

**KIDS REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #2  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023**  
**PLACE: RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**  
**TIME: 6:00 PM REGULAR MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Donna Seppy; Vice-Chair Leanne Burnham, Directors, Jeff Bickford, Aimee Campbell O'Connor, Jim Grandahl, Deb Large, Kathryn Marseglia, Liana Knight and Amanda McDaniel  
Student Representatives: Mackenna Cote (Monmouth), Zach Godbout (HDHS), Max Viselli (Richmond)

**\*MEMBERS ATTENDING REMOTELY** (in accordance with 1 MRSA §403-B): Jon Lambert

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Directors Chris Asch and Russ Hughes

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent Rick Amero; Principals Mary Paine, Ted Finn, Sara Derosby; Asst. Principal Doug Bourget; Special Ed Director Deb Murphy; Transportation Director Katie Spear; Buildings and Grounds Director Glen Reynolds; Director of Technology Mariah Kelley and Assistant Director Takuji Kobayashi; Remote Participation Asst. Superintendent Kristie Clark

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM PRESENT**

The Board Chair declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**\*In accordance with RSU 2 Policy BED - Remote Participation in Board Meetings, the following of the board offered advanced, qualified notice and are expected to remotely attend and participate in this meeting:** Director Jon Lambert

**2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2023**

Director Jeff Bickford **motioned** to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2023. Director Amanda McDaniel **seconded** the motion, **voted 10-0**.

**3.0 ADJUSTMENT(S) TO AGENDA**

- Add to Item 6.2
- Add to Item 10.1
- Change in Item 10.3
- Change in Item 10.4
- Add to Item 10.6

**4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 4.1 Public Comment
- 4.2 Reports from Student Representatives (at the end of the minutes)
- 4.3 Richmond Principals' Reports (at the end of the minutes)

**5.0 OLD BUSINESS**

- 5.1 Adult Education  
A **motion** was made to amend section 5.1 into two votes.  
Director Jeff Bickford **motioned** to approve amending section 5.1. Director Jim Grandahl

**seconded** the motion, **voted 9-0-1.**

- A **motion** was made for the Superintendent (designee) to participate in the memorandum of understanding for participation on the advisory committee for the regional adult education program with communities of Gardiner and Winthrop.
- Director Deb Large motioned to approve participation of the advisory committee. Director Jon Lambert seconded voted 8-0-2. (Directors Liana Knight and Amanda McDaniel abstained)
- Director Jim Grandahl motioned to table the financial portion of this vote until the Superintendent reviews responsibility with counsel. Vice-Chair Leanne Burnham seconded the motion. Vote 8-0-2 (Directors Liana Knight and Amanda McDaniel abstained)

## **6.0 NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 Approval of Nominated Personnel as New Hires  
None.

6.2 Approval of Overnight and Out of State Field Trips  
Vice-Chair Leanne Burnham **motioned** to approve the following overnight field trips.

- HDMS Grade 8 trip to Kieve - 5/1 - 5/5/23
- MMS VEX Robotics Team trip to Dallas, Tx - 4/24-4/29/23
- HDHS Japanese trip to Japan - 7/11-7/23/23
- MMS Grade 7 trip to YMCA Leadership Retreat in Winthrop - 5/30-5/31/23
- MA Outing Club trip to Flagstaff Lake - 5/6/23-5/7/23

Director Aimee Campbell O'Connor **seconded** the motion, **voted 9-0-1.**

6.3 First Reading of Policies  
Vice-Chair Leanne Burnham **motioned** to approve the first reading of the following policies.

- AC – Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
- ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
- ACAA-R – Student Discrimination/Harassment and Title IV Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures
- ACAB – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees
- ACAB-R – Employee Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

Director Deb Large **seconded** the motion, **voted 10-0.**

**Note:** Policy committee will review Board policies as soon as possible when Federal and State laws require changes to current school board policies.

## **7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

7.1 Teaching and Learning Committee  
March 9, 2023 5:30 p.m.RSU #2 Central Office

**Committee Members:** Committee Chair Kathryn Marseglia; Directors Chris Asch (remote), Liana Knight and Deb Large; Board Chair Donna Seppy; Superintendent Richard Amero, Jr.

