected to participate in the WinterKids Winter Games. This is an exciting opportunity to showcase healthy behaviors with our students, and to work toward earning prizes for our school! We have a series of activities planned this month, including tracking steps, good nutrition and winter carnival.

Schools participating in the WinterKids Winter Games accrue points for cash prize awards: \$10,000 - Gold Medal School, \$7,500 - Silver Medal School, and \$5,000 - Bronze Medal School. The remaining 19 schools will also receive cash awards based on their place at the end of the competition. A total of \$50,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded by WinterKids this year.

For more information about RSU 50's involvement in the WinterKids Winter Games, please contact Ryan Pelletier or April Bates at 757-8206 or email at [ryanpelletier@rsu50.org](mailto:ryanpelletier@rsu50.org) or [abates@rsu50.org](mailto:abates@rsu50.org). For a complete list of participating schools or questions regarding the WinterKids Winter Games, please visit [www.winterkids.org](http://www.winterkids.org).

WinterKids is the nonprofit organization that helps children develop healthy lifelong habits through education and fun, outdoor winter activity. The organization delivers innovative outdoor programs for families, schools, and communities. WinterKids' Major Community Sponsor is LL.Bean. WinterKids' Supporting Sponsors are Agren, Central Maine Power, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, WEX, WMTW Channel 8 and Maine's The CW. The WinterKids Winter Games is also supported by Hannaford Snack Pals, Backyard Farms, Subway of Maine, Aroma Joes, Kittery Trading Post, and MMG Insurance. Learn more at [WinterKids.org](http://WinterKids.org).

## Elementary Report

1-10-22

1. WinterKids starts this Friday with an Opening Ceremony. We are competing with 21 other schools in the state to win up to \$10,000. All competing schools will receive some money for participating. We hope to purchase snowshoes, cross country skis and ice skates with our winnings. See our attached press release for more information. It will be great if we win, but our ultimate goal is to have fun and help everyone create healthy winter habits.
2. Winter NWEA testing starts this week and will finish next week in the elementary school. This testing guides our winter data meetings and our interventions from now until spring.
3. During the January Early Release Day the K-8 staff will be getting updated training on the IXL math and reading program.
4. Grades 3-5 PLC has been discussing and using Mystery Science. It's an online program that they report as being a great sequential program that is easy to plan and prepare. They added some supplies to their budgets to support the lessons.
5. Grade PreK-2 PLC is working on matching and tracking math and reading standards to their report cards. They want to make this more consistent and more user friendly for parents and teachers.
6. The Elementary Budget is done. It's up about \$3,000 from last year with one more teacher creating a budget.
7. Winter recess activities, rules and safety were updated last week with recess duty teachers.

## **School Board Notes 1/10/22 from Special Education - Janet Vose**

- IEP Transition (B-13) training as part of the state review happened, Britt and Olivia attended it. It was recorded and I plan to review it with the entire sp. ed teaching staff at the PLC.
- I have finished the budget, and it's similar to last year.
- I have put together a SPIRE virtual training on March 17, 18th. As of right now we are partnering with several schools. East Grand, Houlton/Hodgdon, Lincoln and East Millinocket. There are 30 participants.
- Special Ed PLC coming up on the next half day on Jan 26th with special ed. It will be the first one of the year, as it's been really challenging to get together due to coverage, staff outages, etc.

### **Special Ed Numbers for December**

**IEP's = 76**

**504's = 14**

**Meetings = 14**

**Total Number of Students who receive services = 90**

- increase of 2
- 26% of student body receives services

**RSU 50 Superintendent Report RSU 50 Board Meeting  
January 10, 2022**

**1. Region Two Report**

- a. The next Region Two Board meeting is January 14, 2022 at 6:00pm.

**2. Student recognition**

**1st Trimester Honor Roll for Grades 6-12**

**Grade 12**

**Highest Honors (3.75-4.0):** Maggie Harthorne

**High Honors (3.4-3.75):** Hunter Burpee, Esther Greene, Emily Skinner

**Honors (3.0-3.39):** Gracie Brewer, Adain Bubar, Chris Caswell, Lindsay Derosier, Samantha Desrosier, Aedan Gadsby, Jordyn Legassey, Laura Lyons, Christopher Mitchell, Emily Stewart, Devon Tarr, Ethan Webb

**Grade 11**

**Highest Honors (3.75-4.0):** Jennah Brooks, Alyssa Crandall, Callie Russell

**High Honors (3.4-3.75):** John Langer, Alexia MacLaren, Shayna McMannus, Madison Russell

**Honors (3.0-3.39):** Wyatt Kuliga, Camden Porter

**Grade 10**

**Highest Honors (3.75-4.0):** Cami Shields

**High Honors (3.4-3.75):** Dylan Burpee, Tristen Hardy, Bridger Noyes, Bailey Vose

**Honors (3.0-3.39):** Amaya Boutlier, Leana Caswell, Brooke Ivey, Emmalee Landry, Lexi-lynn Rackliff, Autumn Robinson, Madison Shields, Conner Walker

**Grade 9**

**Highest Honors (3.75-4.0):** Rylee Webb

**High Honors (3.4-3.75):** Libby Anderson, Ciera Dignan, Olivia Engebretson, Rylee Kuliga, Sarah London, Addyson Schmidt,

**Honors (3.0-3.39):** Ethan Collier, Jacob Ellingwood, Mackenzie Lilley, Bethany Schmidt, Alaina Stevens, Austin Tarr

**Grade 8**

**Honors (3.0-3.39):** Dillan Bishop, Richard Chambers, Daniel Kuindersma, Kason Lawlor, Hannah McGary, Ally Shields, Annie Stevens, Joel Strother, Ashlyn York

**Grade 7:**

**Honors (3.0-3.39):** Kevin Clark, Emma Cooper, Frank Drake, Jazmyn Ellingwood, Ruth Greene, Alexa Hersey, William Hersey, Connor Lilley

**Grade 6**

**High Honors (3.4-3.75):** Haley McGary, Jakoby Porter

**Honors (3.0-3.39):** Lyndsie Beaulieu, Caroline Elhoff, Mason Hatch, Kendal Lawlor, Jayden White

**Hunter Burpee** - Congratulations to Hunter Burpee on scoring his 1.000 career point in high school basketball.

**College Acceptances**

**Samantha Desrosier** - Congratulations to Samantha Desrosier on her acceptance to University of Maine at Fort Kent in the Nursing program.

