

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 64
Bradford Corinth Hudson Kenduskeag Stetson

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 1, 2022

The members of the Board of Directors of RSU 64 met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022 in response to an agenda dated February 24, 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, Haley Emery, Amy Bean, Sherry Horn, Nicole Kelley, Curtis Chadbourne, Robert Young, Chad Crooker

Student Representatives
Present: None

Members Absent: Tonya Wozneak, Terri Jane Casavant

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 16 members present, and 2 members absent.

Upon the motion of Anne Kenneson and second of Katherine Waite, the Board voted to approve the draft minutes of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting (January 24, 2022), and the Hiring Committee Meeting (January 24, 2022) 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 retirement from Lauren Caisse (Food Service Assistant) and Dennis Goodrow (CCES Custodian). The Board is also in receipt of a letter of resignation from Christopher Cook (CMS Assistant Track Coach), John Curry (CMS Intramurals), Kathy Jackson (CHS Ed Tech III), Sally Page (CHS Ed Tech III), and Michael Rowe (CMS "A" Baseball Coach).

Chair Williams called for Public Forum items.

Ron Ireland of Corinth expressed concerns about the item he requested be placed on the agenda was not placed on the agenda. Mr. Ireland referenced the policy regarding Board agenda creation and expressed disappointment that his item has not been considered as a formal agenda item, specifically. Mr. Ireland shared concerns about the remote learning plan the District has had in place during the COVID-19 pandemic and raised questions about how the District reports student learning and assessment.

Michael Anderson of Hudson shared his support of the District's potential move to optional masking.

Reports

Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the following administrative topics:

CCES Well Update

Having passed all of the testing on the new well at CCES, the boil water order has been lifted. The District is no longer purchasing bottled water for drinking and cooking. The final insurance claim documentation will be submitted by March 4, 2022.

ESSER Funding

Federal monies continue to be used to support additional technology needs, PPE purchases, staffing supports, student programs, and professional development. Mr. Cole met with Carpenter Associates to discuss the scope of the HVAC project at Central High School specifically, last week. It was agreed during that meeting that it would be near to impossible to force a large project of this nature to be completed this summer. Carpenter Associates is currently working with several businesses (to include a couple of school districts) to try to make projects like this one happen within the next 12 months and they have run into major hurdles. The workforce is not available to perform the work and supplies are very difficult to come by. There have also been very few companies bid on the projects, apparently due to the same challenges, which would significantly impact the competitive bid process. RSU 64 will use the next several months to complete smaller parts of the project and scope out the larger parts for next summer. The grant funds available will expire September 2024.

District Enrollment (As of February 1, 2022)

CCES – 489 (-1)

CMS – 239 (-2)

CHS – 301 (-5)

Total = 1029 (-8)

Administrator Reports

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

CCES Principal Carrie Carr – Mrs. Carr had nothing to add to her report.

CCES Assistant Principal Kerri Wyman – Ms. Wyman had nothing to add to her report.

CMS Principal Sandra Cookson – Mrs. Cookson had nothing to add to her report.

CHS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Jared Foster – Mr. Foster shared highlights from the winter sports season and congratulated the students and coaches on successful seasons.

Curriculum Coordinator Danette Kerrigan – Ms. Kerrigan had nothing to add to her report.

Special Education Director Riley Donovan – Mr. Donovan expanded on the information in his report related to the new Social Worker position in the District and the current data related to the number of students receiving special education services.

Comprehensive Regional Technical High School Update – Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the planning around the comprehensive regional technical high school concept. Although the planning team has not met since the last meeting of the Board of Directors, much work has taken place with regards to LD 176 - the special private legislation that would allow all four school units involved to create a unified CSD for Grades 9-12 in the region, should the voters approve. The legislation is new, given no other such entity currently exists in Maine law. The bulk of the bill proposes the details of a transition that would occur should the comprehensive regional technical high school project come to fruition. In the bill, RSU 64 is included as a potential member however, the District is separated from the other three districts (MSAD 4, MSAD 41 & MSAD 46) given they are named and approved on the initial project application and RSU 64 is not. A work session on LD 176 is scheduled for Thursday, March 3, at 9:30

a.m. Any members or public citizens wishing to listen/watch the work session are encouraged to register via the Legislature's website as all work sessions are done virtually.