**Committee Members Absent:** Directors Leanne Burnham and Russ Hughes

**Other Board Members Present:** Director Aimee Campbell O'Connor

**Also Present:** Assistant Superintendent Kristie Clark, Special Ed Director Deb Murphy, IT Director Mariah Kelly and KIDSEA President Keith Morang

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.

Informational discussion took place on the following topics.

2. ACCESS for Multilingual Learners (State assessment)
3. K-5 Reading Program Review Progress
4. Gifted and Talented Programming Information
5. Other
6. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristie Clark, Assistant Superintendent

7.2 Policy Committee  
March 9, 2023 6:30 p.m.  
RSU 2 Central Office

**Committee Members Present:** Committee Chair Chris Asch (remote); Directors Liana Knight, Deb Large and Kathryn Marseglia; Board Chair Donna Seppy; Interim Superintendent Richard Amero, Jr.

**Committee Members Absent:** Directors Leanne Burnham and Russ Hughes

**Other Board Members Present:** Director Aimee Campbell O'Connor

**Others Present:** Assistant Superintendent Kristie Clark, Special Ed Director Deb Murphy, IT Director Mariah Kelley, KIDSEA President Keith Morang

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

1. Review of Policies
  - BEDH – Public Participation at Board Meeting  
The RSU 2 policy, along with an update from MSMA, will be brought back to the Committee for review.
  - RSU Policy on Class Rank
  - IKAB – Grading System – Reporting Student Proficiency [RSU 2 policy]

2. First Reading of RSU 2 Policies - Some changes due to new Maine State Laws

The Committee determined to move the following policies forward to the full Board for First Reading Approval.

- AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
- ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
- ACAA-R – Student Discrimination/Harassment and Title IV Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

- ACAB – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees
- ACAB-R – Employee Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

3. The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristie Clark, Asst. Superintendent

7.3 Budget and Operations Committee meetings

**Budget only: March 16, 2023 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Central Office**

**Committee Members:** Directors Jeff Bickford, Aimee Campbell O’Connor, Jim Grandahl, Jon Lambert; Board Chair Donna Seppy

**Committee Members Absent:** Director Amanda McDaniel

**Others Present:** Directors Chris Asch, Deb Large, Leanne Burnham, Kathryn Marseglia; Superintendent Rick Amero, Assistant Superintendent Kristie Clark, Special Ed Director Deb Murphy, IT Director Mariah Kelley, Business Manager Stephanie Saltzman; Principals Mark Tinkham (virtual), Sara Derosby (virtual), Ted Finn (virtual); KIDSEA President Keith Morang

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m.

1. Determine Budget Committee Chair

Director Jim Grandahl nominated Jeff Bickford as Chair of the committee. Director Aimee Campbell O’Connor nominated Jim Grandahl as Chair. Jeff Bickford seconded the nomination. The committee approved Jim Grandahl as Chair of the committee.

2. First Version of the FY’24 Budget

The Committee reviewed the first version of the budget. Discussion followed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie Clark  
Assistant Superintendent

**Budget only: March 27, 2023 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Central Office**

**Committee Members:** Committee Chair Jim Grandahl; Directors Jeff Bickford, Aimee Campbell O’Connor; Board Chair Donna Seppy

**Committee Members Absent:** Directors Jon Lambert and Amanda McDaniel

**Other Board Members Present:** Chris Asch, Deb Large and Kathryn Marseglia

**Others Present:** Superintendent Rick Amero, Assistant Superintendent Kristie Clark (remote), Special Ed Director Deb Murphy (remote), Business/HR Manager Stephanie Saltzman (remote), Food Service Director Bobbi French (remote), IT Director Mariah Kelley, Buildings & Grounds Director Glen Reynolds, RHS Athletic Director Jonathan Spear; Principals Sara Derosby (remote) and Melissa Burnham Barter (remote); KIDSEA President Keith Morang

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

1. Richmond Boosters Concession Stand

Discussion was held on a Snack Shack at Richmond MS/HS. A determination was made to take the Snack Shack proposal to the town of Richmond by March 31<sup>st</sup> in order to get the proposal on the April Board meeting agenda.

