

MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Manuel reported that the project is running smoothly. The color and design committee has been meeting every other week and the building committee is scheduled to meet this week. The crane is on site and the first piece of steel is scheduled to go up on June 3rd or 4th. The Clerk of the Works is at the site every day. The fundraising campaign is going very well and has raised over \$800,000 towards the new school.

CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Katie Joseph reported how the Title I, II and IV funds will be used for the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Joseph was notified that the district will be receiving \$114,096 for Title II next year which will allow us to continue the same projects as in previous years. Title I funds are used to support 4 ed techs, 4 teachers, homeless transportation funds, family engagement funds, digital programming and supplies. Title II funds are earmarked for anything related to class size reduction, and staff professional development and consultants. The district has been receiving Title IV for three years and has been using this money to help support the Title I projects each year.

Ms. Joseph stated that last year the Board funded a new initiative for the Gifted/Talented program. "Gate Days" is a program to help students in grade 4 and 5 transition to the middle school and positively build the Gifted/Talented community. The students met once a month to work on projects and research together. Ms. Joseph read some of the comments from the students that participated in the program. If the program continues to be a success, Ms. Joseph stated that we might want to think about expanding it to include the 3rd graders. The teachers and students will be invited to attend a Board meeting next year to share their experiences.

LATER START TIME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Assistant Superintendent Katie Joseph reported that the committee held their first meeting on April 23rd. The two-hour session included parents, administrators, students and teachers. All representatives shared their research about the idea of whether schools should have a later start time. The group weighed the pros and cons and found that the majority of the research supported this idea and showed it to be the beneficial for students. Due to logistical considerations, the committee put together a list of things to consider, questions to ask, and experts and other districts to consult. The group was interested hearing from medical experts and invited a doctor and nurses to join them at the next meeting on May 28th. The committee's goal is to do the initial research and bring their findings to the Board for their review. The goal is to have this completed by next winter.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Sydney Hollingsworth reported that the senior prom was a success and many students had their pictures taken at the library park before the event. This is the last full week for the senior class and the testing schedule for the underclassmen has been posted. Seniors will be attending marching practices and getting ready for graduation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- RSU 1 hosted Special Olympics at McMann Field with students from Dike-Newell, Woolwich Central School and Morse High School competing in various activities. We will continue to host this event in the future for students in Sagadahoc, Cumberland and Lincoln County.
- Dr. Manuel thanked the PTAs and the other organizations that recognized our teaching staff on Teacher Appreciation Day.

- Congratulations to Morse High School's physical education teacher Charlie Bingham for receiving the honor of Sagadahoc County Teacher of the Year. Mr. Bingham is the 4th teacher in RSU 1 to receive this award.
- The Adult Education graduation was a heartwarming ceremony with people of all ages being recognized. RSU 1 is now a part of Merrymeeting Adult Education and will be hiring a new director by end of the week.
- Reminder of the Bath Middle School Celebration of Learning which will be held on May 30th from 10:00-1:00 during the school day.

FINANCE REPORT

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with the Financial Report for the month ending April 30, 2019. To date, we have spent \$22 million out of our \$30 million budget. The district is on target to match all the projections throughout the year. The revenues are also on target although the Miscellaneous Revenue line is down slightly. The district will be receiving a check from unemployment which should close that gap. The auditors are in the office today and tomorrow to begin the 2018-2019 audit process. They are scheduled to come back in October to complete the audit. We have spent \$13.6 million on the new school project and the bond closing will be scheduled to take place at the end of May.

REVIEW OF 2018-2019 BOARD GOALS

Vice Chairperson Ensel reviewed the Board goals and stated that the Board continues to be on target to meet their goals this year.

SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICY JLFA – CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Walton

VOTE: Board (5-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Approve the second reading of Policy JLFA – Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response as written.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Superintendent Manuel announced the retirement of Kathy Downing, Band Teacher at Phippsburg School, Dan Madden, Social Studies teacher at Morse High School and Sue West, Ed Tech at Woolwich Central School.