New Business

Update on Reopening of Schools Plan

Superintendent Sperrey reviewed current RSU 64 COVID-19 data and the updated Reopening Plan for the 2021-2022 school year which includes a timeline for RSU 64 to move toward optional indoor masking for students, staff and visitors. Superintendents in the region have been working together for weeks to establish an agreed upon timeline for moving toward optional masking given the significant fall in the number of COVID-19 cases and the pattern of an uptick in cases after each vacation break. Revisions in the Reopening Plan include continued weekly pool testing for those wishing to participate and the move to optional masking indoors on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

Upon the motion of Chad Crooker and second by Wanda St. Peter members approved the revisions to the Reopening Plan as presented.

Yea -- 15
Nay -- 1 (Nichols)
Abstention - 0

Budget Update

All building level budgets have been entered into the draft budget. 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 EPS formula continues to include adjustments in enrollment and targeted fund categories to reflect attempts to offset the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is expected the District will be receiving a total allocation of \$10,608,714.22. This is \$598,001.48 more than last year. The subsidy to the District is projected to increase by \$627,037.99 and debt service will decrease by \$29,036.51 to \$1,862,374.84. The local portion of debt service will be reduced by approximately \$331 to \$21,246.

Discussion FY22 Budget – Status Update

The budget currently in place is adequately addressing the financial needs of the District. Unanticipated expenses due to the replacement of the well at CCES are expected to be offset with a pending insurance settlement. Superintendent Sperrey expressed significant concern with the increase in electricity costs recently. The District expenditures for electricity in February exceeded January's costs by \$10,630. Outside of energy costs, in general, budget expenditures are on track with each Function at 50-60% of expenditures midyear.

Preliminary Discussion FY23 Budget

The Finance Committee is discussing several items for budgetary consideration:

- Increases in contractual costs for transportation, professional, and support staff.
- Increases to health insurance premiums are not yet known. This information is expected to be released in mid-March.
- Ongoing training and maintenance service agreements for facilities.

- Increasing energy costs, specifically for electricity.
- Bids for pellet and oil fuel.
- Bids for snow removal and sanding.
- The enrollment increase at CHS necessitates an additional teaching position. Mr. Hoogterp is recommending an additional half-time social studies teacher and a half-time math teacher to be combined with the current half-time science vacancy. Mr. Hoogterp has also requested consideration be given to expanding the half-time art position to full time so as to facilitate an increase in available art electives for students.
- The administrative team is also recommending an expansion of the half-time nurse position to a full time position.

Upcoming meetings:

Finance Committee – March 14, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at the Superintendent's Office

Finance Committee and Municipal Officers - April 4, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the CCES cafeteria

New Student Information System

Given the current Student Information System (SIS), Tyler, will not be supported in Maine after 2023, a group of teachers and administrators have been working over the past several months to review and select a new system. Upon the recommendation of that Committee, Superintendent Sperrey recommended the Board approve the purchase of, and migration to, Infinite Campus for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.

Upon the motion of Katherine Waite and second by Amy Bean members approved the recommendation as presented.

Unanimous

Pellet Bid Award for Central Community Elementary School

Upon the motion of Jodi Brasslett and second by Curtis Chadbourne, members approved the bid award for pellets for the 2022-23 heating season to Maine Woods Pellet Co, LLC in the amount of \$199/ton delivered.

Unanimous

Personnel Nominations

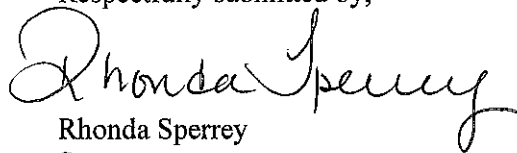
Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's Support Staff appointments for 2021-2022:

CMS/CHS Food Service Assistant – Sandra Emery
CMS/CHS Food Service Assistant – Sarah McCorrison
CCES Ed Tech I – Tammy Thompson

Upon the motion of Chad Crooker and second by Jodi Brasslett, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by,



Rhonda Sperrey
Secretary