

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 1
Castle Hill – Chapman- Mapleton – Presque Isle – Westfield

MINUTES

Board of Directors
December 15, 2021
5:30 p.m.
Presque Isle High School Cafeteria

Directors Present:

Desiree Albert (13)	John R. Johnston (15)
James Bubar (10)	Joanna Newlands (2)
Curtis Culberson (11)	Carol Bell (6)
Dan Edgecomb (1)	Michael Ouellette (4)
Susan Goulet (14)	Lucy Richard (12)
John Harvell (5)	Terry Sandusky (3)
Roberta Fitzgerald-Hathaway (8)	
Julie Freeman (16)	

Director Absent: Stephen Sutter (7), Lori Kenneson (9) & Paul Saija (17).

Others Present: Approximately 75 members of the public and two (2) members of the press.

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Lucy Richard called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. **Announcements**

The next Board of Directors meeting – January 19, 2022 – 5:30 p.m. – PIHS Cafeteria

3. **Adjustments to the Agenda**

There were no adjustments to the Agenda.

4. **Acceptance of the Agenda**

It was moved by John Johnston and seconded by Julie Freeman to accept the Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Presentation(s)**

Lucy Richard, Board Chair, presented Susan Goulet and Stephen Sutter (not in attendance) with plaques for their years of service on the MSAD 1 School Board.

6. Public Participation

Nate Berry, MSAD #1 resident, offered comments to the Board regarding his desire to see masks requirements lifted in schools, requested a public forum to converse with the Board and Administration, and questioned why students are required to wear masks, and if/when the mask mandates will be lifted.

Brittany Morrison, MSAD #1 resident, offered comments in support of the MSAD 1 Board, Administration, and all other staff. She emphasized that in these unprecedented times, the staff at MSAD 1 are working diligently to provide the best education to students while keeping them as safe as possible.

Nicole Newcomb, MSAD #1 resident, offered comments regarding her frustrations around the current SOP guidelines for quarantining students. She shared her frustrations that surround multiple quarantines, and differing procedures.

Billie Griffeth, MSAD #1 resident, offered comments to the Board regarding her support of all of the staff at MSAD #1 and the work they are doing to keep students safe while navigating education during a Pandemic. She also offered comment in support of implementing a "true remote learning" option.

Keith Wilcox, MSAD #1 resident, offered comments to the Board regarding his appreciation of the Board and Administration. He also expressed his frustrations with the current SOP guidelines surrounding close contacts and quarantine. He did express that enrolling his children in Pooled Testing has cut the number of quarantines significantly.

Scott Violette, MSAD #1 resident, posed several specific questions to the Board regarding the SOP requirements and its effects on students.

7. Approval of Minutes –November 17, 2021

It was moved by John Harvell and seconded by Susan Goulet to approve the minutes of October 20, 2021, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Approval of Bills & Warrants Signed to Date – November 2021

Holly Vining, Business Manager, provided the Board with an overview of the November 2021 financials. Discussion followed. It was moved by Curtis Culberson and seconded by Jim Bubar to approve the bills and warrants as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Superintendent's Report

- a) Superintendent Greenlaw reported that the District has seen a significant increase in positive COVID 19 cases from both students and staff. He also reported a decrease in the number of students having to quarantine due to being close contacts largely in part due to increased enrollment in the Pooled Testing program, and the recent approval of the vaccine for kids ages 5-11.

Superintendent Greenlaw reported that over the last month, the District has seen an increasing trend in confirmed positive cases of COVID 19, as well as an increase in close contacts testing positive. There has been some evidence of spread within the classroom, but most cases of spread are taking place outside of the school setting.

Superintendent Greenlaw also addressed the decision making process of staying "green" or continuing to offer in-person learning vs. going "red" or choosing to only offer remote learning. Currently the District is following the SOP guidelines provided by the Department of Education, and plans to remain learning in-person as long as the District has sufficient staff and is not seeing multiple examples of the virus spreading in the schools.

10. Old Business – Discussion and Action

There was no old business to discuss.

11. Committee Reports

Curtis Culberson, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported they had met prior to the Board meeting to review the November 2021 financials.

Lucy Richard, Chair of the Negotiations Committee, reported there was a meeting held on December 8, 2021 to go over the Superintendent's Evaluation.

12. Election of Board Officers

Superintendent Greenlaw presented the nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and the Finance Committee. A written ballot vote was taken, the results are reported as follows:

Lucy Richard -- Chair 13 Votes
Desiree Albert -- Vice Chair 8 Votes
Jim Bubar -- Vice Chair 6 Votes

Chair for 2022 -- Lucy Richard and Vice Chair for 2022 -- Desiree Albert.

Ballot votes were counted for on the following Finance Committee members for 2022:

Jim Bubar -- 12 votes
Curtis Culberson -- 12 votes
John Harvell -- 13 votes
Roberta Fitzgerald-Hathaway -- 0 votes

Jim Bubar, Curtis Culberson, and John Harvell were appointed to the Finance Committee for 2022.

13. **New Business – Discussion and Action**

- a) Superintendent Greenlaw shared with the Board a presentation covering the requirements listed in the SOP, Pooled Testing vs. Test to Stay options, and current COVID 19 Data for MSAD #1.

Superintendent Greenlaw invited Dr. Jay Reynolds and Dr. Renee Fournier to share their experiences and trends they are seeing at Northern Light AR Gould Hospital. Dr. Reynolds shared data regarding the number of hospitalizations, the closing of departments and designating them as COVID 19 wings, and the percentages of cases of vaccinated people vs. non-vaccinated people. Dr. Fournier shared her experience as a pediatric physician. She noted a drastic increase of positive cases among children, increase in testing required, and the importance of masking, social distancing and vaccinating eligible children.

- d) Other - there were no considerations.

14. **Consideration of Administrative Planning and Assessment - Executive Session (MRSA 405 (6) (A))**

It was moved by John Johnston and seconded by Julie Freeman for the board to move to Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session commenced at 6:50 p.m.

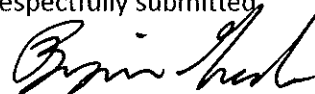
Open Session resumed at 7:15 p.m.

Action Taken: It was moved by Jim Bubar and seconded by Curtis to grant a 3% raise to Superintendent Greenlaw, a one (1) year contract extension, to change contract language item 8 to reflect a \$1,000 increase in the employer's annual contribution toward the purchase of a tax-sheltered annuity. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

15. **Adjournment**

It was moved by John Johnston and seconded by Susan Goulet to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Motion carried.

/s/ Respectfully submitted


Benjamin Greenlaw