

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 64
Bradford Corinth Hudson Kenduskeag Stetson

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 31, 2023

The members of the Board of Directors of RSU 64 met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2023 in response to an agenda dated January 19, 2022. This meeting was rescheduled due to a storm on its previously scheduled date. The agenda was distributed to members electronically.

Members Present: Rhonda Williams, James Connolly, Wanda St. Peter, Nicole Kelley, Anne Kenneson, Steven Ingalls, Katherine Waite, Julie Byers, Tonya Wozneak, Curtis Chadbourne, Haley Emery, Amy Bean, Mike Anderson

Student Representative
Present: Lindsey Stevens

Student Representative
Absent: Lilliana Ainsworth

Members Absent: Sherry Horn, Jodi Brasslett, Robert Young, Terri Jane Casavant, Chad Crooker

Members Absent
Without Excuse: None

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Rhonda Sperrey, administrators, and members of the public

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rhonda Williams at 7:02 p.m. A roll call and check of attendance found a quorum of 13 members present, and 5 members absent.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second of Anne Kenneson, the Board voted to approve the draft minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting (January 4, 2023), Regular Monthly Board Meeting (November 28, 2022), and the Hiring Committee Meeting (November 28, 2022) and to place the minutes on file as part of permanent Board records.

Unanimous

Petitions and Communications

Chair Williams indicated the Board is in receipt of a letter of retirement from CHS Math Teacher Carol Quimby (effective June 30, 2023) and resignation from Connor Chu (CHS Math Teacher), Jillian Merrill, (CCES Ed Tech), Stacey Shaw (CMS Newspaper Advisor), Christine Paige (CHS Ed Tech), Jennifer Plourde (CHS Physical Education Teacher), Natalie Kirby (CCES Ed Tech), and Mike Connors (CHS Science Teacher – effective June 30, 2023).

Chair Williams indicated the Board is in receipt of a letter of resignation from Director Chad Crooker (Corinth).

Chair Williams called for Public Forum items. No items were presented.

Reports

Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the following administrative topics:

Maintenance & Facilities

The maintenance and facilities staff have been addressing several ongoing facility issues. A catch basin was installed at CCES to address the shedding of springtime snow and ice melt. We are hopeful this will mitigate the significant water flow coming from the back field area in the spring.

It appears the weld to the headers within the water distribution pump system have remedied the water pressure loss issue at CCES. Mr. Cole is also working with Harriman and Associates plumbing engineers on a redesign of the part of the water distribution system that brings the water into the building from the underground tank. It is thought this too may be a contributing factor to the water pressure loss issue.

The District has contracted with Carpenter and Associates for engineering and design services related to the HVAC renovation project at CHS. Carpenter and Associates is working on a bid package for this project in anticipation work can begin in the spring. The firm is also working on a bid package for the procurement of building generators at CMS and CHS as well as an expansion to the current backup power generator at CCES.

With the significant snow and rain events these past few weeks, two of the three buildings have experienced roofing leaks. Maintenance staff are working to address these as soon as possible, recognizing more rain is sure to come.

Maintenance staff are investigating an issue with the pellet boiler fan motor. It appears there is an issue with the fan that may require complete replacement of the motor. The propane boiler is currently heating CCES.

FY24 Funding Update

The Department of Education distributed the preliminary ED 279 reports on Wednesday, January 25, 2023. The subsidy reports provided are based on the \$1.37 billion in General Purpose Aid funding recommended for FY24 by the Governor. This amount reflects a return to the statutory Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding model after 2 years of adjustments designed to support financial stability for Maine schools during the COVID 19 disruptions and the Governor's commitment to the state's share of 55% of the total cost of education funding. Changes to the funding formula, upon which the preliminary ED 279 calculations are based include:

- The total cost of education reflects an increase to the Salary Matrix for Teachers, Guidance, Social Workers, and Librarians to a minimum of \$40,000 in accordance with Title 20-A §15677.
- The total cost of education further reflects an increase to the staff benefits percentages to better reflect actual expenses in accordance with Title 20-A §15678 and §15679; while spending on staff benefits as a percentage of salaries have continued to increase since the enactment of the EPS funding act, until now, these have not changed from the original benefits rates set in 2005-06.

The preliminary ED 279 indicates RSU 64 will receive an additional \$140,475.06 in state subsidy. RSU 64's debt service will be reduced by \$30,959.47. The District has experienced an increase in valuation of 5% and a very small increase in enrollment of 1%. Along with the changes in the formula indicated above, RSU 64 has experienced changes in student enrollment (+21.5), economically disadvantaged counts (-111.3), and an increase in special education students (+12). In comparison to other districts around the state, RSU 64 is receiving additional subsidy when compared to last year, where many districts are not. Individual districts should not be compared however, as each data point in the formula can change from one year to the next.

Superintendent Sperrey provided a summary of the process of calling a snow day, delay, or other cancellation.

Superintendent Sperrey shared information relative to the environmental impact recognized since the District began its partnership with Ampion's Community Solar program.

Superintendent Sperrey notified the Board of Directors of her appointment to the Northern Light Health Board of Directors for Acadia Hospital.

District Enrollment (As of January 1, 2023)

CCES – 511 (+5)

CMS – 226 (+1)

CHS – 321 (-3)

Total = 1058 (+3)

Administrator Reports

Administrative reports were distributed via email in advance of the meeting. In addition to the reports:

CCES Principal Carrie Carr – Mrs. Carr shared the collaborative process being used with the school community for the selection of the school mascot.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Tonya Wozneak, members approved the Bear Cubs as the mascot for Central Community Elementary School.

