

ADJUSTMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT, AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Joseph reported that the 2022-2023 school year calendar is being drafted and she will be meeting with representatives from the SEA tomorrow to review the proposed draft. Ms. Joseph will be meeting with all of our regional sending schools for their review of the calendar to make sure that we don't have more than five dissimilar days for Bath Tech. The proposed calendar will be brought to the Board during the February or March Board meeting.

Ms. Joseph stated that the staff, students and families will be asked to complete a survey about Brightspace around March 1st. The results of the survey will be shared with the Board.

Superintendent Manuel reported that he has been working with members of the Morse and Bath Tech staff to offer an internship program next fall. The program will give students an opportunity to experience different fields of work to see what is interesting to them. The students would need to complete a certain number of hours and a culminating learning project to receive credit. The other piece of the program is more of a work study experience where students will get paid to work. The Bath Tech students would have the opportunity to meet industry standards through this program and the Morse students would learn skills, gain experience and explore different job offerings. The committee discussed finding a company that would allow a larger amount of students to visit for a few days to learn every aspect of the different positions so that they may begin to understand the different components. Dr. Manuel is hopeful that there will be some federal money for a coordinator for the academic side and we are working with JMG to discuss some possible funding opportunities for the Bath Tech side as well.

Assistant Superintendent Joseph reported that our K-8 teachers will be working with Maine Math and Science Alliance again next year. Previously we have been working with them on our science curriculum and next year will be reviewing the best teaching math practices. This will include some professional development and a review of our current textbooks to see if they align with current best practices.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Superintendent Manuel reported that the committee met to discuss the federal projects such as the installation of bottle filling stations in each school. We hope to receive the air handling units for the air conditioning at Woolwich School by March in order to do the rooftop condensers during April break. The project will be completed in June because some of the work can't be done when school is in session. Both the Woolwich project and work on the boilers at Dike-Newell have been impacted by shipping delays. Dr. Manuel is hopeful that the Dike-Newell project will begin in April and is projected to be completed in June. As far as the Phippsburg roof project is concerned, Dr. Manuel reported that we are still waiting on the engineering report and then go out to bid on the project in February. Facilities Director David Richards is concerned about receiving the roofing materials in a timely fashion in order to have the project completed by the end of the summer. Mr. Richards reviewed some potential projects for FY23 during the meeting and has met with all of the principals which he will share with the Board during the retreat in February.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Emmerson reported that over past few weeks there have been over a hundred students with Covid-19. In a meeting with Principal Varney, it was suggested that it may be helpful to review the policies for late work because there are a lot of students coming back that feel overwhelmed and struggling to make up their work. Students completed their mid-terms last week and are looking forward to a fresh start this semester. Many students are taking advantage of the increased support from student services and increased counseling options. Ms. Emmerson updated the Board on some of the activities that the co-curricular groups and clubs have been involved in as well as how the Morse athletic teams are doing this year.

Student Representative Smith stated that the seniors are very happy to have finished mid-terms and are now working on final touches on their college plans. The boys' basketball team will be playing Mt. Ararat tomorrow and will be testing the new voucher system. Jonah will be reporting back to the Board next month and will share his input on how the new system was received.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- Phippsburg teacher Sarah Williams has agreed to work with Maine Math and Science which offers place based learning for elementary science. Teachers have the ability to work with teachers, researchers, and scientists to make their units more specific to where we live in Maine. Due to Ms. Williams' impressive work, she has been asked to be on the teacher steering committee and will be in the teacher spotlight for the January issue of Maine Math and Science Alliance. Dr. Manuel stated that Ms. Williams has done a great job in representing RSU 1 and her students have really benefited from this experience.
- Although the athletic season has been challenging, student participation in athletics and other co-curricular activities provide students with the social emotional piece and the opportunity to compete. Dr. Manuel shared how each of our Morse teams has been doing this year.
- Bath Tech has created a new recruitment video which is posted on our website. This project was funded by MELMAC and the instructors did a tremendous job at showcasing their programs.
- Skills USA competition will take place in March and will be in-person this year for the first time in two years.
- The district has hired staff to provide additional social work at Morse High School, Bath Middle School, and one shared between Dike-Newell and Woolwich School. The district is still looking for a half-time social worker to be shared between Fisher-Mitchell and Phippsburg School.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with a financial report for the month ending December 31, 2021. Mrs. Clark stated that we are halfway through the school year and have spent \$17.5 million out of our \$38 million budget. The report showed that there is \$6 million remaining in the budget with the encumbered salaries. The district has brought in almost \$20 million in revenues so far. The state set tuition rates did come in and resulted in the elementary tuition rate increasing by \$785 and the secondary rate decreasing by \$419. Based on the actual number of tuition students versus what was budgeted, we are in a good place with about \$125,000 more tuition revenue coming in. As far as special education is concerned, we have about \$90,000 more in the budget which will cover the extra program at Morse High School. The ESSER I grant will be finished at the end of this school year and is currently being used to pay the medical assistants. The ESSER II federal grant will have \$317,000 remaining at the end of this year which will be used to help with salaries during the 2022-2023 school year. The majority of the ARP ESSER III money will be used for salaries for next year and will hopefully extend into the following year.

