

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD November 19, 2018 AT 6:00 PM AT DIKE-NEWELL 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 December 17, 2018 meeting).**

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**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, Jennifer McKay, Ruthanne Harrison, Mae Winglass, Marija Medenica

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**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 recognized Rob Morris for his time and contribution to RSU 1. Mr. Morris worked as an administrative assistant in Central Office and has recently taken another position in Topsham.

Chairperson August also shared his thoughts after listening to a podcast recently and a comment was made by the broadcaster about loving his kids. The broadcaster noted that how you treat other people's children is a measure of the moral compass of society. Mr. August stated that the job of the School Board and educators is to care for the kids in our community, most of whom we don't know by name. Mr. August thanked the Board, administrators, teachers, and support staff for making a commitment to other people's children.

**APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 29, 2018**

**MOTION:** Ensel

**SECOND:** Perkins

**VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Students (2-0)

**TO:** Approve the minutes of October 29, 2018 as written.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

The agenda was adjusted to include Item 11.1 ALICE Safety Approach which will be an action item. Kevin O'Leary was unable to attend the meeting so the Ignite Presentation will be added to a future Board agenda.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

None

**FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM AT DIKE-NEWELL SCHOOL**

Jennifer McKay stated that she became interested in the foster grandparent program during a conversation with her son who attends Coffin School and has a foster grandmother in his classroom. Ms. McKay found out that "Grandma Nan" is a paid volunteer through the foster grandparent program which is run by an organization called Penquis. Funding for this program is provided by the Corporation

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for National and Community Service, the Bureau of Elder and Adult Services and United Way. Ms. McKay reached out to Maria Staples at Penquis and was told that Sagadahoc County is served by the program. Ms. Staples explained that this is a federally funded program that reaches out to community members over the age of 55 and are income-eligible to serve as volunteers. If they meet the requirements, Penquis will provide the training and pay them a tax-exempt stipend to come work in classrooms. Ms. McKay completed the application process so Dike-Newell is now an approved site for the foster grandparent program. Ms. Staples is working to find two foster grandparents in the area this year to work with Dike-Newell students. The volunteers will be assigned to a particular classroom, supervised by the classroom teacher and will meet all Penquis guidelines around safety, confidentiality and supervision as well as the district's guidelines about working with kids. They will be in the classroom to build relationships with students and to help them grow socially, emotionally, academically, and behaviorally. They have to commit a minimum of 15 hours a week up to 40 hours per week. The teachers are looking forward to getting the program up and running and excited about welcoming the foster grandparents into Dike-Newell.

## **STEAM PRESENTATION**

BRCTC teacher Ruthanne Harrison gave the Board a brief update on the STEAM program and introduced Morse High School students Mae Winglass and Marija Medenica to talk about their STEAM projects. Superintendent Manuel recognized Morse High School senior Mae Winglass as one of the two RSU 1 students that recently received the Bath Youth Citizen Award.

Marija's STEAM project involved building a marine life center that would help seals that have been rescued. The warming of the Gulf of Maine has become a problem for seals. Marija shared her 3D model of the marine life center that was designed with the help of an architect. The center would be large enough to hold up to 27 seals comfortably but would be costly to build. Marija will be presenting her project in January and hopes that the facility will be built someday.

Mae's project was to create a study of how music affects your mood and productivity. Mae played a variety of music during a study hall dedicated to the STEAM program. The juniors and sophomores listened to Mozart, rock, and jazz, and then participated in a survey that was created by a Bowdoin professor. The survey is used to determine how the students were feeling by ranking a range of different emotions on a scale of 1-5. The data is still being collected so the results are not available yet. Mae felt that Mozart may be the most effective based on background research. Studies have found that students are more productive and learn better when listening to music that has 60 beats per minute.

Marija and Mae spoke in support of the STEAM program and felt that it helped them get to a place where they know what they want to study in college.

## **MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE**

Superintendent Manuel reported that the subcommittee will be meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> in Augusta and the full State Board will meet on December 12<sup>th</sup> to get final approval of the budget and project construction. Superintendent Manuel met with BRCTC Director Julie Kenny, Morse High School Principal Eric Varney, and Lavalley-Brensinger architects Ron Lamarre and David Harris last week to go over the plans one last time to make sure that we have everything we need in the building plans.

Board member Perkins expressed his appreciation that one of the design engineers working on the project traveled to Chicago and met with the #1 security expert in the country to bring back ideas for our staff and administrators.

## **CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Assistant Superintendent Katie Joseph reported that she is serving on the Maine Maritime Museum Public Programs Committee to help expand and strengthen our connection with the museum. Ms. Joseph attended the first meeting this morning and spoke about how important this relationship is considering the culture and industry in this area.