Unanimous

Students and staff will be notified in a surprise schoolwide assembly on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

CCES Assistant Principal – Mrs. Evans had nothing to add.

CMS Principal – Dr. Cookson updated members on the increased number of students eating breakfast each day at CMS. Previously, about 30 students were having breakfast at school. Now that breakfast is both being served in the cafeteria and in the classroom wing hallway about 100 students are eating each morning. Breakfast and lunch are free for all public school students. Dr. Cookson thanked the girls basketball team for their volunteer efforts in cleaning the school while they waited for their practice one day when the building wasn't fully staffed with custodians. Dr. Cookson also shared with members the school is looking to donate cheering uniforms that are no longer in use due to style and sizing.

CHS Principal – Dr. Mayfield added congratulations to District V participants, Izzy Allen for scoring 1000 points, and the cheering squad for being named Champions in the PVC Small School category competition.

CHS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director – Mr. Foster was not in attendance.

Curriculum Coordinator – Mrs. Kerrigan shared details pertaining to stakeholder interest meetings she hosted in the month of January. The purpose of the meetings was to gather feedback that will help inform the ESSER III application. The slideshow from the meetings is available on the District website.

Special Education Director – Mr. Donovan shared details from the Special Olympics candlepin bowling competition held at the Brewer Bowling Lanes. The Central team placed third in the competition. Plans are being made for the Special Olympics team to participate in the spring track and field event.

Comprehensive Regional Technical High School Update – Superintendent Sperrey shared information relative to a meeting held Friday, January 27, 2023 with the State Board of Education Construction Committee. Superintendent Jordan (Dexter), Superintendent McFadyen (Guilford), and Superintendent Sperrey updated the Committee on the ongoing work of the community stakeholders group working on the Comprehensive Regional Technical High School concept. To date, the working group has established the governance structure for the 9-16 school project and have written legislation for the creation of this new entity. The legislation was passed by the Maine Legislature during the last legislative session. In October, superintendents were told finances needed to hire engineers and architects necessary in the site selection process would need to be raised locally. Given the new entity does not yet legally exist, the working group is not able to borrow money for this purpose. The State Board Construction Committee expressed their significant support for a project like this one in the Piscataquis/Penobscot Region and encouraged the group to continue to pursue efforts to bring this project to fruition.

SPRPCE – The Executive Committee met to determine next steps for the process to be used in filling the vacancy of Director. Such formal process will begin in March. In the interim, Bangor Special Education Director Cristy Babin will fill this role.

New Business

Discussion and Consideration of a Request from the CHS Drama Club for Approval of Overnight Trip

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, members approved the potential overnight trips of the CHS Drama Club, should they be necessary, to attend regional and state level competitions.

Unanimous

Discussion and Consideration of a Request from the CHS Key Club for Approval of an Overnight Trip

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, members approved the request of the CHS Key Club for an overnight trip to attend the District Educational Conference in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Unanimous

Discussion and Consideration of Job Descriptions

Upon the motion of Amy Bean and second by Anne Kenneson, members voted to approve the job descriptions as presented.

Classroom Teacher
Classroom Teacher – Specialist
Classroom Teacher – Interventionist
Supervisor of Maintenance and Custodial Services
Assistant Supervisor of Maintenance and Custodial Services
Elementary and Secondary Special Education Teacher
Mentor of Classroom Teachers (PreK-5)
Mentor of Classroom Teachers (6-12)
Middle School Principal
Elementary School Principal
Elementary School Assistant Principal
High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director

Unanimous

Discussion and Consideration of Policy Revisions

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Amy Bean, members approved the policy revisions as presented.

JIC – Student Code of Conduct
JLCD – Administration of Medication to Students

Unanimous

Approval of Proposed 2023-2024 School Calendar

Superintendent Sperrey shared information about the Region 4 superintendents’ work group relative to the drafting of a regional calendar to support UTC students in their career and technical programs. Members discussed the feedback provided by the Professional Discussions Committee.

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Amy Bean, members approved the 2023-2024 School Calendar with one change to the proposed draft. The first student day will be changed from August 30 to August 31. In addition to reflecting feedback received from the Professional Discussions Committee, this change will add one day to the end of the calendar in June and allow the region to be better aligned overall.

Unanimous

Possible Executive Session under 1 MRSA §405(6)(D) for the purpose of updating Board members on Support Staff Personnel Negotiations

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Anne Kenneson, members entered Executive Session.

Unanimous

Time Entered: 8:47 p.m.

Time Returned to Public Session: 8:54 p.m.

Discussion and Consideration of an Addendum to the RSU 64 Support Staff Personnel Association Negotiated Agreement

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, members approved the recommendation of the Negotiations Committee to implement the addendum as presented.

Unanimous

Board Vacancy

Upon the receipt of a resignation letter from Director Chad Crooker (Corinth), and upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, members declared a vacancy (Corinth) on the Board of Directors.

Unanimous

Personnel Nominations and Confirmations

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey’s Support Staff appointments for 2022-2023:

CCES Ed Tech – Brady Harding
CCES Ed Tech – Natalie Kirby
CCES Custodian – Shelby McGowan

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey's Schedule B Appointments for 2022-2023:

CMS Intramurals – Sonta Weymouth and Joan Ireland
CHS Senior Class Advisor – Diane Rollins

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Amy Bean, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by,



Rhonda Sperrey
Secretary