

breakfast challenge to provide students and staff with their best breakfast treat. The event was free and Mae's Café won the challenge as voted by the students. Boden shared the process and work he has put into becoming a student ambassador for the program.

MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Manuel reported that the Clerk of the Works will start on March 5th overseeing the day to day operations. The bids for the general contractor will be opened on Thursday. Dr. Manuel expects to have three bidders present at the bid opening. The general contractors have expressed their concern regarding the proposed timeline and felt that it would be difficult to meet due to the economy and lack of laborers. It now looks like the building won't be ready to open until December 2020 which means a decision would need to be made about whether to move in to the new school over the holiday break, February break or wait until 2020-2021. The building committee will be meeting to weigh in on this topic. The change in the timeline won't affect finances as far as bonding is concerned.

CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Katie Joseph reported that she has been working with Morse Principal Eric Varney on the graduation policy and should have it available for the Board to review in March or April. The 2019-2020 school calendar is nearly finished and will also be in available in your packet next month. Ms. Joseph and Vice Chairperson Ensel will have more information to share on a board advisory committee proposal for a school start time committee which will include Board members, administrators, teachers, students, and community members. The evaluation steering committee voted and finalized their work on the leadership components included in the evaluation system. We will be using a version of the Marshall rubric for principals so it is completely aligned with the teachers' evaluation system. Principals will be asked to submit two goals - one personal/professional goal and one school focused goal for an instructional area of improvement. Ms. Joseph and Superintendent Manuel will schedule three evaluation meetings throughout the year with each principal. Staff will be asked to complete two surveys throughout the year on their building administrator to get their feedback and these surveys will be reviewed during the evaluation meetings. The committee also updated a version of the evaluation component for non-instructional staff which will be reviewed by the principals soon. Ms. Joseph reported that all components of the evaluation system will be in place over the next few months.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Hayden Platteter reported that students just enjoyed the winter/February break and attended the first semester recognition assembly which was followed by winter carnival.

Student Representative Sydney Hollingsworth reported that the prep classes for the SATs have begun and things at Morse are progressing nicely.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- Students in the elementary schools celebrated the 100th day of school with fun and educational activities in their classrooms.
- Members of the National honor society at Morse have been visiting Fisher-Mitchell School on a regular basis to work with the students in their classroom and spend time with them during lunch and recess.
- A thank you letter from the President of the Maine School Board Association Kim Bedard was shared with the Board. Ms. Bedard chose RSU 1 as one of the 9 districts to visit across the state of Maine to get a better understanding of what is taking place in schools

throughout Maine and what issues school boards are facing. The group visited classrooms, met with students and Board members, and was very impressed.

- The district athletic recognitions include:
 - Both boys' and girls' Woolwich basketball teams had very successful seasons.
 - Morse teacher Charlie Bingham took a group to Sugarloaf to participate in the Special Olympics and the unified basketball team had a great season this year.
 - Both boys' and girls' swim teams placed 2nd at the KVAC Championship and placed well at the state championship.
 - Olivia Harper set a record for the pool and state record for the 100 backstroke at the KVAC Championship at the YMCA.
 - Morse's cheer team placed 3rd at the regional championship and 9th at the state championship.
 - Boys' basketball team returned to the playoffs this year earning a preliminary game against Mt. Ararat. Senior Tom Warren scored 1000 points during his career at Morse this year and became the 6th Morse basketball player and 4th boy to do so.
 - The Morse Wrestling team had a strong season and sent 5 wrestlers to the state championship. Ihsan Myers won the KVAC and Regional Championship and finished 3rd at the state championship which earned him a spot at the New England's this weekend.
 - Superintendent Manuel reported that state subsidy in RSU 1 has increased by \$633,000. Dr. Manuel highlighted a few of the reasons for the increase such as an increase in the minimum special education adjustment and decrease in the mill rate.

FINANCE REPORT

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with the Financial Report for the month ending January 31, 2019. Currently we have spent \$15.3 million out of our \$30 million budget with \$11.17 million encumbered for salary and benefits. Mrs. Clark explained that the negative amount in the school administration line is due to an overstated amount in the encumbered amount and will be adjusted next month. To date, 58% of revenue has been received and everything is coming in as we expected. The substitute line is one area that we will most likely go over in this year; however, we will have enough in salary and benefits to cover the difference. Mrs. Clark reported that we have spent \$9.5 million so far for the Morse High School project and brought in \$17 million in the bond anticipation note.

Superintendent Manuel reported that we have exceeded our fundraising goal of \$700,000 and are now offering people the opportunity to buy bricks or theater seats in hopes of getting closer to \$1 million.

Chairperson August asked about substitutes and whether we have a difficult time finding them and filling the open positions. Mrs. Clark responded that we have a good process in place for hiring substitutes and are usually able to fill the positions. The Board asked about hiring a permanent floating substitute to provide coverage and felt that this may be a good conversation to have when discussing next year's budget. Mrs. Clark offered to pull some reports from Frontline to show how many substitutes we are using on a daily basis now that we have had the program for a year.

REVIEW OF 2018-2019 BOARD GOALS

Board member Ritch-Smith reported that the Board continues to get monthly updates on the construction project, has assigned a Clerk of the Works and will appoint a general contractor as part of Goal 1. The Board continues to talk about communication at every Board meeting as well as tonight's workshop. Ms. Ritch-Smith stated that we have had a meeting and training on Adverse

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Fuller

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

TO: Approve the addition of AP Seminar and AP Research courses at Morse High School with the timeline that was presented.

FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES

- JJIAB Extra-Curricular Activity Participation Regulation – Superintendent Manuel stated that the changes begin on page 2 under F. Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs. After reviewing the policy and researching other districts, we felt we were much more punitive than other districts when it came to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd offenses. Principal Eric Varney and Athletic Director Nate Priest met with staff to talk about including language in the policy that holds students accountable without feeling defeated if they make a mistake and are unable to participate.

Principal Eric Varney stated that the policy used to apply to Maine Principals’ Association (MPA) sanctioned events only; however, the faculty recommended adding the fall play and MoHiBa based on the significant amount of time the students give to these events. The one act play has always been included in the policy. The language in Section K. Parent-Coach Communication was discussed. Mr. Varney stated that the policy is shared with the parents and students and the language in Section K is part of an agreement that is signed by both the parent and student. The Board suggested referencing the agreement in Section A of the policy and including a copy of the agreement form with the policy.

- JC Transgender and Gender Expansive Students Guidelines – Superintendent Manuel reported that Gia Drew from Maine Equality, a parent representative and two students joined the committee in the discussion. It is still a work in progress but the committee felt it was ready for a first reading. Dr. Manuel will be sharing the edits with the administrators to get their feedback on whether or not to remove some guidelines in the policy. Faculty, parents and students have also had the opportunity to share their input on the policy.

PUBLIC SESSION

None

NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

- Next regular RSU 1 Board meeting; Monday, March 25, 2019 at Bath Middle School – 6:00pm
- Finance Committee meeting: Monday, March 4, 2019 at Central Office – 7:30am

ADJOURN

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Ensel

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

TO: Adjourn at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick M. Manuel
Secretary