2. Version #2 of the FY'24 Budget

The Committee reviewed and discussed expenses and revenue.

Next committee meeting: Friday, April 7, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristie Clark, Assistant Superintendent

7.4 Negotiations and Personnel Committee  
March 16, 2023

**Negotiations & Personnel Committee Members Present:** Committee Chair Jeff Bickford; Directors and Deb Large; Board Chair Donna Seppy; Superintendent Rick Amero

**Committee Members Absent:** Directors Jim Grandahl, Russ Hughes and Amanda McDaniel

**Other Board Members Present:** Aimee Campbell O'Connor

**Others Present:** Asst. Superintendent Kristie Clark, Special Ed Director Deb Murphy and IT Director Mariah Kelley

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Review new Draft Job Descriptions
  - Central Office and Finance Secretary
  - Information Technology Tech II
  - Technology Integrator
2. Review Draft RSU 2 Substitute Handbook (review next meeting)
3. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristie Clark, Asst. Superintendent

## 8.0 BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

None

## 9.0 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None.

## 10.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Amero thanked teachers and students for staying involved and engaged through the month of March into April.

Superintendent Amero thanked Assistant Superintendent Kristie Clark and Special Education Director Deb Murphy for covering leadership duties at Dresden Elementary School.

### 10.1 Newly Hired, Newly Appointed Personnel

- Chelley Choate, Custodian transfers from DES to HDES
- Jake Casey, Custodian, transfer from RMS/RHS to DES 2nd shift then to daytime
- Andrea Freed, 50% LCC Representative at HDMS
- Rozanne Winn, transferred from HDHS to MMS

#### Coaches:

- Kyle Bishop, HDHS Varsity Baseball
- Brandon Terrill, HDHS JV Baseball
- Steve Acedo, HDHS Varsity Softball
- Jen Conrad, HDHS JV Softball
- HDHS Track & Asst. Track Co-: Jarod Richmond, Jesse Rowe, Sara O'Brien
- Alec Byron, HDMS Baseball
- Andrew Bellegarde, HDMS Softball
- Cody Bentley, HDMS Track
- Tabitha Myer, HDMS Track
- Molly Menice, 50% Asst. Track Coach at MA

### 10.2 Resignation(s) / Retirement(s)

- Julianne Gilbert, Music at HDES (retirement 6/2023)
- Stephanie Saltzman, Business/HR Manager
- James Baker, Custodian at HDES
- William Hinckley, Custodian at MMS
- Michael Poulin, Special Ed Tech III at MMS (retirement 7/2023)

### 10.3 Open Positions in the RSU

- French and Spanish at MMS
- RTI/MTSS Ed Tech III at MA
- IT Technician in HD
- Custodian at HDES
- Music at HDES (8/2023)
- Special Ed Tech III at MMS (6/2023)
- Grade 1-2 Teacher at MMS (8/2023)
- Music at MMS (8/2023)
- Physical Education at MMS (8/2023)
- Special Ed Teacher at HDES (8/2023)
- Special Ed Teacher at MBES

- Guidance Secretary at RMS & RHS
- Bus Drivers (2) in Richmond
- Van Driver at HDMS/HS
- Custodian at DES
- Custodian at HDMS (6/2023)
- Custodian at HDMS/HS (12/2023)
- Custodian at MMS
- Custodian at HDHS
- Custodian at RMS/RHS
- Special Ed Techs: MBES 4, HDMS/HS 1, MMS 3, MA 1, RMS/RHS 1
- RSU Central Office and Finance Secretary
- RSU Finance Manager
- RSU ELL Teacher
- RSU Instructional Coach

