

RSU #38 Board of Directors
Maranacook Community Middle School & via Zoom
April 6, 2022
Minutes of Meeting

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

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. 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 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 Team projects and school wide activities. They shared a PSA developed by students addressing world hunger.
4. Citizen comment (not related to budget):
Mt. Vernon resident John Harker, shared data regarding Covid for the Board’s analysis later this evening.
5. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:
The Superintendent requested the addition of item 7j, Discussion of the zoom meeting on April 13th.
6. Reports/Committees:
 - a. Reports: Celebration
Interim Principal Michael Harris shared a celebration where the district principals and transportation manager worked together to provide alternative transportation for the CATC students to and from their classes in Augusta while the High School has been in remote learning status.
 - b. Committees:
Question was asked about the Health Center Advisory Committee minutes of March 31st and the mention of the capacity of nexplanon implants at school. Health Center Director Sarah Morrill responded that this was a hypothetical question that was brought up at the meeting.

7. Action Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2022 Meeting

MOTION by Guillemette, second by Gordon to approve the minutes of March 16, 2022 as presented. Roll Call Vote: **MOTION Carried:** unanimous

b. Approval of Minutes of March 23, 2022 Meeting

MOTION by Morrell, second by Parker to approve the minutes of March 23, 2022 as presented. Roll Call Vote: **MOTION Carried:** 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained (Jacobs, Wing)

c. Acceptance of Donation

MOTION by Morrell, second by Beaudoin to accept the donations as presented.

Roll Call Vote: **MOTION Carried:** unanimous

d. Acceptance of teacher resignation effective June 30, 2022, HS Alternative Education, Marc O'Clair

MOTION by Guillemette, second by Beaudoin to accept the resignation of Marc O'Clair as presented. Roll Call Vote: **MOTION Carried:** unanimous

e. Consideration of request for one year, 50% leave of absence, MS Nurse Angela Palmer

MOTION by Morrell, second by Lambert to grant Angela Palmer's request for a 50% leave of absence for the 2022-2023 school year.

Discussion ensued. Superintendent Charette noted, as reported in his recommendation that granting this request would add approximately \$10,000.00 to the FY23 budget. It does provide the district with an additional nurse to help cover in the schools when a nurse is absent.

Roll Call Vote: **MOTION Carried:** unanimous

f. Policy Second Reading: ABB/GBB, Staff Involvement in Decision Making

MOTION by Morrell, second by Parker to approve Policy ABB/GBB, Staff Involvement in Decision Making as presented. Roll Call Vote: **MOTION Carried:** unanimous

g. Consideration of out-of-state trip, Mt. Vernon Elementary Grade 5, Boston, MA, 6/9/22

MOTION by Guillemette, second by Gordon to approve the out-of-state trip for the Mt. Vernon Elementary Grade 5 to Boston, MA on 6/9/22 as presented.

Roll Call Vote: **MOTION Carried:** unanimous

h. Consideration of SY 2022-2023 School Calendar

MOTION by Morrell, second by Beaudoin to approve the SY 2022-2023 School Calendar as presented.

Superintendent Charette reported that this calendar aligns with the Capital Area Technical Center, with the exception of some of the half-days, which do not affect attendance at CATC. The calendar is similar to pre-pandemic school calendars with no additional early release days added.

Roll Call Vote: **MOTION Carried:** unanimous

i. Update on Health and Safety Procedures and Protocols

Superintendent Charette reported on adjustments on his report. Maranacook data, dated April 1, student cases 465, and March 25, 437 student cases. He is not recommending any changes to the current practices.

MOTION by Parker, second by Beaudoin to keep the health and safety protocols and procedures the same. Roll Call Vote: **MOTION Carried:** unanimous

j. Discussion of the zoom meeting on April 13th

Technology Director Diane MacGregor reported that the district was presented with an opportunity to do a pilot Zoom Webinar. It would provide some extra pieces for our hybrid meetings that she believes would benefit the group. She would like to try the Zoom Webinar at the April 13th meeting. The cost would be approximately \$690 for a full year. If we use it for this year, the cost would be prorated to approximately \$125.

8. Budget Workshop:

a. Updates

Superintendent Charette reviewed the updates to the proposed budget (handout). Regarding positions, the Social Worker position remains in the budget, the elementary guidance was moved to the ESSERF 3 and the Mt. Vernon and Wayne nurse was moved to the ESSERF 2. Health Insurance rates were received today and came in at a 2.33% increase, which allowed for a reduction in the draft budget. He is looking for direction from the Board tonight; the Board will be voting on the draft budget to send to Public Hearing next week.

Questions were asked about the social worker, elementary guidance, and elementary nurse positions. The social worker position was built in to the budget from the beginning. The elementary guidance and elementary nurse positions were added.

Question was asked about the maintenance position. The approval of this position will help in reducing the maintenance contracted service line by 35%. It will also give the maintenance department another person for when maintenance and custodial staff are out.

Discussion ensued about the positions, especially the social worker position, and whether those funds could be used for supporting the teachers.

Chair Jacobs added that the math and literacy coaches were removed from the budget, so there is a need to offer more support to teachers in behavior. Superintendent Charette clarified that the literacy and math specialists were not reduced in the schools, explaining there is more teacher voice and capacity than in the past. We can actually give more voice to the teachers and give them a chance to intervene directly with the math and literacy specialists in the schools. They looked at how to be more efficient. Vice Chair Twitchell added that the social worker position has been requested for a number of years and is needed more now.

On the revenue sheet, the State National Teacher Funding line was reduced by \$3,988, due to teacher retirements. The balance forward was brought up to \$800,000 which helps the towns by lowering the total local dollar contribution line on the Local Dollar Calculation sheet.

In total, the General Fund Summary Budget is down just over 1% since the third draft on March 23rd, for a total increase of 5.68% over the FY22 budget.

b. Citizens' comments regarding the budget: none

c. Deliberations, follow-up and decision making: see above

Superintendent Charette added that next week, the Board will be voting to recommend the budget for Annual Meeting. He has a few more adjustments to make to the budget for that meeting.

9. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D), labor contract discussions between the RSU #38 Board of Directors and the Maranacook Area Schools Staff Association

MOTION by Morrell, second by Beaudoin to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D), labor contract discussions between the RSU #38 Board of Directors and the Maranacook Area Schools Staff Association.

Roll Call Vote: **Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed (Parker out of room)

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:49 and returned to public session at 8:23 p.m.

10. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

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