

**PENOBSCOT INDIAN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, January 24, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M.  
Community Via Zoom**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

- Carole Binette, Chairperson
- Naomi Neptune, Vice-Chairperson
- David Sapiel, Sr.
- Jo-Ann Lolar
- Elisha Sockbeson

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Annemarie Swanson, Principal
- Dr. Reza Namin, Superintendent

1. Chairperson Binette called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.
2. Motion by Mr. Sapiel, Sr., and seconded by Ms. Lolar, to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2021 meeting. Voted: Unanimous
3. Wabanaki REACH Programming Presentation by Heather Augustine. Ms. Augustine who is a member of the Elsipogtog First Nation Canada and lives in Maine explained the mission of the REACH Program as supporting the self-determination of Wabanaki people through education, truth-telling, restorative justice, and restorative practices in Wabanaki and Maine communities, designing the structures and processes to be responsive to Wabanaki communities, and beneficial to Wabanaki people. A vision of envisioning a future when Maine and Wabanaki people join together to acknowledge the truth and work collectively toward equity, healing, and positive change, aspire to restore right relations, responsibility, compassion, love, reciprocity, abundance, and joy. The REACH Program value believes in the natural strength and beauty of Wabanaki culture, language, and ways of believing in the power of Wabanaki people learning the truth about history reclaiming traditional healing practices, and honoring and promoting Wabanaki values of taking care of one another, of being grateful, joyful, loving and forgiving. There would be a series of professional development dedicated to the REACH Program.

4. Discussion of Updated COVID-19 Staff Handbook. The handbook will be revised to reflect the following:
  - a. Motion by Mr. Sapiel, Sr., and seconded by Ms. Lolar to approve the existing CDC COVID-19 Guideline as presented, and make the changes to the following language: Employees who are Not Fully Vaccinated and/or are Eligible for their Boosters but have not yet received their booster are required to use their Sick Days for any COVID-19 Health-Related Sick Days, if an employee has no remaining sick time available, the employee will not be paid for the time when they're absent, effective immediately. The staff who are Fully Vaccinated and Eligible for their Booster but are waiting for their booster to become available due to CDC guidelines will continue to be supported by the existing CDC Guidelines.
  - b. Motion by Ms. Lolar, and seconded by Mr. Sapiel, Sr., to approve the existing CDC Guidelines as presented for all students at Indian Island Elementary School effective immediately. Voted: Unanimous

5. Reports:

- Report of Principal's: (EXHIBIT A).
- Report of Superintendent:

Dr. Namin expressed his thanks to Principal Swanson and the staff for working hard to keep the school open. He also reported that Ms. Janna Stacey, Special Education Coordinator has submitted her retirement effective June 30, 2022. Dr. Namin thanked Ms. Stacey for all her work and dedication to serving our communities. There will be a search committee with fair representations. Dr. Namin also announced the approval of the BIE and the US Department of Education of the Waiver application to only use the Maine Learning Assessments.

6. Community Comments:

There was a comment regarding the need to provide some remote teaching and learning support, in case the teacher is absent due to any COVID-19 Health-Related event.

- a. Motion by Chairperson Binette, and seconded by Ms. Lolar to move into executive session in accordance with the 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) to discuss a legal matter since the public discussion could be reasonably expected to cause damages to the reputation or the individual's right to privacy would be violated. Voted: Unanimous. Time in: 6:33 P.M., and Time Out: 7:09 P.M.

7. A motion was made by Mr. Sapiel, Sr., and seconded by Ms. Sockbeson to adjourn. Voted: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reza Namin, PhD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Dr. Reza Namin, Superintendent of Schools  
Maine Indian Education  
Penobscot Indian School Department