

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37
September 30, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of RSU/MSAD #37 was held at Narraguagus High School, Harrington, Maine, on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items of business:

Board Members Present: Everett Grant, Debra Murphy, Sally Thompson, Sarah Willson, Charles Peterson, Jr., Ronald Kennedy, Drusilla Ray, Michael Strout, Beth Hartford (arrived at 7:25 p.m.)

Board Members Absent: Angela Alley, Mark Wright, Brandi Lovejoy

Other persons present: Ronald Ramsay, Denise Vose, Lorna Greene, Susan Meserve, Maria White, Lucille Willey, John Daley, Alfred Moore, Sr., Mary Moore, Lori Mathews, Dave Mathews and Sara Ippolito

MINUTES

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Everett Grant.

2. RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2015

ACTION: Motion by Michael Strout, second by Ronald Kennedy, and voted (613-yes, 97-abstentions) to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2015 meeting as printed. (Ray abstained as she was absent that meeting.)

3. RE: REPORT-SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative updates)

INFORMATION: Superintendent Ramsay reported we are off to a great start for the new school year. We have one unexpected resignation; Larry Brown, custodian at Narraguagus High School.

4. RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2015 INFORMATION: A

draft copy of the FY15 audit was provided for the board to review and will be placed as an action item on the next agenda. Superintendent Ramsay indicated we ended the year where we had hoped. As discussed in previous meetings, revenue had decreased but we were able to still maintain a balance forward of approximately \$476,177 which was only about \$9,000 less than projected. These figures include the projects we wanted to include in the FY15 budget money, a list of which will hopefully be available at the next board meeting. Although the audit is still in draft form, there are no major findings to report and we have a healthy undesignated fund balance. Referring to the July and August financials, although quite a few expenses have been recorded, this is typical for the start-up of a new school year.

5. RE: REPORT – “STATE OF THE DISTRICT” INFORMATION: Superintendent Ramsay provided a written State of the District report. Of this, some key points are:

- a. District’s total valuation is \$512m which was a reduction from the previous year. This helps the district in terms of the subsidy we receive.
- b. Local budget is approximately \$7.8m with the total budget including grants being \$9m.
- c. At the time of this report, the enrollment was 657 (31 more from last year).
- d. 46 student transfer requests have come through the Superintendent’s Office. Of these 13 were approved. The commissioner overturned and granted 21. Mr. Kennedy asked how many transfers are 7&8. Mr. Ramsay thought only 4 or 5. Of the transfer requests, it was noted that a few were Pre

- K. Parents did not want their child to attend a full day of Pre K. According to the Commissioner, Pre K students follow the same guidelines as K-12 in that if they are enrolled, they should attend the hours and days specified by the district. Ms. Willson asked what the limit was for Pre K students. Mr. Ramsay informed that the classroom limit was 16 students. The count for subsidy purposes is based on enrollment as of October 1.
- e. Written report provided breakdown of the # of teachers in the district. Mr. Ramsay informed the board that all of the classrooms in the district are now single grades. This is something we've been working toward and have accomplished.
 - f. Regarding facilities: the written report provides a list of projects completed at each school and the Central Office. Mr. Ramsay would like to create an emergency maintenance fund out of some of the undesignated fund balance. He would also like to see the bathroom renovations (district wide) continue. Mr. Grant asked about the name change of the High School to a Jr./Sr. High School. This should be placed on next month's agenda.
 - g. We implemented the move of grades 7 and 8 to Narraguagus and the new Pre K program, all of which appear to be moving along nicely.
 - h. We have formed a new county wide leadership team to establish professional development county wide. The team's focus is on proficiency based education. We have offered one workshop already and will be offering another in October.
 - i. D.W.M. was named a High Performance Rewards School and Harrington was named a High Progress Rewards School.
 - j. Common Core tests last spring were not good. Science was our strongest subject with Milbridge leading the district. Mr. Kennedy expressed frustration with the Common Core math. Mr. Ramsay stated it is possible the scores could have been affected by the Commissioner's announcement that students did not have to take the test. If the students did not complete the test this then invalidated the test and affected the test scores. Ms. Greene commented that the tests at D.W.M. were totally computerized. This forced students who have not had the opportunity to become technologically savvy to take a new test using a medium they were not comfortable or confident in using. Mr. Ramsay informed the board the State is not going to use the same testing company to perform the test this year. After much discussion about the validity of the test and its scores, Mr. Ramsay said the District would not look at changing its curriculum until we find out it would not fit the tests.
 - k. We have 44 students taking college credit courses.
 - l. We just finished the 3rd year of the Gifted and Talented program. Ms. Greene has completed and submitted the application to continue the program.
 - m. Last year we implemented a 3rd and 4th grade basketball program as well as elementary cross country. Both programs were very successful. Talks are in progress about adding a Jr. High Volleyball program for next year.

6. RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS INFORMATION;

- a. Athletics/Student Activities: Ms. Murphy said the Athletic committee met and talked about leaving the DAC and joining PVC.
- b. No other committees met

7. RE: ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS INCLUDING NCLB/ESEA INFORMATION:

- a. Harrington: Mrs. Meserve said there were 142 students, 12 of which were in Pre K. They had an Open House this month. Darling's Ice Cream truck was there providing free ice cream and any

donated money received was given to the school. The school physicals have been provided and the PTSG have already completed a Mum sale fundraiser.

