

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD September 17, 2018 AT 6:00 PM AT FISHER-MITCHELL 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 **October 29, 2018** meeting).**

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**Members Present:** Stephen August, Chairperson; Anita Brown, Megan Fuller, Bill Perkins, Jennifer Ritch-Smith, Alan Walton; Patrick Manuel, Superintendent of Schools

**Members Absent:** Lou Ensel, Sydney Hollingsworth

**Others Present:** Debra Clark, Katie Joseph, Nate Priest

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**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM CHAIR**

None

**APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES FOR AUGUST 27, 2018**

The minutes were amended to amend a typo on page 3 under Overnight Field Trip Requests to read “Pine Tree Camp trip.”

**MOTION:** Perkins

**SECOND:** Walton

**VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Approve the minutes of August 27, 2018 as amended.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

The agenda was adjusted to include Item 11.4 Nomination of part-time physical education teacher at Dike-Newell School.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Bath resident Adair DeLamater stated that she has served on the sustainability and combined committee for the new high school for the past 19 months. Ms. DeLamater spoke in opposition of heating our new school with natural gas and expressed her support of using a geothermal heating/cooling system.

**MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE**

Superintendent Manuel announced that the celebration of our new high school will take place on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:30-4:00 pm. Staff, students, committee members, elected officials, donors, and members of the alumni executive committee have all been invited to attend the gathering. Dr. Manuel stated that people will be able to visit the site and enjoy a barbeque as a way for us to say “thank you” for their support of the project. A more formal ground breaking ceremony will be held in the spring. A printed report from Crooker Construction was provided to the Board as an update on the project. A thorough report from the construction company will be provided to the Board each month.

**CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE**

None

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- We will be doing a close examination of our literacy practices across the district, particularly in the PreK-5 level.
- A group of Morse students attended a leadership conference in August that focused on the student culture issues and potential student-lead solutions.
- There has been enough interest at Morse High School this year to resurrect the math team. Eighteen students have signed up to participate which will require the appointment of a coach. This position is included in the Morse budget under Schedule B positions.
- Morse will be expanding the AP opportunities by adding AP Chemistry this year and plans are being made for a teacher to be trained to teach AP Physics. Morse Principal Eric Varney is also interested in adding an AP Research course in the near future.
- BRCTC has been chosen to receive the 2018 CTE Pathways Initiative Grant through the MELMAC Education Foundation. The \$132,000 grant will be used to expose students to community colleges and careers over the next four years.
- The cafeterias at all of our schools have been recognized as Let's Go! lunchrooms. Let's Go! is a childhood obesity prevention program that promotes healthy eating and physical activity among children from birth to 18. The program is sponsored by the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital.
- The district's educational plan for 2018-2019 will be available to staff and the community next week.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with the Financial Report for the month ending August 31, 2018. So far we have spent \$2.4 million or 8.28% of this year's budget. The district hired 18 new staff members over the summer and was able to stay within the budgeted amount. The district has received 18.2% in revenues which follows the same pattern as last year. Mrs. Clark reported that we will continue to keep an eye on Special Education tuition and MaineCare Seed as it comes through.

Mrs. Clark provided the Board with a financial comparison of the RSU 1 Food Service program from Food Service Director Tim Harkins. The state's recommended guideline used when looking at a foodservice program is that the salaries should be within 55% of the program's revenues. The report also included a list of things that Mr. Harkins is doing to try to increase participation.

Mrs. Clark processed the first payment to Crooker for the Morse project which brings the total to \$4 million spent towards project so far.

## FUNDRAISING REQUESTS

A list of the fundraiser requests for the first half of the year was included in the Board packet.

## SECOND READING OF POLICY JJIAB – EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION REGULATION

Board member Walton inquired as to whether the policy should include vaping and e-cigarettes when addressing alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Morse Athletic Director Nate Priest responded that the policy is an academic eligibility policy and the district has a separate policy that addresses tobacco and alcohol. The Board questioned whether or not the legal definition of tobacco would include vaping and e-cigarettes. Superintendent Manuel stated that he would check into this and report back to the Board.

**MOTION:** Perkins

**SECOND:** Ritch-Smith

**VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Approve the second reading of Policy JJIAB – Extra-Curricular Activity Participation Regulation as written.

## PROFICIENCY-BASED EDUCATION UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Katie Joseph reviewed where we left off at the last Board meeting with regard to Proficiency-Based Learning (PBL). Now that the state has decided that the PBL bill is now optional, the RSU 1 administrative team has chosen to keep the parts of the PBL law that we support. In moving forward, the items we have already been doing that are good for students and teachers that make for better classroom education will continue. The administrative team is proposing to adopt back the old graduation policy while continuing on any work we have done and not working further on the pieces of the law that we did not believe is good for students. Ms. Joseph reviewed the district's PBL Vision Statement:

- We believe our students should do the heavy lifting in the classrooms and that PBL has changed, for the good, the way teachers deliver instruction and what students are being asked to do.
- We believe that students should be given more than one opportunity to show what they know because sometimes you need more time to understand the material.
- We will continue to put effort into making student work relevant to real life and 21st century skill building.
- Grades will be based on what students understand, not just the work they complete, and will purposefully change depending on the grade students are in so the system is developmentally appropriate.
- We do not believe that our high school transcripts or diplomas should change.

Ms. Joseph explained the retake policy that was referred to in the second bullet. If a student does not pass the summative assessment, the student will need to show some initiative to relearn the material which will give the student an opportunity to take the assessment again.

The next steps at the high school level include refining and revising the system as we use it, and updating the graduation policy. The teachers will continue to work on improving their assessments and aligning their work to the standards at the upper grade levels.

The Board was provided a copy of the letter that went home to middle school families in August that reviewed the changes in 2018-19. The middle school will fully implement their new grading system which aligns K-8. The middle school teachers will need to have work sessions throughout the year to finalize all curriculum PBL work to get caught up with the rest of the district.

The only piece left to do at the elementary level is to update the wording in the report card. An updated report card guide and letter of explanation will go home with the first report cards. The elementary teachers have already fully implemented a PBL approach in their classrooms.

A copy of the letter to families will soon be posted on the RSU 1 website along with the vision and will also be attached to each school newsletter. The letter, along with a report card guide, will be included with the first report card that goes home this year.

## APPOINT LOCAL DELEGATE TO MSBA ANNUAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Board member Walton agreed to serve as the local delegate for RSU 1 for the 2018-2019 school year.

## APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES BETWEEN RSU 1 AND MIDCOAST PEDIATRICS

**MOTION:** Ritch-Smith                      **SECOND:** Fuller                      **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Approve the Agreement for Services between RSU 1 and Midcoast Pediatrics as written.

## PERSONNEL ITEM

**MOTION:** Perkins                      **SECOND:** Fuller                      **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Approve the nomination of Emily Buczkowski, Physical Education teacher at Dike-Newell School.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

None

**NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS**

- Next regular RSU 1 Board meeting; Monday, October 28, 2018 at Phippsburg Elementary School– 6:00 PM

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Walton

**SECOND:** Fuller

**VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Adjourn at 6:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick M. Manuel  
Secretary