Superintendent Manuel announced the resignations of Mary Parker, Alternative Education teacher at Morse, and Jennifer Breau, Secretary for the Adult Education Program.

PERSONNEL NOMINATIONS

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Fuller

VOTE: Board (5-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Approve the following nominations as presented:

- Landon Hixon, Electricity Instructor, BRCTC
- James Scheult, Science Teacher, WCS
- Donna Tardiff, Grade 1 Teacher, PES

VOTE TO CALL DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING AND REFERENDUM

Vice Chairperson Ensel read the following motion:

VOTED: That the Warrant and Notice of Election for the Regional School Unit Budget Validation Referendum presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved, and that a Regional School Unit budget validation referendum be and is hereby called for June 11, 2019 for the purpose of approving the budget adopted at the Regional School Unit budget meeting for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

FURTHER VOTED: That the form of Notice of Amounts Adopted at Budget Meeting presented to this meeting be and is hereby approved, and that the Secretary of the Regional School Unit is hereby authorized and directed to complete said Notice by adding the amounts approved by the voters for each expenditure category and the total school budget summary expenditure amount, all in accordance with the Regional School Unit budget meeting on May 28, 2019, and to cause copies of said notice, as completed, to be delivered to the municipal clerks of each municipality of the Regional School Unit for posting at the polling places for the June 11, 2019 Regional School Unit budget validation referendum.

MOTION: Fuller

SECOND: Perkins

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Approved the motion as read by Vice Chairperson Ensel.

FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES

- Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements
Assistant Superintendent Joseph reported that the policy was reviewed and discussed with Morse and BRCTC staff, administration, and the Policy Committee. The old policy is no longer relevant because of our decision not to follow all the Proficiency-Based Learning steps. Ms. Joseph stated that under the old policy when students took a vocational class the credit always went to getting a science credit which didn't always make sense. Students also found that sometimes when they took vocational classes they couldn't fit in all the required courses in their schedule. This policy will give the students access to our vocational programs while earning the appropriate credits.
- Policy IKA – Grading System
Assistant Superintendent Joseph reported that the changes to the policy were made to match what the current practice is in the district.

FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Walton

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Approve the field trip request to allow BRCTC Skills USA students to travel to Kentucky in June to compete in the Skills USA National Championship.

PUBLIC SESSION

Woolwich parent Abby Bean read a letter from a group of Woolwich parents to express their concern about the behavior challenges in the 4th grade that are affecting the rest of the class. The parents are supportive of Woolwich Central School and would like to explore different options to help improve the atmosphere at the school. The parents felt that Woolwich should have some of the resources that other schools in the district have and suggested hiring a behavioral interventionist for the 2019-20 school year or put it in the budget for 2020-21. The parents were present to advocate

for the students, to be a part of the solution, and help the students get what they need to be successful and enjoy school.

Fisher-Mitchell parent Andria Deitrick also shared her concerns about the behavior issues and felt that they are not being addressed. These behaviors make it difficult for students to be ready to learn. Ms. Deitrick also addressed the Board about the test scores and performance of the schools in RSU 1. Ms. Deitrick reported that 26% of Fisher-Mitchell students tested at or above state standards in math and 36% in English/language arts. Ms. Deitrick stated that she doesn't believe in over testing our students; however, she does believe in assessments and accountability and feels that this is a district-wide, community-wide issue.

Bath parent Karen D'Silva spoke about the behavior issues and low academic performance at Fisher-Mitchell School. Ms. D'Silva stated that the parents came to the meeting because we believe in our schools and our community.

NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

- District Budget meeting: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at Bath Middle School – 6:00 pm
- Budget Validation Referendum: Tuesday, June 11, 2019
- Next regular RSU 1 Board meeting; Monday, June 17, 2019 at Bath Middle School – 6:00 pm

ADJOURN

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Walton

VOTE: Board (5-0)
Student (1-0)

TO: Adjourn at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick M. Manuel
Secretary