

RSU #38 Board of Directors  
Maranacook Community Middle School & via Zoom  
March 16, 2022  
Minutes of Meeting

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

1. Call to Order: Chair Jacobs called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.  
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. Recognition of Girls Class B Nordic Ski Team – State Champions  
This item will be held following the Auditor’s Annual Report.
4. Annual Report from District Auditor RHR Smith & Company  
Mr. Bill Hall, Senior Auditor of RHR Smith & Company reported on the District’s fiscal year 2021 financial audit. He reported that the district is in good financial standing, but cautioned that if during FY22, the district had to dip into the fund balance, that it will make it difficult to put the FY23 budget together.  
Finance Director Fitzgerald noted that the Annual Report can be found on the District’s website.  
Recognition of Girls Class B Nordic Ski Team – State Champions.  
Coach DeAngelis thanked the Board for the recognition, stating that the team is a gritty, tough team that work together well. Team members and coaches were presented with certificates. Team members are: Iris Dunn, Ella Martinez Nocito, Elsa Bergdahl, Olympia Farrell, Sophie Marr, Ruby Nelson, Jenna Badeau, Claire Holman, Merielle Kane, Emma Roesner and Mary Hatt. Coaches are: Steve DeAngelis, Kathy Despres and Casey Spencer. Congratulations to All!!
5. Budget Workshop – Joint Meeting with Select Boards:  
Superintendent Charette noted that due to last week’s meeting being cancelled, there will be more presentations this evening. He thanked the Select Board members and Town Managers for attending. Select Board members in attendance were: Town of Readfield - Dennis Price, Chair, Carol

Doorenbos, Ralph Eno, Sean Keegan, Kathryn Mills Woodsum, and Town Manager Eric Dyer. Town of Wayne, Amy Black and Town Manager Aaron Chrostowsky.

a. Co- and Extra-Curricular

Student Services Director Brant Remington reported on the proposed budget for Middle School and High School Co/Extra-Curricular requests for FY23. In total the proposed budget has a net increase of \$26,750.

Questions were asked about the sports covered by the boosters or self-funded by families (football and lacrosse). ABS also contributes an amount per player, but the majority of the costs are covered by families.

b. Transportation

Transportation Manger Kelly Thompson reported on the proposed budget for the RSU 38 Transportation Department. The proposed budget includes new equipment for the mechanic which address safety issues, a part time assistant and new radios for the buses. The total increase, including the part time assistant is \$67,000. Mrs. Thompson responded to questions about the part time position, and the radio system.

c. Miscellaneous Cost Centers/Accounts (Adult Education, Food Service, Health Center, Professional Development/Assessment/Curriculum, Systems Administration, Debt Service)

Superintendent Charette reported that the Health Center and Professional Development cost centers will remain the same. There are no new expenditures requested.

Adult Education – Director Steve Vose reported he is looking to restart the CDL program for high school students, adding that it is a good way to give students who may not be pursuing a college education more than a high school diploma. He is looking to make the CDL instructor position full time and to purchase a newer truck. His budget does have the money to cover these expenditures, and he is asking for Board support to do that. Mr. Vose added that the HighSet program and enrichment programs are starting to pick up.

Questions were asked about whether the Adult Education program could offer courses for EMTs and fire fighters. Superintendent Charette noted that the Capital Area Technical Center offers a 2-year program for fire fighters.

Food Services – Superintendent Charette reported on the Food Service program. Currently, free breakfast and lunch are available for all student, however the staff does need some equipment. Some has been purchased through ESSER funds. The slide outlines the equipment the food services program needs, listed in priority. The 2-door refrigerator is a must.

System Administration – Superintendent Charette reported that this cost center shows an increase of \$13,934.82, which is due to increases in school board liability (includes property and casualty insurance), dues and fees, 2 computer upgrades in the Central Office, and online subscriptions for Zoom and DocHub.

Debt Service/Lease Purchases – Superintendent Charette reviewed the District’s debt service and lease purchases. An increase of \$8,703.08 is expected.

d. Budget Updates

Superintendent Charette provided a review of the ED 279, which is the formula the Department of Education uses to determine funding for schools. He noted there are helpful links at the end of the PowerPoint presentation to help better understand school funding.

Mr. Charette reviewed changes to the budget since the first draft, including requests from the first draft that were removed, additional current positions removed (District level literacy and math specialists, and not filling a HS science position) for a total of \$539,212. Items being recommended to keep at this time include the Nurse for Mt. Vernon and Wayne Elementary Schools (ESSERF 2 funds in the amount of \$54,000 and general fund budget \$16,000); Social Worker for the elementary schools (\$75,000); textbooks for HS Science and Spanish (\$27,500 and \$4,400); MS & HS data base subscription (\$5,100), and the Industrial Arts Fume Extractor for the Laser (\$7,020). The ESSERF 3 grant would be rewritten to request use of the remaining funds to partially pay for the additional nurse.

The three pieces they are struggling with are energy costs, cost for insurances, and teacher negotiations. Finance Director Fitzgerald will review the electrical supply contract to better estimate the electricity increase. Discussion ensued about energy costs and whether to wait to lock in any

prices. Discussion ensued about the decision to not pursue the new teacher positions in the first draft budget, and the nursing and social worker positions. Question was also asked about long-term planning for a solar energy study. Supt. Charette responded that the Facilities Committee did have a presentation by a representative from Revision Energy about solar options. This option will be revisited.

e. Discussion among School Board and Select Boards

Select Board members asked question and offered thoughts about the draft budget.

f. Citizens comments regarding budget: none

g. Budget deliberations, follow-up and decision making:

Superintendent Charette reported he has a list of 8 items that they are still working on and will bring a revision to the Board at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The Facilities Committee will be meeting next week to review Mr. Drinkwater's list of projects and have a recommendation to the Board for projects to consider using bond funds for. The goal is to get the budget to 5% before deeper cuts are considered. Mrs. Gordon added she believes there is a need to keep the elementary guidance position as well as the new social worker position.

7. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent: none

8. Action Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of March 2, 2022

**MOTION** by Morrell, second by Twitchell, to approve the Minutes of March 2, 2022 as presented. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Bowie)

b. Acceptance of resignation due to retirement, HS teacher, Cheryl Marvinney

**MOTION** by Guillemette, second by Wing, to accept the resignation of HS teacher Cheryl Marvinney with regret. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous

c. Approval to apply for Adult Education Grant from Maine Apprenticeship Program

Adult Education Director Steve Vose explained the need for truck drivers and how this grant could do to help expand the current program.

**MOTION** by Morrell, second by Wing, to approve the application to the Maine Apprenticeship Program as outlined by Mr. Vose.

Mr. Vose outlined the proposal noting that there are an estimated 1,000 open truck driver positions in the state alone. The goal is to have the best program in the state.

**Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous

9. Discussion Items:

a. Board Evaluation

Chair Jacobs reported that she, Vice Chair Twitchell and Supt. Charette have been talking about how to move forward in evaluating the Board's work. They would like to have the evaluation completed by the end of the school year so that the Board has the feedback to move forward. They have talked about more than a self-evaluation, perhaps ask teachers and community members to offer feedback. They also thought that perhaps the Communications Committee could move forward with this. Cathy Jacobs offered to be part of the conversation with the Communications Committee to share information she has from the MSBA.

b. Report on School Nutrition Program

Superintendent Charette reviewed the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Guides from Food Services Director Jen Hall that outlines the requirements for student meals. He asked that any further questions be directed to him and he will obtain answers from Mrs. Hall.

10. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

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