

## **Education Committee Minutes**

Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 6:30 PM

Old Nokomis

**Members Present:** Mark Guzzi, Robin McNeil, Chad Stratton, Alyssa Worster, David Cameron, Jenny Watson

**Members Absent:** Ryan Parker (excused), Susan Buck (excused)

**Others Present:** Lori Merrow, Mike Hammer, Mary Nadeau, Libby Tyndale, Brian Clarke, Melissa Coppa, Mark Poulin (area coordinator JMG)

### **I. Public Comment - None**

- II. JROTC** - Brian Clarke gave us an update on the JROTC program which started in 1994, is Defense Department funded and we are one of 5 or 6 in the state. The program runs synonymously with the Career and Educational Development Department, following a lot of the same standards and content expectations. The group is student led with the command turning over twice a year. The following is a list of the activities that the students participate in, many of which we saw in pictures throughout his presentation: 911 climb to the highest Maine peaks, POW remembrance ceremony, federally funded summer camp for all interested, drill team competition, Giving Tree/stuff the cupboard, wreath laying, winter survival (which is one of the bigger hits), robotics, Unified Basketball, and raiders fitness program. This list tries to capture the extent of the activities. Students are also taught team building, leadership, and discipline skills through hands-on and classroom activities. The capacity to go into and onto the service is discussed and pathways to get there; however, it is not a requirement. Many of the students receive large scholarships and preferential entrance to secondary education. Brian would like to expand his program to maximize the students' experience in robotics, riflery, and many of the other programs the students participate in. That conversation will move over to the Building Committee in the future. Presently, 100-120 students participate with an annual goal of about 10% of the population participating.

- III. Gifted and Talented** - Libby Tyndale gave us an update on the Society for Science Grant that gave us equipment for our students and her program in general. She also wants to share the supplies with other science teachers. She hopes to get a couple middle school students to participate in the state Science fair which has been recently resurrected. GT generally qualifies 5% of the population with 1 to 2% being extremely gifted. Presently, Libby works with 50 students at the middle school and we have a teacher at the high school who supports 30 or so in the high school. At the high school, it is a more coordinated effort to get students into Advanced Placement, Honors, and college classes to enrich and extend their learning. During Covid Wednesday last year, she met with groups of 4th graders remotely, from across the district, for Math enrichment. Students qualify for GT through multiple measures including NWEA, parent referral, Cognitive Ability Assessment, a nationally normed multiple faceted assessment. Our students participate in Math Counts Competition, Science Fair, National History Day, and other state competitions. We have one student that qualified for the state Math meet. Libby teaches one higher level Math class and is working with the Visual and Performing Arts Department to identify and provide opportunities to enrich those areas as well. This will get easier as our staff work together without Covid restrictions. It is difficult to develop this area without classroom art at the elementary level.
- IV. Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG)** - Melissa Coppa, in her 15th year as a specialist for us, gave us a presentation on JMG. Her regional representative, Mark Poulin also attended. JMG also falls under the career education department; it is supported by private business. She has about 45-55 students with about 10 post graduate students she tracks for support. We also have a middle school program with a new specialist, Teagan Mills. JMG focuses on career, leadership, social awareness, and civil engagement elements of the curriculum, there is also a financial literacy component. Students qualify under six “barriers to education” including; economically disadvantaged, foster care, disability, students facing inequities, poor academic performance, and JMG Advisory Committee recommendation. JMG students participate in many community service projects including many of those listed under the JROTC program. They also work in coordination with the KEY Club and community partners. JMG students compete in job related skills competitions, including creating new business plans, resume building, interviews and performance based tasks. It truly builds the soft skills that many of today’s employers desire in their employees.
- V. Future Agenda Items** - Lori would like another coaching update

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Hammer, Superintendent