

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community High School
December 19, 2018
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Gary Carr, Vice Chair Wendy Brotherlin, Patty Gordon, Cathy Jacobs, Betty Morrell, Kaleb Pushard, Shawn Roderick, Melissa Tobin, David Twitchell, Adam Woodford, Alexander Wright
Members Absent: Crystal Sullivan, Scott Lyons
Administrators: Superintendent James Charette, Principal Dwayne Conway, Finance Manager Brigitte Williams, Health Center Director Rebecca Reynolds

1. Call to order: Chair Carr called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. Presentations:

A. Health Center and Future Funding Update

Health Center Director Rebecca Reynolds provided an update on the future funding for the Health Center. For FY18, the state granted \$36,000 and the district provided \$30,000 to fund the Health Center, but when it came time for the state to allocate the funds, school based health centers were pulled out of the budget. The RSU Board voted to use monies from the reserve fund to fully fund the health center last year. There is still about \$33,000 in the reserve. At this time it appears there are two options on the table for the 19/20 school year. The CDC could decide to allocate funds from their allocation from the state, or the District could fund the entire health center budget. Another option is that Representative Jim Handy of Lewiston has introduced new legislation that would fund school based health centers again, as well as fund 15 new health centers. The total health center budget is \$68,000 plus they receive \$6,000 from Family Planning. Finance Manager Williams added that the Board normally budgets \$30,000 per year. This amount plus the remaining reserve would pretty much cover the health center for one more year.

Patty Gordon asked the Board to think about allocating more money in the budget for the health center.

Chair Carr asked that this item be revisited in January.

b. 5210 Program Update

Nan Bell from Healthy Communities for the Capital Area and Katherine Gross, Grade K teacher at Manchester Elementary, and the Let's Go Champion for Manchester Elementary School, updated the Board regarding the 5210 Program in the district schools. Becca Reynolds added that all the schools except Wayne Elementary have water bottle filling stations, and one is in the process of being funded at Wayne. Teacher Tori Adams at WES received a grant from the Maranacook Education Foundation (MEF) that will help to install the water bottle filling station at Wayne Elementary. They reviewed the different wellness projects at each of the schools. Nan Bell added that they are working on a review of the District's Wellness Policy and once that is done they will submit it to the Policy Committee for review and discussion.

3. Citizens Comments: none

4. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:

Shawn Roderick reported that he read in the Community Advertiser weekly paper, a letter written by the Winthrop School Board Chair stating that RSU 38 had no interest in consolidating with Winthrop. He asked how a decision like that is made, and should it have been brought to the entire board for discussion. Chair Carr reported that Virginia Geyer did approach him and Superintendent Charette at the recent MSMA Fall Conference, but there was no meeting and no decisions were made. He did bring it up at a recent RSU 38 Board meeting, but at the time there were no details regarding

what Winthrop was proposing. Mr. Roderick added that if this is not a good time to discuss this that he would like a discussion added to a future agenda.

Discussion ensued about the letter and the process for dealing with the information that was printed in the paper, especially in light that there was no formal request made. Vice Chair Brotherlin added that her understanding was that Ms. Geyer was going to reach out to RSU 38 once she talked with her board. Concern was raised about how the letter portrays the RSU 38 Board. Chair Carr will prepare a response to the letter that was printed in the Community Advertiser for the RSU Board to review and discuss.

Superintendent Charette added that part of this process is that school boards are supposed to talk to each other and they are supposed to appoint people to do that. Also, the superintendents were not included along the way. Some of this collaboration is happening now as part of the work through the RSC (RSU 2, RSU 38, and Winthrop).

5. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:

a. Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2018

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Morrell to approve the minutes of December 5, 2018 as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

b. Acceptance of donations

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Morrell to accept the donations as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

c. Acceptance of resignation effective 12/14/18, Student Services Director Alan MacGregor

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Morrell to accept the resignation of Student Services Director Alan MacGregor, with regret.

Discussion followed regarding the process for filling the position. Superintendent Charette reported that Dr. Conway, and teachers from the middle and high schools are helping out in covering events through January 2. There was a round of interviews on Monday, and he hoping to have a recommendation for the Board to consider at the January 2nd meeting.

