

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD December 17, 2018 AT 6:00 PM AT PHIPPSBURG ELEMENTARY 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 **January 28, 2019 meeting).**

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

Others Present: Katie Joseph, Debra Clark, Sandra Gorsuch-Plummer, Julie Kenny, Devon Gallice, Mary McCauley

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson August called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM CHAIR

Chairperson August noted that the Board and administrators had a workshop before the Board meeting to begin the budget process. Mr. August stated that it was a very positive and constructive meeting.

APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2018

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Fuller

VOTE: Board (7-0)

Students (1-0)

TO: Approve the minutes of November 19, 2018 as written.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

None

PUBLIC SESSION

None

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND SCIENCE FOCUS

Superintendent Manuel reported that this program was funded by a generous donation from the Phippsburg Land Trust. Phippsburg Principal Sandra Gorsuch-Plummer and physical education teacher Mary McCauley were present to give the Board an overview of the program. Principal Gorsuch-Plummer thanked the Phippsburg Land Trust for their support of this project. Ms. Gorsuch-Plummer stated that when she began working in Phippsburg she noticed the great opportunities our students had available to them in the community while connecting with our environment. Some parents approached her to see how we could give kids a different learning experience by taking the classroom outside. A small committee made up of members of the Land Trust, parents and community members worked together to write grants and recruited some volunteers to help with the outdoor classroom clean-up. One of the goals of the program is to help students understand that they live in an area that is rich in natural resources and that we need to protect those resources. The benefits of the program include social and emotional learning, and a connection to the STEM initiative.

Mary McCauley stated that she has found that students learn much better and their behaviors are much improved when kids are outside. Ms. McCauley also felt that getting kids outside fosters an appreciation and respect for the environment. Maine is fortunate to have access to an education program called Project Learning Tree through the Maine Tree Society. Ms. McCauley and a few other teachers participated in this training which taught them how beneficial it is to teach all different types of curriculum outside using the trees and the environment. Not only does being outside improve students' focus and behavior, Ms. McCauley has also noticed that it helps with students' stress levels. Ms. McCauley shared some highlights and activities that have taken place at each grade level. She is also working with Woolwich staff to try to create new outdoor classroom program at Woolwich Central School.

Phippsburg students Nathan Trask and Willow Halpin shared some of their experiences, what they have learned through this program, and the benefits of learning outside. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be included with the official Board minutes.

ACES PRESENTATION

Morse High School Assistant Principal Devon Gallice provided an overview of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) which is defined as traumatic experiences that can have a profound impact on a child's developing brain and body with lasting impacts on a person's health and livelihood throughout their lifetime. A study developed by Kaiser Permanente from 1995-1997 looked at data from over 17,000 people surveyed about their past to see if they had experienced any childhood trauma and, if so, whether that had an impact on what kind of adult they ended up becoming. The study focused on three categories; 1) abuse, 2) house challenges, and 3) neglect. The study included specific questions for each category which resulted in each participant receiving an ACE score. The results of the study found that trauma is very common and that it affects people from all different social economics status. The findings indicated that as the number of ACEs increases the risk of lasting effects it has on health, behaviors, and life potential also increases. Childhood trauma impacts how the brain develops because our body is on high alert all the time and stressed out. This kind of toxic stress can have damaging effects on learning, behavior and health throughout the lifespan. There are ways to help mitigate childhood trauma with healthy and responsive relationships, teaching core skills and finding ways to help families reduce stress. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be included with the official Board minutes.

MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Manuel reported that the district received final funding and design approval for the new Morse High School/BRCTC. We will be advertising for a general contractor in January and four companies have expressed an interest. The clerk of the works position will also be advertised in January with a closing date around the third week of January. Applications for the general contractor will close around February 21st. Construction is set to begin in March or April. As discussed at the budget workshop, Facilities Director David Richards announced that natural gas will be available to Bath Middle School with no charge and may come to the new high school but with a cost. There are discussions going on now with other businesses in Bath that would have access to the pipeline to see if there is an interest. The Building Committee and the Board would have to determine whether investing in natural gas would be worth the investment over time. The school will still have geothermal and natural gas would primarily be in the science labs and kitchens.

CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE

BRCTC Director Julie Kenny reported how the MELMAC grant has been implemented and what initiatives the grant has brought to BRCTC. MELMAC created a CTE Pathways Initiative Grant which focuses on increasing positive outcomes for students attending CTE schools and expanding CTE experiences to middle and high school students. BRCTC received both awards associated with the

grant that totals \$132,000 over next 4 years. The primary initiative is to increase positive outcomes for students that attend CTE schools including earning credentials of value as well as to expand CTE experiences for our non-traditional students. This can include students in the middle or high school levels and students that can't fit CTE programs in their everyday schedule. Ms. Kenny reviewed the ways the grant money will be used at BRCTC. The Boosting College and Career Readiness grant provides opportunities for CTE students' success after high school for careers and colleges. BRCTC is using this grant for fall college trips to give students the opportunity to visit colleges that offer programs that are specific to each student's interest. BRCTC will also offer spring business trips to all BRCTC students to visit manufacturing companies to see what different opportunities are available and to see how transferrable skills are put to use. BRCTC just began the mentorship program at Bath Middle School where 8th graders visit BRCTC once a month to work with mentor from the senior class for an afternoon to learn some valuable skills. Ms. Kenny is hoping to be able to open up this program to the Woolwich students next year and include some BRCTC students in 11th grade to work as mentors. BRCTC will be hosting a FAFSA night next year for Morse and all of our sending schools. Ms. Kenny reported that some of the grant money is being used to purchase \$10 gift cards from Amazon to give students an incentive to complete the FAFSA application or a job application. BRCTC is one of only seven schools in Maine to receive the Systems Innovation grant which totals \$19,000 per year for four years. BRCTC will be offering the first summer CTE STEM program during the summer of 2019. The program will be offered to any incoming 9th and 10 graders and students that complete the program will receive a ½ credit elective at Morse. Ms. Kenny will have 50 openings in the program and hopes to be able to include students from our sending schools. This will give students the opportunity to receive trade experience if they can't access a CTE class during the school day and expose students that aren't enrolled in the program to CTE.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Sydney Hollingsworth reported that the winter music festival went very well and students are beginning to prepare for midterms. Student Representative Hayden Platteter stated that the winter sports started up after the November break and auditions for the one act play held in March have also begun.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- The Bath Middle School Lego robotics team competed for the first time in the State Championship and tied for third place with over 40 teams competing.
- Patten-Free Library hosted the FLOW reception this year with Bath Middle School and Woolwich Central School students running the event.
- Morse High School made the AP honor roll for a second time in the last 5 years. The honor is a result of expanding AP offerings at Morse as well as improving student performance on the AP tests. One out of 373 schools across the country and one out of three in the State of Maine are recognized with this honor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with the Financial Report for the month ending November 30, 2018. Currently we have spent \$9.9 million out of the \$30 million budget and have received \$12.5 million in revenues. This follows the trend of how the money is spent and how the money typically comes into the district. The December financial report will include an encumbered amount. Mrs. Clark received an electronic copy of the audit and hard copies will be available to members of the Board. The auditor will be presenting his findings at the January 17th Finance Committee meeting. Food Service Director Tim Harkins provided the Board with a copy of a three-year review of the school lunch account in their packet. The report showed that we have brought in more

revenue and the trend shows that the program is headed in the right direction. As of the end of November, we have spent \$7 million on the Morse project. Mrs. Clark reported that final funding preparations are in order and once bids come in we will look at final funding in the month of May.

REVIEW OF 2018-2019 BOARD GOALS

Board member Ritch-Smith noted that the ACES Presentation addressed Board Goal #3 and that the Board continues to be updated on the progress of the Morse/BRCTC Construction Project as stated in Goal 1. Ms. Ritch-Smith reported that the Board will be discussing the Schedule B positions at a later date as part of Goal #4.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Superintendent Manuel announced Janet Crowe's retirement at the end of the 2018-2019 school year and thanked her for her years of service in RSU 1.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST FOR MHS STUDENT TO ATTEND JAZZ ALL-STATE FESTIVAL

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Ensel

VOTE: Board (7-0)
Student (2-0)

TO: Approve the overnight field trip for Morse High School student to attend the Jazz All-State Festival in South Portland.

PUBLIC SESSION

None

NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

- Next regular RSU 1 Board meeting; Monday, January 28, 2019 at Bath Middle School – 6:00pm.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Brown

SECOND: Ritch-Smith

VOTE: Board (7-0)
Student (2-0)

TO: Adjourn at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick M. Manuel
Secretary