10.4 Upcoming Board Events and Committee Meetings (subject to change)

- Board meets with Select Boards and City Councilors - 4/4/23
- Budget Comm. (Revised Revenue Expenditures to Board) 5:30 p.m. - 4/6/23  
(prior to the regular board meeting)
- Budget and Operations Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m. - 4/7/23
- Special Board Meeting to vote on Budget 6:00 p.m., Central Office - 4/13/23
- Budget and Operations Committee 5:30 p.m. - 4/27/23
- Negotiations and Personnel Committee 6:30 p.m. - 4/27/23
- Regular Board Meeting at Monmouth Academy 6:00 p.m. - 5/4/23
- Budget Public Hearings: 5/15/23 at MA; 5/16/23 at HDHS; 5/17/23 at DES
- Regional Budget Meeting 6:00 p.m. at HDHS - 5/25/23
- Regular Board Meeting at HDES 6:00 p.m. - 6/1/23
- Special Board Meeting at HDES 6:00 p.m. - 6/15/23

10.5 Upcoming Evening Events at Schools

- DES PTF meeting - 4/12/23
- HDES PTO meeting - 4/24/23
- HDHS *Into the Woods* production - 4/7 and 4/8/23
- HDMS/HS Spring Conferences - 4/27/23
- HDHS Music Night - 4/28/23
- MMS PTO meeting - 4/4/23
- MMS Up with Kids Concert - 4/12/23
- MA Parent Teacher Conferences - 4/13/23
- MBES PTG meeting - 4/12/23
- RMS Dance - 4/13/23

Other events

- Workshop Day - 4/14/23
- Patriots Day (schools and offices closed) - 4/17/23
- School Vacation - 4/18 - 4/21/23

10.6 School Field Trips [In-state / School Day]

- DES trip to Bridge Academy Public Library - 3/24/23
- HDES Grade 1 trip to Bangor Children's Discovery Museum - 5/5/23
- HDES Grade 2 trip to Viles Arboretum in Augusta - 5/5/23
- HDES Grade 2 trip to HDHS Theater Performance - 5/6/23
- HDES Grade 3 trip to Coastal Botanical Gardens - 6/2/23

- HDMS Grade 8 trip to CATC in Augusta - 6/1/23
- HDHS Junior Class trip to NEACAC College Fair in Augusta - 5/18/23
- HDHS Sophomore Class trip to Sunflower Farm - 5/31/23
- MMS Grades K-5 trip to Harry Cochrane Day at Cumston Hall - 4/6/23
- MMS Grade 8 trip to Thomas College in Waterville - 4/26/23
- MMS Grade 5 Science trip Friends of Cobbossee Watershed - 5/1/23
- MMS Grade 6 trip to Colby College in Waterville - 5/3/23
- MMS Grade 4 trip to Dig Maine Gems - 5/10/23
- MMS & MA K-12 Life Skills trip to Fox Farm in Monmouth - 5/12/23
- MMS Grades 1 and 2 trip to Brigeen Farms - 5/16/23
- MMS Grades 7 & 8 trip to Cumston Theater - 5/17/23
- MMS Kindergarten trip to Pineland Farms - 5/18/23
- MMS Pre-K trip to Maine Wildlife Park in Gray - 5/25/23
- MMS Grade 8 trip to CATC in Augusta - 6/1/23
- MMS Grade 5 trip to State House in Augusta - 6/6/23
- MMS Grade 1 trip to Bates Camp - 6/9/23
- MMS Grade 3 trip to Botanical Gardens in Boothbay - 6/7/23
- MA Drama Club trip to MPA State Festival in Ellsworth - 3/24 - 3/25/23
- RHS Band trip to Damariscotta - 4/13/23

#### 11.0 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Student Representatives to the Board
- Recognize student group accomplishments in competitions at the beginning of the school board meetings.
- Calendar for summer meetings: School Board openings.

#### 12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Director Jim Grandahl **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Director Jon Lambert **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor 10-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Amero  
Superintendent of Schools

DM/src



**RHS Student Representative Max Viselli's report follows.**

With the start of spring comes a new season of sports at Richmond High School. Students can participate in either baseball, softball, or track which is in partnership with Wiscasset High School. Baseball and softball practices have started in the gym, and we are trying to get outside on the fields as soon as the weather allows us to.

The Math Team recently visited the University of Maine Farmington to partake in the East-West Conference championship math meet. Our team took second place and had seven members scoring in the top 25, and three of those members in the top 10 for individual scoring. The Math Team will compete in the State Math Meet at the Augusta Civic Center this April.