Motion Carried: unanimous

d. Acceptance of resignation effective 2/1/19, Middle School Teacher Genevieve Ricard

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the resignation of Middle School teacher Genevieve Ricard with regret. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

e. Consideration of overnight trip – Wayne Elementary School Grades 4-5, University of Maine 4-H Camp, Bryant Pond, Maine, May 13-14, 2019

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Jacobs to approve the overnight trip for Wayne Elementary School Grades 4-5 as described. **Motion Carried:** unanimous

f. Policy Second Readings: BEDB, School Board Meetings and Agendas; KHB, Advertising in the Schools; IHEDA, Post-Secondary Enrollment Options

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Morrell to adopt Policy BEDB as presented.

Discussion ensued. Concern was raised about the way the revised policy reads in terms of bringing items up for discussion at a board meeting without prior knowledge of the Superintendent or the Board. Items may be brought up that should have the opportunity to be addressed by the Superintendent first. There needs to be a way to bring items to the Board, but concern the new wording leaves it too wide open. B.Morrell suggested sending the policy back to committee to be reworded, or suggest keeping the current wording.

MOTION by Wright, second by Morrell to send Policy BEDB back to the Policy Committee for further review.

Question was asked about what the goal was in revising the policy. What was the problem with the current policy? W.Brotherlin responded that in reviewing this policy, the Committee found that we are the only district with this type of wording; anyone on the board should be allowed to bring anything they want up at a meeting. She added that the current wording is very controlling; the Committee didn't want censorship about what could be talked about at board meetings.

Superintendent Charette reviewed the minutes from the last two Policy Committee minutes to give the Board the sense of the process. D.Twitchell noted that although he likes simplicity, keeping the wording as it currently stands, doesn't keep anyone from bring new items to the Board; it may help the Board do it in a more orderly way.

Chair Carr asked for a vote on the original motion.

Motion Carried: 7 in favor, 3 opposed (Woodford, Tobin, Morrell), 1 abstained (Gordon). No action is required on second motion since the first motion passed.

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Morrell to approve Policy KHB as recommended.

Motion Carried: unanimous

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Morrell to approve Policy IHCD as presented.

Motion Carried: unanimous

g. Update on Facilities Improvement Bond Referendum

Superintendent Charette distributed a Communication Plan for the Facilities Improvement Bond, which outlines the information, to date, that has been distributed to the public regarding the upcoming bond referendum on January 8, 2019. This week he is working on a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet that lists the questions that have been asked to date regarding the bond referendum. During the first week of January another half sheet mailing will go out to all residents reminding people about the vote on January 8th. The FAQ will be sent to all parents and staff, and will also be posted on the website and FaceBook, and instant alert reminder will go out to district families and staff the evening of January 7th. He asked for assistance in getting the word out to community members about the upcoming vote. Suggestion was made to contact the PTCOs of each school to recruit their assistance in reaching more families.

Chair Carr reported that there was a question at the Public Hearing about the cost savings between gas and oil, and gas saves .16 per square foot over oil.

Question was asked about the parking lots and whether they will be reengineered. The only portion that is being looked at to be reengineered is the road here at Millard Harrison Drive. Request was made to perhaps look at the traffic patterns at the elementary schools.

h. Update on Strategic Plan

Superintendent Charette distributed a draft (working document) of the Strategic Plan. The Advisory Committee will be meeting Thursday afternoon to review this draft. He asked that any questions be directed to him so he can share them with the Advisory Committee. He hopes to bring the Strategic Plan to the Board for consideration at the February 6th Board Meeting.

i. Consideration of bids for obsolete buses

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Twitchell to sell the obsolete buses listed to the highest bidders.

Question was asked about what categorizes a bus as obsolete. Finance Manager Williams responded that these are buses that the State has approved for replacement. By law we are required to take them off the road. All usable parts have been removed for the buses prior to going out to bid.

Motion Carried: unanimous

6. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James Charette, Superintendent/Secretary
D. Foster, Recorder