**Ethan Webb** - Congratulations to Ethan Webb on his acceptance to Eastern Maine Community College in the Electricians Technology program. Ethan has also been accepted to Northern Maine Community College in the Electrical & Maintenance AAS program.

**Brianna Daggett** - Congratulations to Brianna Daggett on her acceptance to the University of Maine at Augusta in the Pre-Dental program. She was awarded the Dean's Academic Scholarship worth up to \$12,000. Bri has also been accepted to the University of Maine at Farmington in Liberal Arts. She received a merit scholarship worth \$8,000

**Julia Murray** - Congratulations to Julia Murray on her acceptance to University of New England into the Nutrition program. She has been awarded a \$14,000 University Merit award.

### **3. Buildings & Grounds Update-Windows in the Middle/High School**

Seven windows are currently being replaced in the middle/high school area. This is part of the CARES/CRF money from last year. Due to staff concern(s) last week about the construction, RSU 50 hired a firm to come test the areas being worked on for asbestos. I am happy to report the areas in the building being worked on does **not** contain asbestos. The report will also be filed with the Department of Environmental Protection. The building has an annual "asbestos check and report" completed. This testing was in addition to our annual testing. I hope this alleviates any fear or concern around asbestos and the construction projects currently being completed.

The safety and the well-being of the students and staff continue to be the number one priority of the RSU 50 board and the RSU 50 administration. The reason the windows are being replaced is to continue to improve the air quality in the building during the pandemic. The timing of the work was not ideal, but contractors, materials, and other resources are very limited during the pandemic. Again, I apologize for the timing of the work, but believe the new windows are a necessity to improve the overall air quality for our students and staff. The work was originally slated for the week of Christmas Break.

### **4. Covid-19 Update**

**Pooled testing:** Testing is going very well with very limited disruption to the school day. We now have over 140 people signed up and participating in pooled testing. A huge thank you to school nurse Kathy Chamberland and Becky Anderson for getting this program up and running for our students and staff. FAQ's and information about pooled testing can be found here:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov/doe/files/inline-files/School%20Testing%20FAQ%208.23.21%20FINAL.pdf>

#### **Vaccination Rate for RSU 50 Staff:**

Report Period: 11/31/2021

Details for Central Operations Staff:

Total Number of Staff Reported: 90

Total Number of Staff Fully Vaccinated: 64

Total Number of Staff with an Unknown Vaccination Status: 26

**Maine Board of Occupational Safety and Health to Meet on January 18 on OSHA's Emergency Temporary Standard Requiring COVID-19 Vaccination or Testing for Public Sector Employees**

*Per State law and longstanding agreement with OSHA, Maine must adopt the standard for public employers.*

**AUGUSTA** – Maine's Board of Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) will hold a special meeting virtually at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 to discuss adopting the U.S. Department of Labor's



Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) for the public sector.

The federal ETS requires that all private employers with 100 or more employees ensure their workforce is fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or require that any workers who remain unvaccinated wear a mask at work and produce a negative COVID-19 test result on at least a weekly basis before coming to work. OSHA enforcement of the ETS for private sector employers takes effect January 10, 2022.

As announced in September 2021, the U.S. Department of Labor informed the Maine Department of Labor that its requirement will apply to public sector employers in Maine, including state, county, and local governments, and public-school systems. Under longstanding State law and a 2015 agreement with the Federal government, known as a "state plan," Maine is required to adopt and enforce for public employers all of OSHA's occupational safety and health standards. Maine is one of 26 states and two territories to have a state plan agreement with the Federal government.

BOSH is required to adopt OSHA's standards within 30 days of the standard's official release; however, the process had been temporarily paused due to ongoing federal litigation. On December 17, 2021, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit dissolved the Fifth Circuit's stay of the ETS, thereby reimposing the requirement that BOSH adopt its own rule for public sector employers.

As a result, at its meeting BOSH is expected to adopt an emergency rule for public sector employers and begin the regular process to adopt a permanent rule. The BOSH rule must at a minimum conform to the federal OSHA standard. The emergency rule for public sector employers is expected to be effective immediately. However, MDOL would exercise its enforcement discretion in the same manner as OSHA, giving employers thirty days to comply with most of the requirements, and an additional thirty days to comply with the testing requirement.

Pending Court action may impact the schedule of this meeting.

More information on BOSH, how to attend the virtual meeting, and next steps can be found on the Department's website: [https://www.maine.gov/labor/workplace\\_safety/publicsector.shtml](https://www.maine.gov/labor/workplace_safety/publicsector.shtml)

OSHA's federal ETS for private sector employers can be found here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2021-23643/covid-19-vaccination-and-testing-emergency-temporary-standard>

Information on federal enforcement in the private sector can be found on OSHA's website here:

<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets2>

Respectfully Submitted:

Jon Porter, RSU 50 Superintendent

1/10/2022