A majority of the senior class has been putting the finishing touches on their capstone projects and are eager to complete their classes and graduate. Senioritis is definitely set in.

With the warmer weather starting to show its face, students are becoming more active, with more and more students deciding to walk to school, as well as many students starting to play basketball after school on the outdoor court. Spring is in the air at RHS.

**MA Student Representative MacKenna Cote's report follows.**

MASG put on a successful Winter Carnival during the week of 03/20. We had many activities/competitions that took place before, during, and after school hours as well as our Winter Carnival Dance & Social on Thursday night (03/23) followed by a day full of class competitions on Friday (03/24). For the second year in a row, the Class of 2023 are the Champions!

The spring sports season (to include track & field, baseball, softball, and lacrosse) is now underway.

FBLA had their State Conference. 32 members from MA qualified for the National competition. Monmouth now holds 4 of the 7 State Board officer positions: President, Secretary, Historian and Parliamentarian. We also received 3 State Awards: Olivia Degen - Who's Who in FBLA; Brosnan Comeau - New Member of the Year; and Michelle Neal - FBLA Advisor of the Year.

The MAD players won their regional one act festival and moved onto states where they got 4th place. Three members of our cast received special awards to include: All Festival Cast - MacKenna Cote & Reilly McCabe; and Costume Design - Adam Knell

The State Academic Decathlon Competition was held at Monmouth Academy on Saturday (03/18). Our team lead by Mr. and Mrs. Foyt, competed against three other high schools: Hall-Dale, Oak Hill and Calais in a day full of testing and public speaking. For the second year in a row, MA finished as the Runner-Up! MA earned 22 gold medals, 19 silver medals, and 13 bronze medals and tied for first place for the Super Quiz Award.

A group of MA student-athletes, supervised by Ms. Molly Menice, attended a leadership workshop held at Winthrop High School on Tuesday (03/28).

Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences will be taking place at Monmouth Academy on Thursday (04/13) from 4:00pm - 5:00pm and then 5:30 - 8:00pm. Parents have been given access to an online portal to sign-up for their conferences as of Monday (03/27).

That's it for this month's Student Report from MA. Thanks!

**RMS/RHS Principal Karl Matulis' report follows.**

**Enrollment:**

**Middle School**

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Total
33	33	41	107

Projected enrollment for next year: 105

**High School**

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Total
24	38	34	30	126

Projected enrollment for next year: 136

**Summary**

It is a busy time of year at Richmond Middle and High School. Quarter 3 officially closed on March 31st, with report cards going out on April 7th. Seniors are completing their capstone projects and are hearing back from college applications. Students in grades 8-11 are reviewing their transcripts and signing up for next year's courses and spring testing will be taking place during the month of May. Spring sports are also just getting underway.

**Guest Speaker/Performance**

We have had a couple of guest presentations over the last month. Holocaust survivor, author, and speaker Kati Preston as well as a performance by Portland Stage. Kati spoke to our middle school students about her experience surviving the Holocaust, as well as of the importance of kindness and tolerance. Kati was a powerful speaker, and we would like to thank Kelly Byron for helping to arrange for her visit.

We will also be having Portland Stage presenting William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar to all students grades 6-12 on March 29th. After the performance, freshmen will be participating in theater workshops with the cast and crew.

**Math Team**

The RHS Math Team finished 2nd overall at the East West Conference Championship meet at the University of Maine Farmington on March 15th. Szilard Szijarto, Alexa Kelsey, and Isaac Soule will all be recognized at the East West Banquet after finishing top 10 in individual scoring for the season!

**Key Club**

The end of the Key Club year is upon us. Students have completed their mandatory 20-hour minimums of community service, new officers are being elected, and our participating seniors will be recognized at graduation for their time and energy. Key Club is also currently holding a fundraiser for Children of Peace International where we will pie a staff member in the face! The money raised will be given to COPI at our annual leadership conference in Springfield, Mass., on the weekend of April 1st.

## **Course Sign-ups**

Students in grades 8-11 will be signing up for next year's courses the week before April Vacation. In anticipation of that, students are currently comparing their transcripts with the courses that they need to graduate (and any requirements for their post-secondary education) so that they can map out what courses they will need to take in future years. Sophomores recently went on a tour of CATC and we again expect that interest in those courses will be high. We are also excited to offer several new courses, including Computer Science Discoveries, History of Food, and Multimedia Journalism.