The Finance Committee will be meeting on Thursday, February 3rd to review of our latest audit with the district's auditor. Non-labor budgets are due on Friday and a Board retreat has been scheduled for February 3rd to begin the budget process with members of the administrative team.

FUNDRAISER REQUESTS

A list of fundraiser requests for the second half of the year was provided to the Board as an informational item.

UPDATE ON HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS/PLAN

Superintendent Manuel reported that we stopped sending letters out to families about positive cases and put them on our website so that all members of the community can access this information. During the week ending January 7th the district had 86 positive cases. The following week we had 127 cases and this past Friday the number of cases went back down to 92. The current percent of vaccinated students in each building are as follows:

- Bath Middle School – 58%
- Bath Tech – 70%
- Dike- Newell – 18%
- Fisher-Mitchell – 15%
- Morse High School – 69%
- Phippsburg School – 20%
- Woolwich Central School – 29%

Assistant Superintendent Joseph reported that we have a request in with MidCoast Hospital to host a booster clinic and they have agreed to let us know when they are ready to reserve a date. Ms. Joseph reviewed the updates to the standard operating procedure (SOP) including a reduction in the number of days a person is required to isolate if they have Covid-19. The school nurse will determine when the staff member can return to school on either day four or day five of isolation. Due to having universal masking in our schools, we are not required to do contact tracing anymore. The CDC and Department of Education explained that we all need to be considered as a close contact at all times particularly with the new variant which is very contagious. Ms. Joseph also reported that we are calculating our outbreaks differently now. It used to be three cases within a certain amount of time and now it is when a school has 15% of both the staff and student population out for any illness. The school secretary will send that information to the DOE and the CDC on a daily basis.

Assistant Superintendent Joseph updated the Board on pooled testing and the importance of getting results of the testing back quickly. The testing has helped us to identify illness and get our staff and students back to school faster. Ms. Joseph highlighted some of the things that the medical assistants are being asked to do to help our nursing staff.

Athletic Director Nate Priest reported that it has been a challenging winter and most if not all of Morse's athletic team have been impacted by Covid-19 at some point. Masking continues to be required at all times at Morse events as well as athletic contests taking place at Bowdoin, USM or University of Maine. Mr. Priest reported that there haven't been any issues with masks and they are available at the admissions table should anyone arrive without one. Mr. Priest continues to have conversations with officials regarding our masking policy prior to the contest to affirm what our policy is at Morse. Morse has implemented a voucher system to be used during our rivalry games including Brunswick and Mt. Ararat. The voucher system was first used during a game over Christmas break without any issues. Mr. Priest reported that there were plenty of vouchers for everyone and we were well under capacity. Mr. Priest did order masks for the athletes but they have not arrived yet due to a shipping problem.

SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICIES

Board member Ritch-Smith discussed including staff input during the evaluation process and asked whether it should be formalized within the policy. Chairperson Ensel responded that he felt it could be part of gathering information on some level but didn't feel that it needed to be formalized into the policy. Ms. Ritch-Smith stated that she felt it is important to hear from teachers when evaluating the Superintendent and building administrators and, although it won't be included in the policy, asked that the Board keep it in mind as we go through the evaluation process.

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Dorr

VOTE: Board (7-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Approve Policy CBI – Evaluation of the Superintendent and Policy IHBAC – Child Find Policy as written.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Superintendent Manuel reported the following retirements effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year:

- Carol Pinkham, Ed Tech, Bath Middle
- Richard McGuire, Math teacher, Bath Middle
- Robert Jordan, Technology Integrator, District-wide
- Vince Shatto, Social Studies teacher, Bath Middle

BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Superintendent Manuel presented the current Board committee assignments and asked that if a Board member would like to make any changes to contact Central Office.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

- Regular Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 28, 2022 at Morse High School - 6:00 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Ritch-Smith

SECOND: Perkins

VOTE: Board (7-0)

TO: Enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(C) to discuss disposition of property at 6:54 pm.

RETURN TO GENERAL SESSION

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Dorr

VOTE: Board (7-0)

TO: Return to general session at 7:09 pm.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Dorr

VOTE: Board (7-0)

TO: Adjourn at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick M. Manuel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Patrick M. Manuel, Ed.D.
Secretary