- b. D.W.M.: Mrs. Greene said there were 118 students, 13 of which were Pre K. Their Open House was well attended. They have already had a fire drill which was successfully completed in 1 minute and 10 seconds. The students and staff participated in a welcome back assembly. Mrs. Ford had a music assembly for grades K-6. Student Council elections were held. Roof repair on the school has been completed.
- c. Milbridge: Ms. White said there were 112 students, 13 of which were Pre K. Ms. White also suggested we might be moving toward the time where a one on one student to machine ratio would benefit the students and District. She has noticed since beginning to teach grades 5 and 6 this year the technology readiness skills are lacking. To assist with that, she has purchased a new IXL learning program to help students. Milbridge will host a 5k race on Halloween as well as a Trunk or Treat. They are participating in the Island Readers and Writers again this year and have 2 people set up to join in. They will also have a Veteran's assembly again this year and invite anyone who would like to stop by.
- d. Narraguagus: Mrs. Willey provided written reports; "Narraguagus Jr. Sr. High School Welcomes You" and "School Board Report, Sept. 2015". This year the school is offering a program where if the student finishes, 12 college credits will have been earned. Regarding the 7th and 8th graders, she is hearing more as the school year progresses that they do not like going back to the individual elementary schools for sports. Mr. Ramsay wanted clarification regarding the dual credits being earned. Currently there are 81 credits being earned which will count towards the student's high school and college career.
- e. Special Education: Mrs. Vose continues to be very busy with new director trainings, IEPs and 504 meetings. Mrs. Vose also mentioned the destruction of Tammy Heavrin's house by fire. Mr. Ramsay indicated a benefit will be held in the near future for her. More information will be provided as the event is planned.
- f. Transportation: written report provided. A new bus was purchased and delivered in September.

8. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

ACTION: Mr. Peterson motioned this item be tabled, seconded by Ms. Murphy, vote; unanimous.

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. RE: CONSIDERATION TO PAY VARSITY VOLLEYBALL COACH 40% OF JV STIPEND

ACTION: Mr. Peterson motioned this item, seconded by Mr. Strout, vote; unanimous.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. RE: APPROVAL OF "BEN TEIR BASKETBALL PROGRAM" USING FACILITIES

Mr. Strout said he talked to Dan Kane; it is for profit but he thinks the District will reap the benefit of our student athletes participating in this. He also said allowing this program to be in District will offer the parents of our students some ease with transportation issues as the camp will continue even if it is not held in District. Ms. Willson said she had some concerns over the cost of the program but Ms. Murphy said she thought Ben would be willing to work with anyone who would not be able to pay the full amount. Mr. Grant voiced concerns regarding insurance and whether the District would be liable.

ACTION: Ms. Murphy moved to approve the Ben Teir Basketball Program using District facilities as long as appropriate proof of insurance by those running the program can be provided. Seconded by Mr. Strout. Ms. Hartford and Ms. Willson voted no. All others voted yes.

2. RE: DISCUSSION OF JOINING THE PVC FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS INFORMATION:

Mr. Daley informed the board there are no Class C teams in DAC in our area. It basically comes down to scheduling. Most of the teams we have played in the past are now a part of PVC. The coaches have been included in the conversations about this change and they support what the board feels needs to be done for our student athletes to play the quality (point) teams needed to ensure active, enjoyable and competitive worthy seasons. Ms. Murphy voiced her ambivalence about the change. She would like to meet with the DAC to discuss the matter. Mr. Daley said he let them know we would have a decision by October 29th.

3. RE: ELECTION OF DELEGATE TO MSBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY ON 10/22

ACTION: Mr. Kennedy made a motion to nominate Sarah Willson, seconded by Ms. Thompson; vote unanimous. Ms. Murphy made a motion to nominate Beth Hartford as an alternate, seconded by Ms. Thompson; vote unanimous.

4. RE: HIRING SUBSTITUTES

- a. Colette Gebarawski, sub teacher
- b. Tamra Lenfesty, sub teacher
- c. Jamie Bradley, sub teacher
- d. Deborah Fessett, sub cook
- e. Pamela Susan Morse, Pre K – 5 sub teacher
- f. Elmer “Buddy” Pinkham, 4 – 12 sub teacher

ACTION: Mr. Peterson made a motion to hire the substitutes put forth by Mr. Ramsay, seconded by Ms. Murphy; vote unanimous.

5. RE: CONSIDERATION OF BIDS FOR CONTRACTED DRIVERS TO KIDSPEACE AND MACHIAS VOATIONAL PROGRAMS:

Bid results provided in writing to Board. Only one bid was received for Kidspeace run and one for Machias run. Maryann Rice for Kidspeace at \$175 per day; Nancy Prince for Machias at \$88.64 per day.

ACTION: Mr. Kennedy made a motion to accept both bids, seconded by Ms. Ray; vote unanimous.

6. RE: CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO DRAW FROM SICK BANK – F. CROWLEY

ACTION: Mr. Peterson made a motion to allow the withdrawal from the sick bank up to the maximum allowed for F. Crowley, seconded by Ms. Murphy; vote unanimous.

7. RE: ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Mr. Peterson made a motion to adjourn at 9:40; vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald C. Ramsay
Ronald C. Ramsay
Secretary to the Board

MEETING SUMMARY—September 30, 2015

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

2. APPROVED the minutes of the 8/26/15 regular meeting;
6. TABLED agenda adjustment;

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. APPROVED paying varsity volleyball coach part of the jv stipend for covering games;

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVED use of facilities by Ben Teir Basketball Program;
2. DISCUSSED joining PVC;
3. ELECTED Sarah Willson as delegate for MSBA Assembly; Beth Hartford as alternate;
4. HIRED Substitutes—C. Gebarowski, T. Lenfesty, J. Bradley, D. Fessett, P. Morse, E. Pinkham;
5. ACCEPTED bids for contracted runs to Kidspace (M. Rice) and Machias Voc Ed (N. Prince);
6. APPROVED request from F. Crowley to draw from sick bank.