Ms. Joseph stated that reading instruction has been a focus this year for our K-5 teachers. We have hired consultants to help our teachers with this curriculum and will need to purchase literacy resources next year to support this program. This will be discussed in more detail during the upcoming Board budget retreat.

Ms. Joseph reported that she is working with Morse High School Principal Eric Varney and BRCTC Director Julie Kenny to begin to put together a scheduling committee for the new high school. Ms. Joseph will serve as the facilitator of the committee that will consist of the administrators along with faculty and a representative from the Board. The discussion will be centered on developing a new schedule as we move from three lunches to two when the new school opens. The meetings will be scheduled to begin in January.

The new teacher evaluation system seems to be going very well. Principals are conducting meetings and observations with their staff. The teachers are happy with how the committee was able to simplify and make the process more manageable.

BRCTC Director Julie Kenny will be present at the December Board meeting to talk about the MELMAC Grant and how those funds are being used in the district.

## **STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Student Representative Hayden Platteter reported that the fall production of the Shakespearean play *The Tempest* went smoothly and was well attended. The students did a great job at modernizing the script.

Student Representative Sydney Hollingsworth stated that MoHiBa was last weekend and was a wonderful way to honor Priscilla Montgomery and kick off the winter season. The senior class is working on college essays in their English classes and some of the students have already received college acceptance letters.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- Parent/teacher conferences are taking place in all schools this afternoon and evening.
- Sportsmanship awards were given out this fall to the Morse boys' soccer team and the Morse football team.
- Some ways we are bringing the communities into our schools include recent events to recognize our veterans in honor of Veteran's Day and grandparents luncheons.
- Student and families have been giving back to the community in a variety of ways such as participating in the local food drive to help the Bath area food bank.
- Representatives from Chewonki recently met with a small group of high school staff to talk about how we can utilize our valuable relationship with Chewonki at Morse High School.
- Superintendent Manuel, Chairperson August and Vice Chairperson Ensel attended a meeting with representatives from SAD 75, Lisbon, RSU 5, and West Bath to discuss ways in which the districts can collaborate. Different ideas include transportation, professional development, special education, and board training. We have set up a board training in January which will

include an orientation for all board members and board leadership training. Chairperson August felt that the meeting was very positive and included a lot of constructive ideas. The Board will be informed once we have more concrete ideas.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Board was provided with the Financial Report for the month ending September 30, 2018. The report was reviewed without any questions or comments.

## **ALICE SAFETY TRAINING**

Superintendent Manuel stated that the ALICE training will continue this year in grades 6-8 and 9-12. Parent meetings will be held later in the year along with training for staff in grades K-5.

**MOTION:** Perkins                      **SECOND:** Ensel                      **VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Student (2-0)

**TO:** Approve ALICE Safety Training as a component of the district's overall safety plan.

## **SECOND READING OF POLICY DMA – CASH MANAGEMENT FOR FEDERAL FUNDS**

**MOTION:** Walton                      **SECOND:** Ensel                      **VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Student (2-0)

**TO:** Approve the second reading of Policy DMA – Cash Management for Federal Funds as written.

## **SECOND READING OF POLICY DKC – EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION AND REIMBURSEMENT**

**MOTION:** Fuller                      **SECOND:** Ensel                      **VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Student (2-0)

**TO:** Approve the second reading of Policy DKC – Expense Authorization and Reimbursement as written.

## **SECOND READING OF POLICY JLDBA – SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND RESPONSE**

**MOTION:** Ensel                      **SECOND:** Walton                      **VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Student (2-0)

**TO:** Approve the second reading of Policy JLDBA – Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Response as written.

## **REVIEW OF 2018-2019 BOARD GOALS**

Board member Ritch-Smith noted 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 she is working to schedule some training for the Board to address Goal 3 to better understand the impact childhood experiences has on their education.

## **OVERNIGHT OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP TO QUEBEC CITY**

The Board asked Superintendent Manuel to get further information on whether the students need passports and, if so, who is responsible for purchasing them.

**MOTION:** Ensel                      **SECOND:** Perkins                      **VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Student (2-0)

**TO:** Approve the overnight out-of-state field trip to allow Morse High School students to visit Quebec City in May 2019.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

None

**NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS**

- Next regular RSU 1 Board meeting; Monday, December 17, 2018 at Phippsburg Elementary School – 6:00pm.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Walton

**SECOND:** Ensel

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

**TO:** Adjourn at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick M. Manuel  
Secretary