

RSU #38 Board of Directors
Maranacook Community Middle School & via Zoom
March 2, 2022
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Chair Cathy Jacobs, Vice Chair David Twitchell, Keltie Beaudoin, Tyler Dunn, Patty Gordon, David Guillemette, Rebecca Lambert, Betty Morrell (remote), Jade Parker, Shawn Roderick, Dane Wing
Member Absent: Kim Bowie, Melissa Tobin
Students Present: Carter Bennett, Joseph Couture, Celia Bergdahl, Rocco Scott
Administration Present: Superintendent Jay Charette, Principals Jeff Boston, Tina Brackley, Janet Delmar, and Abbie Hartford, Interim Principal Michael Harris, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Karen Smith, Technology Director Diane MacGregor, Adult and Community Director Steve Vose, Finance Director Mandy Fitzgerald, Student Services Director Brant Remington, Facilities/Transportation Director Shawn Drinkwater

1. Call to Order: Chair Jacobs called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Chair Jacobs reported, this business meeting is being held both in person and virtually, through zoom in compliance with RSU #38 policy BED Remote Participation in School Board Meetings. The meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the maranacook.org YouTube channel.

The “microphones” of the viewing audience will be muted except during the identified portions of public comments at this meeting. If you would like to speak during any public comment section of the agenda, please use the chat feature to signal to Mrs. MacGregor and she will communicate with the Board Chair. In-person speakers please sign up on the clipboard by the door. All individuals that wish to speak, whether in person or virtual, please identify yourself with first and last name and the town you live in. Please note that individuals that do not live in our member communities may or may not be granted permission to speak at the discretion of the Board Chair. Speakers are asked to limit individual comments to 2 minutes and if someone speaks ahead of you that has a similar view please reference the comment. All votes will be taken by Roll Call.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

3. Student Representatives’ Reports:

MS Representatives – Celia Bergdahl, Carter Bennett and Joseph Couture reported on classroom team projects, noting the trimester is ending this week, and Winter Carnival.

HS Representatives Abigail Allen and Rocco Scott reported on events at the High School including the end of winter extra and co-curricular activities, spring sports will be starting up March 28th. The Student Senate is working on multiple projects. They had a discussion regarding the possibility of bullying due to the new masking policy.

4. Citizens Comments not budget related

Deane Mushlit, Manchester, addressed the board regarding how their decision regarding masks will impact her family. She asked that the guidance they follow be what the CDC recommends.

Laurel Parker, Manchester, addressed the board noting the statements from the staff survey. She asked, how do you expect to staff the schools based on the staff survey, how will the board revisit this if things change, and how often? What are her options as a parent; can she have remote learning for her kids?

Ethan Buuck, Mt. Vernon asked that the optional masking be effective immediately, thanking the teachers and school staff can’t thank you enough, your work is greatly appreciated and your students need you. There have been school districts in the state that have been optional all along. Zero evidence to show that district that were optional have different numbers.

Amanda Philbrick, Manchester, stated she is here for staff who want masks to be optional. The community had some good questions along the way, and does not feel questions have been answered. She asked for clarification on how to get those answers. Hoping someone over there could poll the parents, to find out what our parents want.

5. Discussion/Action: Health and Safety Procedures and Protocols:

Superintendent Charette referred the Board to the updated information he provided and provided an update on the number of cases from vacation to Tuesday, 3/1. Confirmed cases are: 4 cases at the high school, 0 at the middle school, 7 at the elementary level, and 1 staff member. There were none at the elementary level. The County now shows that are in the medium risk category.

MOTION by Twitchell that the Board keep the health and safety protocols in line with the CDC and make masking optional as of March 9th, with the addition that the Board instruct the Superintendent that if between meetings or before decisions are made by the board, if the county rating goes back to red or if there are other instructions from the Maine CDC, that he immediately change the protocol back to mandated masking. Second by Dunn.

AMENDMENT by Wing to change to optional masking effective immediately. Second by Lambert.

Motion Carried: 9 in favor, 2 opposed (Lambert, Twitchell)

AMENDMENT by Parker to include providing KN95 masks for staff and students who request them. Second by Dunn. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

The Superintendent added that we do have the KN95 and the youth ones will be ordered. We do have surgical masks for both adults and youths and will make sure each schools has them available for those who need them.

Mrs. Parker asked about the transportation. The transportation piece was lifted on 2/25, and applied to any public transportation including school buses. We continued to require masks on buses as part of our protocol, but they will no longer be required if this motion passes.

Ms. Gordon asked about the Superintendent's recommendations and whether they are included in the motion on the table. Yes.

Mr. Wing stated one of the recommendations in the Superintendent's recommendation needs to be changed. Under Rationale, second section, bullet #4 should read "Unvaccinated students and staff not participating in pool testing and exposed are recommended to quarantine for 5 days per the SOP.

MOTION ON THE TABLE

That the Board keep the health and safety protocols in line with the CDC and make masking optional effective immediately, with the addition that the Board instruct the Superintendent that if between meetings or before decisions are made by the board, if the county rating goes back to red or if there are other instructions from the Maine CDC, that he immediately change the protocol back to mandated masking. KN95 masks will also be available for staff and students who request them.

Motion Carried: 7 in favor, 2 opposed (Roderick, Wing), 2 abstained (Dunn, Beaudoin)

Mr. Roderick asked that all students be supported whether or not they choose to wear masks. Mr. Dunn asked that administrators reach out to those parents who feel uncomfortable. He asked what options the families have. Superintendent Charette responded that if medical documentation is provided, the school will provided the needed accommodations as part of the 504 process.

6. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:

Mr. Wing asked about the additional half-day workshop days and whether there is a way to combine some of them so there are not so many half days. It was noted that half days are counted as full days. State Law requires 175 student days, so combining the days would necessitate adding days at the end of June.

Concern was raised that the intent of the additional half days approved by the Board on 12/1/21 has changed. Superintendent Charette responded that the intent has not changed. The first

half is for building based activities and the second half is for teachers to use as they see fit. He added that making a change now is going to affect the morale of staff.

Chair Jacobs added a discussion on the additional half days as item 8f.

7. Reports/Committees:

a. Reports:

Principal Levesque reported that Carter Bennett is one of the members on the math team, and on February 17th he participated in a virtual math meet, 4 students from the middle school participated in that meet and Carter is one of 50 students in the state moving forward to the State Meet.

Mr. Wing asked about lunch periods and if there will be any changes made now with the new protocols. Superintendent Charette responded that lunch periods will stay as they are for the time being.

b. Committees:

Communications Committee, Mrs. Beaudoin reported on the first Communications Committee meeting. They discussed breaking off into smaller focus groups so they can have conversations with different stakeholders. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 29, 6:00 p.m. via zoom.

Facilities/Transportation Committee – This was a special meeting to review Mr. Drinkwater’s woodlot proposal. More work is needed before the project moves forward; it will be discussed at the next Facilities/Transportation Committee meeting. Mr. Guillemette added that community member Mr. Whittemore volunteered his services as a forestry expert to help with this project.

Health Advisory – No update

Policy – Ms. Gordon reported there is a first read policy for the Board to review and there are 3 policies later in the agenda ready for second readings. The next Policy Committee meeting is 3/22/22 at 6:00 via zoom.

8. Action Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2022 meeting

MOTION by Lambert second by Beaudoin to approve the Minutes of February 16, 2022 as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

b. Acceptance of Donations:

MOTION by Dunn second by Wing to accept the donations as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

c. Second Reading Policies:

i. *IHBAA, Individualized Education Programs*

MOTION by Twitchell, second by Lambert to approve the second reading of Policy IBAA as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

ii. *BCB, Conflict of Interest*

MOTION by Gordon, second by Lambert to approve the second reading of Policy BCB, conflict of Interest as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

iii. *BCC (Also GBCA), Nepotism*

MOTION by Guillemette, second by Gordon to approve the second reading of Policy BCC (also GBCA), Nepotism as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

d. Consideration of Exception to Policy BCC, Nepotism

Superintendent Charette reviewed his written request for an exception to Policy BCC, Nepotism, to allow the district to hire a bus driver who is also a family member of a board member, living in the same household.

MOTION by Twitchell, second by Beaudoin to approve the exception to Policy BCC as recommended by the Superintendent. **Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Dunn)

e. Consideration of overnight trip, MS Acadia Team, Camden Hills State Park, May 24-26, 2022

MOTION by Lambert, second by Roderick to approve the overnight trip request for the MS Acadia Team for May 24-26, 2022, as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

f. Discussion – Approved Extra Half Days (addition to the agenda) that were granted.

MOTION by Parker that the additional half days that were approved on December 1, 2021 be given back to the teachers for pre-planning and self-care. Second by Dunn.

Principal Brackley reminded the Board that teachers did not ask to bring this proposal to the Board, the administrators wanted to bring it to the Board because teachers' days are already full. As the Principal of a Tier III School, much more work is required and the teachers don't have the time in their regular day. Her teachers appreciate having this time to get the work done and they are given back the time when we can. The Administrators asked for this time for PD and to give teachers extra time.

Motion Failed: 3 in favor, 7 opposed (Dunn, Jacobs, Lambert, Morrell, Roderick, Beaudoin, Twitchell), 1 abstained (Gordon)

9. Budget Workshop

a. Operations and Maintenance, including Bond

Mr. Drinkwater reviewed the budget description sheet for projects throughout the district and reporting on staffing for his department. He has not been fully staffed all year. He would like to request that the 6 month mowing position be made full time so it would be grounds ½ year and custodial the other half of the year. He would also like to request one more full time maintenance position. Right now whenever someone calls out the maintenance person is a custodian, and he has been more of a custodian than maintenance this year. He does have 2 students working for him which is working out well.

There is \$86,623.920 available in the Bond that must be used by August 2022. Question was asked about using the remaining bond funds to meet some of Mr. Drinkwater's requests in his budget. The Facilities Committee will review what items may be taken from the bond and present a recommendation to the full Board.

b. Covid Grants Overview

Superintendent reviewed the PowerPoint slide outlining the ESSERF and CRF grants. ESSERF #1 covered the additional nursing position for 2 years and has been used in full. CRF #1 and CRF #2 have been used in full. ESSERF #1 has \$54,782.86 remaining and must be used by June 2023. Mr. Charette is hoping to use the \$54,782.86 to help offset the nursing position for another year. ESSERF #3 has \$527,297.63 remaining and must be used by September 2024.

c. Board questions – see above

d. Citizens' comment – none

e. Board discussion

Next week the presentations will be completed, more information will be shared on the ED279, and recommendations will be made for things to be pull back from the budget. Superintendent Charette asked the board to keep in mind items that are out of our control – energy costs, health insurance, property and casualty insurance, salaries are 80% of school budget and we are currently in negotiations.

10. Adjournment: MOTION and second to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James Charette, Superintendent of Schools
D. Foster, Recorder