RSU29

School Board Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2022 6:00 p.m.
Place: Houlton High School Auditorium

Members present: Fred Grant, Erica Peabody, Scott White, Sue McLaughlin, Tammy Goetsch, Sara Deveau, Christopher Cain, Jeannie Tapley, Jennifer Johnston, Margaret York
Members absent: Timothy Youngfellow, Ellen Askren & Stephenie Lively

A. The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Discuss and act on permitting Board members to participate virtually.
   No discussion was held regarding permitting Board members to participate virtually.

C. Discuss RSU #29 universal masking protocol
   Board members discussed the current RSU #29 universal masking protocol. Superintendent thanked the staff and students for their continued adherence to the current masking policy. Covid statistics and updated case numbers were provided. Currently HMHS and HES are in “outbreak status”.
   R.N. Holly Hodgkins provided information regarding the effects that implementing an optional masking policy would have on quarantine mandates and contact tracing procedures. Principal Tweedie, Principal Peterson and Principal Crane provided their input regarding the current masking policy.

D. Public Participation
   Members of the public were given an opportunity to voice their comments and to ask the RSU Board questions.

E. Discuss and act on recommendation of Superintendent of Schools regarding universal masking
   Superintendent of schools recommended that RSU #29 schools move to optional masking. Superintendent advised The Maine DHHS and Maine DOE advised Maine school units and child care providers, effective March 9, 2022, universal masking is no longer a statewide recommendation in these settings, but is optional.
   A motion was made by Christopher Cain and seconded by Tammy Goetsch to make masks optional beginning March 4. After much discussion a motion was made by Christopher Cain and seconded by Tammy Goetsch to modify the previous motion to delete the start date. The motion carried unanimously.
   A motion was made by Christopher Cain and seconded by Tammy Goetsch to make masks optional starting March 9, 2022. The vote was tie with 5 yes votes and 5 no votes. As required by law, Board members cast weighted votes. The vote was 437 yes votes and 359 no votes. Masks will be optional starting March 9, 2022.

F. Adjournment
   A motion was made by Tammy Goetsch and seconded by Christopher Cain to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Lyons
Secretary

NOTE: Minutes are not official until approved by the RSU/MSAD 29 School Board