

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD January 28, 2019 AT 6:00 PM AT BATH MIDDLE SCHOOL. (NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Board. Such action, either to approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the February 25, 2019 meeting).

Members Present: Stephen August, Chairperson; Lou Ensel, Vice Chairperson; Anita Brown, Megan Fuller, Bill Perkins, Alan Walton; Sydney Hollingsworth, Hayden Platteter, Student Representatives; Patrick Manuel, Superintendent of Schools

Members Absent: Jennifer Ritch-Smith

Others Present: Katie Joseph, Debra Clark, Eric Varney, Kevin O'Leary, Robert Jordan, Diana McCain, Dawn Wheeler, Jackie Johnson, Steve Richard

CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Manuel called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR

Superintendent Manuel opened the discussion with a request for a nomination to elect the Board Chair.

Board member Perkins nominated Stephen August as RSU 1's Board Chair and Board member Walton seconded the motion. Superintendent Manuel declared the nominations ceased.

MOTION: Perkins **SECOND:** Walton **VOTE:** Board (6-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Nominate Stephen August as Board Chairperson.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chairperson August requested a nomination to elect the Board Vice Chairperson. Board member Walton nominated Lou Ensel for the position and Board member Fuller seconded the motion. Mr. August declared the nominations ceased.

MOTION: Walton **SECOND:** Fuller **VOTE:** Board (6-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Nominate Lou Ensel as Vice Chairperson

RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM CHAIR

Chairperson August noted that the Board packet included a list of Board committee assignments which included a new ad hoc committee to look at later school start times. Mr. August reported that the final audit report was presented to the finance committee during the January meeting. Board members are invited to pick up a copy of the report at central office. The Board recognized Business Manager Debra Clark and her staff for their work in keeping the business office working efficiently and producing a clean audit.

APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 17, 2018

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Ensel

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Approve the minutes of December 17, 2018 as written.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

None

PUBLIC SESSION

None

IGNITE PRESENTATION “A TECH-SKEPTICAL TEACHER EMBRACES GOOGLE”

Morse High School English teacher Kevin O’Leary shared his Ignite Presentation: “A Tech-Skeptical Teacher Embraces Google with the Board with the help of Technology Integrator Bob Jordan. Mr. O’Leary’s presentation received a special commendation at the ACTEM conference in October. Mr. Jordan was also in attendance and talked about his experience in working with Mr. O’Leary to put together the presentation.

ADULT EDUCATION REPORT

Adult Education Director Diana McCain and Site Coordinator Dawn Wheeler were present to talk about the programming and efficiencies with regard to merging the Merrymeeting Adult Education Program with the RSU 1 program. Ms. McCain reported that Merrymeeting began the administration of the RSU 1 Adult Education program and put in place systems and procedures to make the program more effective. Ms. McCain found that the program wasn’t offering the number and variety of programs to capacity and had room to expand. The participants in the program had all kinds of new ideas for new classes which resulted in 23 additional classes. One catalog was provided to the communities from Wiscasset to Brunswick. Bath has a commitment to Two Bridges Jail for HiSET and when assessing the program, Ms. McCain found that there was a wait list of inmates that wanted education but were unable to get it because we only had one teacher there. Using federal grant money that supports that program Ms. McCain was able to hire another teacher. Two new teachers were also hired to provide HiSET services at Wiscasset High School as part of a contractual agreement Bath has with Wiscasset. As far as the Bath program is concerned, Ms. McCain hired some new teachers and added two new academic classes. In going forward if we do merge the two programs together we have the ability to cut out a lot of duplication and provide good quality professional development for our teachers which also is a way for them to get the CEUs needed to renew their certification. Merrymeeting has an advisory committee consisting of 13 members of the Brunswick and SAD 75 school districts and communities and would welcome representatives from RSU 1 to be a part of the committee. This committee is really important as we make decisions about new programming. Because transportation can be a barrier for some of our student, a pilot project that will provide RSU 1 Adult Education students with free transportation to Topsham and Brunswick will be implemented. Superintendent Manuel will come back to Board with what the local share would be if we merged with Merrymeeting.

MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Manuel reported that the interviews for a full-time clerk of the works will take place in February with selected candidate starting in March. Tomorrow there will be four pre-qualified bidders for the general contractor on the site and touring Morse and BRCTC. A group from RSU 1 traveled to Sanford High School last Friday to visit their new school. The group found the visit to be very informative and found things we liked and things that we didn’t think would work well in our district. We

had a community meeting with members of the Mill Pond neighborhood in Bath to discuss some concerns that have come up relative to the nature of the severity of the blasting. Representatives from Crooker Construction and Maine Drilling & Blasting were in attendance to answer questions and address their concerns. The blasting will be moving towards central office and away from the Mill Pond neighborhood and should lessen the severity of the blasting. Leslie Manning and the fundraising committee have reported that they have exceeded their goal \$700,000 and are hoping to get close to \$1 million in donations. Anyone interested in purchasing seats in the auditorium or bricks that will go around the school are asked to call the Superintendent's office for more information.

CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Katie Joseph introduced Bath Middle School teachers Jackie Johnson and Steve Richard who were present to talk about the pilot program they began this year combining art and tech ed called MarkerSpace. As we begin the budget process and talk about next year's schedule, we will need to decide whether to add a second social studies teacher and remove tech ed or add a social studies teacher and continue this program.