## **Co-Curricular Update**

Although our Winter Sports seasons have wrapped up, we are happy to look back at some of the great achievements made by our student athletes. Both of our HS basketball teams qualified for the MPA tournament in Augusta, and they both took home our conference championships in the process. We had multiple conference all-stars, and Connor Vashon was chosen to the McDonald's All-Star Team for Class C South, a great achievement! Our wrestling team competed as a cooperative team with Monmouth Academy, and we saw our one female wrestler, Autumn Lane from Richmond compete in the Girls Wrestling State meet at Wells High School. Autumn certainly made us proud!

On a different note, our music program is alive and well and we had some great accomplishments coming from them as well. We had 5 student musicians selected to the MMEA District III Honors Chorus and 2 student musicians selected to the MMEA All State Honors Chorus. This is a great achievement for our musicians, and we are certainly proud of them!

Now the weather is changing, and we are anxiously waiting for warm weather to dry out our athletic fields as we prepare for baseball and softball seasons. Our HS teams have already started practicing inside, and our MS teams start up on April 3rd. We are very much looking forward to getting outside and in the sun!

## **Marcia Buker ES Principal's Report to the Board of Directors**

**April 2023**

### **Student Demographics**

1. Current enrollment = 204
2. Students receiving special education and/or Title I Services
  - o Students with IEPs 33
  - o Title 1 Reading/math 30
3. Students with 504 plans 6
4. Students designated as homeless 5
5. Weekend Backpack Program currently serving 37 families

### **Personnel**

1. New team members
  - a. Meadow Merrill, Tutor (Title grant funded)
  - b. Shirley Humphrey, Reg. Ed Tech (FT, Permanent)
2. Current vacancies
  - a. 4 Special Ed Techs
  - b. 1 Special Ed Teacher
3. Retirees
  - a. Music Teacher
  - b. Special Ed Techs

### **Facilities/Space**

1. Lead testing update: After verification tests
  - a. All indoor faucets testing below threshold (4 PPB)
  - b. Two outdoor spigots still testing above the threshold; one used for the gardens; working with Glen on next steps to mitigation
2. Once again using Bobcat Den (modular) for our tutoring and enrichment program and special events (Holiday Bazaar, Telling Room, Chewonki, etc.)
3. Still need a PA system in modular building



- b. Teachers and MTSS team constantly using the data to inform instruction, interventions, and programming.
- 1. Interventions at all levels
  - a. Ed Tech and tutor have strong academic backgrounds
    - Being strategically used to provide interventions based on need
    - Ed Tech working with some of our higher achieving students in multi-grade groups; intend to continue developing this aspect of our MTSS
- 2. Percentage of students chronically absent is currently dropping
  - a. Most formerly chronically absent or tardy students now coming to school, and on time.
  - b. 9% in December to 7.81% now
  - c. Varied approaches, depending on family dynamics and need

**Tier III/School Improvement Status and Grant**

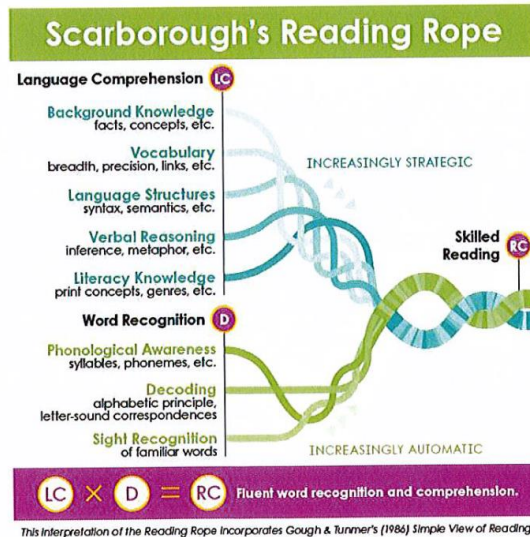
- 1. Received approval for the 2022-23 grant application.
- 2. Will not be Tier III for at least 2023-24, per DOE
  - a. Shortens our current spending window for this year.
  - b. Ends 30K per year we've had for PD
- 3. Significant progress on our school improvement indicators, in the instructional improvement realm especially (data dash board, use of data to inform instructions)

