

PENOBSCOT INDIAN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M.

Community Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carole Binette, Naomi Neptune,
Jo-Ann Lolar, Elisha Sockbeson (via Zoom).

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Francis, Principal,
Dr. Reza Namin, Superintendent.
Tammy Ginn, Business Manager

AGENDA

1. Dr. Namin called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. There was a moment of silence to honor David Sapiel, Sr. He served four consecutive terms from 2002 to 2014. In 2018 he filled a one-year vacancy and was then reelected to serve one more term from 2019-2022 and reelected again in 2022. He served as a School Committee member for a total of 16 years.
3. Dr. Namin opened the floor for nominations for a Chairperson. Ms. Lolar made a motion to nominate Ms. Binette for Chairperson, and Ms. Neptune seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
4. Chairperson Binette opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Ms. Lolar nominated Ms. Neptune, and Chairperson Binette seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
5. APPOINTMENT OF UNITED SOUTH & EASTERN TRIBES EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES.
Representation for the 2022-23 school year:
 - Carole Binette, Member
 - Jo-Ann Lolar, Alternate Member
6. Vice Chairperson Neptune made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2022, School Committee meeting, and Ms. Lolar seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
7. Ms. Lolar made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to employ Paul Dana as Mechanic/Custodian with a written reasonable assurance for the remainder of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and Vice Chairperson Neptune seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairperson Binette made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to employ Tracy Thompson as Rtl Coordinator for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year with an extracurricular contract, and Vice Chairperson Neptune seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairperson Binette made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to employ Cante' England as Secretary/Receptionist at Maine Indian Education for the remainder of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and Ms. Lolar seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

8. Chairperson Binette made a motion to made a motion to employ John Neptune as Boys Basketball Coach for the 2022-2023 season with an extracurricular contract, and Ms. Lolar seconded the motion. There were three votes in favor and one abstention.
9. Business Manager Ginn made a presentation of a proposed support staff salary scale for the 2024 fiscal year. After some discussion about the proposed increases, the School Committee asked Ms. Ginn to bring back revised scales will additional increases for both the support staff and professional staff. The School Committee will make a final decision for approval during the budget process in the spring.
10. CONSIDERATION TO UPDATE MIE EMPLOYMENT POLICIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BIE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND AUDIT.
11. CONSIDERATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PERSONNEL SECURITY CONSULTANTS INC. TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS AND ADJUDICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH BIE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND AUDITING.
12. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF FINGERPRINTING EQUIPMENT.

Items 10, 11, and 12 were tabled until the Joint School Committee meeting in December.

13. Dr. Namin is awaiting word from the BIA that they've approved the replacement of the Indian Island Security Fencing prior to moving the process forward.
14. Dr. Namin reported that Indian Island School is on the list of the top nine or ten BIE schools to receive a substantial amount of school improvement funding. The BIA has committed more than a million dollars for upgrading the heating and ventilation system. The BIA has already visited the School to review the needs. Dr. Namin is hopeful that the consultants will agree that there is a need for a significant update.
15. REPORTS:
PRINCIPAL'S (See Exhibit A)

SUPERINTENDENT'S

Dr. Namin expressed his appreciation for all of Ms. Francis's hard work and congratulated her on receiving her State certification from the Maine Department of Education. Dr. Namin shared that the custodial position at Maine Indian Education will be reposted in hopes of increasing the pool of applicants, and the plan is to hire the respective candidate at the Joint School Committee meeting in December.

Dr. Namin expressed his gratitude to the School Committee for the good wishes and prayers during this difficult time. Dr. Namin mentioned that he's interested in pursuing possibilities for students to be transported in electric buses (moving away from diesel). He will continue to investigate funding options to support this change.

16. COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

There was a question about the outdoor learning space that was planned for Indian Island School some time ago. Ms. Francis shared that the project has been delayed but she is hopeful that there will be a definitive plan in place by the winter so the project will move forward.

There was a question from a School Committee member regarding the Student Support Professional that Ms. Francis mentioned in her principal's report. After some discussion about the position and how to support this effort, Chairperson Binette made a motion to create the grant-funded position of Student Support Professional for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year, and Vice Chairperson Neptune seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Ms. Francis will post the position in-house.

It was agreed that the school supply drive that's conducted annually will be renamed the *David Sapiel, Sr. School Supply Drive*.

The School Committee will be sponsoring a cold weather supply drive (i.e. socks, hats, mittens, etc.) beginning next Month. Chairperson Binette will create a flyer to announce this effort.

There was an affirmation of the strong sense of community that was flourishing within the school.

Chairperson Binette made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Lolar seconded the motion at 6:05 PM, The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



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