Tech ed teacher Steve Richard stated that the program included different design challenges with the 6th grade over a 20-day rotation. The program has a hands-on approach that brings art sculpture into tech ed. Mr. Richard stated that if the program continues next year that it can be expanded to include the 8th graders. Art teacher Jackie Johnson provided a slideshow that included photographs of some of the projects the students worked on. Ms. Johnson predominantly teaches 8th grade and felt that this program would be ideal for that grade level.

Ms. Joseph stated that no decision needs to be made tonight and the presentation was a way to share some of the great work that has been happening as we begin budget discussions. Ms. Joseph and Bath Middle School Principal Brandon Ward will be working on the scheduling piece and will come back to the Board with another look at the schedule as we begin the budget process.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Sydney Hollingsworth reported that midterms were last week. Teachers and students felt the scheduling worked out very well this year.

Student Representative Hayden Platteter reported that extracurricular activities are in full swing including the math team, debate team and Ocean Bowl. The regional competition for the Ocean Bowl clubs from Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine takes place this weekend in Biddeford.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- RSU 1 students participated in a community panel earlier this month at Bath Middle School with local civic and community leaders as part of the Waypoint mentoring program through Chewonki. It was a great way for students to connect with members of our community.
- Board members Alan Walton and Jennifer Ritch-Smith attended a Regional Board Training held in Brunswick last week sponsored by Maine School Management Association. The Board members were able to compare notes on various items such as how to form agendas and professional development opportunities for Board members.
- This is a busy time of year for our students with NWEA assessments and academic competitions.
- We are in the process of applying for a Maine Department of Education 21st Century Grant in conjunction with MidCoast Community Alliance. We are looking at the possibility of reorganizing the current skate park by bringing in more services for the students and families in our community.
- BRCTC hosted 8th graders from RSU 1 and sending districts for two days in January and invited them to attend 3 vocational classes of their choice. The purpose of this visit was to expose the

students to our vocational programs with the hope of increasing our enrollment in the future.

FINANCE REPORT

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with the Financial Report for the month ending December 31, 2018. To date, we have spent \$12.3 million or 41% of the budget. This is the first report of this school year that includes the encumbered amounts which primarily consists of salaries and benefits. The State of Maine has set tuition rates and RSU 1's elementary rate increased by 6.3% while our secondary rate increased by .37%. Based upon our current enrollment this is a net gain of approximately \$35,000 in revenue for RSU 1. Mrs. Clark received notification that the amount due for MaineCare for the first quarter of 2019 is \$42,468 which comes directly from our subsidy. The district has received \$15 million in revenue which falls in line with previous years. As of the end of December, we have spent \$8.7 million for the high school project and will be scheduled to do a final funding at the end of May.

FUNDRAISER REQUESTS

A list of fundraiser requests for the second half of the year was provided to the Board as an informational item.

REVIEW OF 2018-2019 BOARD GOALS

Superintendent Manuel reported that he met with the Athletic Directors to review the Schedule B positions as stated in goal 4. The next step is to meet with the middle and high school principals to put together a report for the Board which summarizes where we are and what our priorities are with regard to these positions.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Superintendent Manuel announced the retirement of Denise Friant, Science teacher at Woolwich Central School and David Cowie, 6th grade teacher at Bath Middle School at the end of the 2018-2019 school year and thanked them for their years of service in RSU 1.

REVIEW BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Vice Chairperson Ensel reported that he has had some parents ask him about looking into later start times in our schools. Mr. Ensel has volunteered to chair an ad hoc committee to gather information to see what other schools are doing and their findings. Members of the RSU 1 community that are interested in being part of the committee are asked to contact the Superintendent's Office. Mr. Ensel stated that the committee will report back to the Board with their findings. Chairperson August asked that if any Board member is interested in changing their committee assignment or serving on the advisory committee to please contact Superintendent Manuel.

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FROM MORSE HIGH SCHOOL

Morse High School Principal Eric Varney presented a proposal to add Mandarin Language and Culture as an elective course for Morse juniors and seniors. The .5 credit course will be offered through the Social Studies department and will introduce students to the Chinese language as well as their culture and history of China. Morse teacher Dan Madden is currently running this course as an independent study. Mr. Varney felt that with the increase in enrollment numbers, he is confident that there will be many students signing up for the course.

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Fuller

VOTE: Board (6-0)

Student (2-0)

TO: Approve the addition of Mandarin Language and Culture course at Morse High School.

MHS/BRCTC TIMELINE AND DISCUSSION OF TRANSFER OF SCHOOL

Superintendent Manuel presented a redevelopment timeline that was generated by the City of Bath Facilities Committee in order to begin the planning stages of turning Morse High School and BRCTC over to the city.

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Fuller

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Student (2-0)

TO: Report to the City of Bath that the Board's intention is to vacate Morse High School and BRCTC when the new construction project is complete. The targeted date is the fall of 2020.

PUBLIC SESSION

None

NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

- Next regular RSU 1 Board meeting; Monday, February 25, 2019 at Bath Middle School – 6:00pm.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Fuller

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Student (2-0)

TO: Adjourn at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick M. Manuel
Secretary