**Teaching and Learning Highlights**

- 1. Spring Assessments
  - a. Spring Testing in May: New Through-Year Assessment 3-5
  - b. Map Growth (NWEA)—K-2
  - c. Maine Science Assessment—Grade 5
- 2. Leadership Team is planning ER and PLG time to audit our *local* assessments and identify strengths and gaps to work on next year.

**Reading**

- a. In process of assessing reading curriculums for balance of language comprehension and word recognition



**2. Math**

- a. SF Math has been OK, but may not be the program we want to marry; exploring two other options; teachers eager to explore

**3. Science**

- a. Students are doing science from PreK to grade 5
- b. Chewonki visited in early March
- c. Planetarium star show in late March
- d. The Friends of Cobbossee Watershed program in grades 3, 4, and 5: Linus the Loon has made it through his journey, and at least some trout are surviving their classroom incubation.
- e. Year-round horticulture and outdoor studies

**4. Digital literacy and basic computer science—K-5**

- Added to our specials line-up

**5. Social-Emotional Learning**

- a. January—Guidance program: guest speaker from **The Cromwell Center for Disabilities Awareness** on understanding disabilities and inclusion
- b. April— Guidance program: New Hope guest provided interactive lessons on respect and kindness
  - Special thanks to Kolleen O'Donnell for bringing these programs to our students.
- c. Will complete final SEL screening this spring
- d. Teachers continuously review and discuss best practices to help students stay regulated and de-escalate; becoming fluent in our knowledge!

6. **Telling Room Book Launch on March 30<sup>th</sup>**— truly amazing compilation of stories poems, and essays by our students.

7. **Trimester Progress Reports**—went out the week of March Parent-teacher conferences; a lot smoother this time; thanks goes to Grade 4 Teacher Taylor Burke for her onsite support and Mariah Kelley for building and constantly refining the system.

**Ongoing Challenges**

- 1. A lot of time spent on improving attendance, but we are making significant progress.
- 2. Assessment fatigue
  - a. Spring Through-year assessments are longer (60+ minutes each)
  - b. Grade 5 students also take three, one-hour tests

**It-Takes-a-Village**

- 1. Family Reading Night—March 2
  - a. Great community-school partnership
  - b. Thanks to Jen Merrill for organizing this celebration of reading; and to the PTG for supplying the refreshments and books!
- 2. Encore List of Contributors to Outdoor Learning, Garden Fresh Food, and Stewardship

- ✿ Maine Agriculture in the Classroom--School Garden and Greenhouse Grant—\$1700.00
- ✿ Maine Healthy Communities 5210—Super Snack program—\$650.00
- ✿ Maine Environmental Education Association—Plant a Seed Day, recycling program, Super Snack program—\$1500
- ✿ Maine Environmental Education Association—\$1500
- ✿ Oakhurst Kindness Grant, Reduce and Recycle—\$500.00
- ✿ The Wild Seed Project donated 4 native plant species seeds to our Garden Keepers program to do winter planting and create native habitats for pollinators. While not a cash donation, it was a valuable contribution to our outdoor learning initiative.
- ✿ Tender Soles Farm
- ✿ Goranson Farm and Six River Farm—donated many pounds of vegetables for the March Super Snack.
- ✿ Androscoggin Valley Soil & Water Conservation District—providing cost-free, year-round outdoor education lessons

Tina Wood  
 Lisa Wells  
 Danielle Beck  
 Deb Burke  
 Taylor Burke  
 Jessie Chalmers  
 Haley Christie  
 Ashley DeWever  
 Elizabeth Ladner  
 Emma Lorusso  
 Katelyn Lavallee  
 Sammi Jo MacFarland  
 Vickie Merrill  
 Elaina McDaniel  
 Jennifer Merrill  
 Mary Novak  
 Kolleen O'Donnell  
 RHS JMG  
 Many community helpers during events