

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD June 17, 2019 AT 6:00 PM AT BATH MIDDLE SCHOOL. (NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Board. Such action, either to approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the **August 26, 2019** meeting).**

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**Members Present:** Steve August, Chairperson; Lou Ensel, Vice Chairperson; Anita Brown, Megan Fuller, Bill Perkins, Alan Walton; Patrick Manuel, Superintendent of Schools

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Ritch-Smith, Hayden Platteter

**Others Present:** Debra Clark, Katie Joseph, Dean Emmerson, Ross Berkowitz, Meg Barker, Mari Eosco

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## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered into Executive Session-Evaluation of officials/employees [M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A)] at 5:30.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson August called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES FOR MAY 20, 2019 AND MAY 28, 2019**

**MOTION:** Ensel                      **SECOND:** Perkins                      **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Approve the minutes of May 20, 2019 and May 28, 2019 as written.

## **ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

The agenda was adjusted to include Item 13.1D Request for Leave of Absence. Item 4.0 Recognition and Comments from Chair was moved to take place after the Staff Report.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

None

## **SOLID WASTE ADVISORY PROPOSAL**

Fisher-Mitchell School 5th graders Taylor Tate and Maxwell Ricciardone introduced themselves and their classmates that were in attendance to present a proposal to create an ad hoc committee to look at the issue of solid waste in the school district. The students conducted research on the dangers of single use plastic. As a result of the research the students will be replacing the plastic utensils with silverware next year with the support of the Foodservice Director Tim Harkins and the head cook Miss Melissa. The second thing the students focused on was encouraging more recycling during lunch. Taylor stated that in order for this to be successful we all need to work together in all of our schools. The reason why this is so important is because the students recognize that they are role models to their younger siblings and that is important to practice these lifelong habits to show them and all those around us. The students asked the Board to create a solid waste advisory group (SWAG) to look at how solid waste is currently being produced and disposed of in our schools. The committee would look at what we are doing now, look at alternatives and costs and then present

their recommendations before the next school budget. The students understand that the program would cost money upfront but it would save money in the long run.

Bath City Councilor Mari Eosco stated that she worked with the students to help them come up with a proposal based on what the city has done over the years. The City of Bath Solid Waste and Recycling Committee (SWAC) is excited to be a partner with this type of committee to help the school transition into some of the things the city is doing and have the students involved. Ms. Eosco felt that if we get the students involved at an early age that this can become a habit for them and the students can teach their family how to do it as well.

**MOTION:** Ensel                      **SECOND:** Perkins                      **VOTE:** Board (5-0)

**TO:** Approve the proposal to form an ad hoc committee

## **RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM CHAIR**

Chairperson August thanked the community for their support of the district during the budget referendum vote which was overwhelmingly approved by all our communities. Mr. August shared his thoughts about ways we could improve the public's opportunity to participate in the process. The district voted to continue the practice of the dual validation of the budget. Mr. August provided the Board with some ideas that he hopes would encourage and facilitate public participation in the budget process. Those ideas included scheduling the Finance Committee meetings later in the afternoon to encourage more participation, hold the Board meetings at different schools during the budget cycle to discuss budget items specific to each building, schedule a high profile budget meeting to include members of our PTAs and town officials, and provide a multiyear prospective of the district's needs and a sense of what our priorities are over a longer period of time. Mr. August also suggested scheduling a few more workshops through the year to give the public an opportunity to discuss relevant topics. Mr. August asked the Board to think about his proposal and be prepared to have this discussion in the fall so we can finalize the budget process. The Board appreciates the fact that the district budget meeting is an opportunity for individuals to bring issues up; however, changing the way we do business may result in clearer opportunities for public input and Board reaction to that input.

## **MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE**

Superintendent Manuel reported that the first steel delivery was supposed to be today and the crane is in position for the steel. The geothermal system is in, has been pressure tested, and passed. The Building Committee will resume their meetings in August and will need to weigh in on the front entrance sign, the canopy, and the furniture and colors. We will keep the committee and the Board up to date on the progress.

## **LATER START TIME ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Assistant Superintendent Katie Joseph provided the Board with a report from the Later Start Time Advisory Committee and reviewed some of the highlights from the report. The result of the committee's research showed that there are undisputable benefits, in terms of academic achievement and mental and physical health, with starting school later especially for students in grade 6-12. The group was quickly convinced that the question isn't whether this is beneficial for students but how the logistics and the communication piece are done should we choose to change our start time. Our school nurses and district doctor are all in support of the later start time as well. The committee felt that their job is done as far as research is concerned and unanimously supported further exploring this idea and what it would mean logistically for this district and whether the community would support this idea. The report also included suggested action steps that would

need further research. The committee recommends that the Board decide whether they are in support of what they have done so far and would like to form a later start logistics and communication committee to address the six areas listed in the report.

Vice Chairperson Ensel felt that we wouldn't need to form another committee but would ask the Board whether or not we should keep going based on the committee's report. If the Board is in support of this idea then we would consider this the second phase of the current committee and we would reform or reorganize the committee. This committee would then look at what it would take to make this work logistically and how we would communicate and educate the community. Mr. Ensel thanked Ms. Joseph and everyone on the committee for their work on the committee.

Chairperson August stated that there is no need to get Board approval to move forward on looking at the logistics and asked that the committee put together a more in-depth presentation for the Board once they have completed the next phase of their research.

## **STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

None

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- Morse's graduation was a success which included wonderful messages from our student speakers and Morse teacher Jeff DeRosa becoming the latest recipient of the Dr. Patricia Ames Distinguished Teacher of the Year award. Seventy-nine students received scholarships from the alumni scholarship fund during our annual Morse's scholarship night totaling \$248,000. Couple this with local businesses, school groups, and state and national scholarships the amount that was awarded to the Morse Class of 2019 was around \$600,000.
- The Jobs for Maine Graduates closing ceremony took place on May 30 which included members of BIW's upper management. Dr. Manuel recognized JMG teacher Maria Morris for her work with the students in this program.
- The CTE Summer Bridge Program will be offered at BRCTC this summer. Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders from Morse and Wiscasset are invited to take part in the two-week program. The classes offered include Carpentry, Engineering, Automotive, Welding, and Culinary Arts.
- The girls' lacrosse team received the Sportsmanship Award at Fitzpatrick Stadium last weekend which makes the 4<sup>th</sup> team in RSU 1 to receive this award in one year.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with the Financial Report for the month ending May 31, 2019. To date, we have spent \$24.6 million which is equivalent to 82% of the budget and a reflection of our spending last year. Mrs. Clark reported that the district will end with a positive balance this year. The fuel bids came in this week with Dennis K. Burke winning the bid at a price of \$2.05 per gallon. There is \$4 million still encumbered in the budget that will cover the seven remaining payrolls. The district saw a slight increase in revenues this year due to higher interest rates associated with our investments. Facility Director David Richards will be starting the capital improvement projects this summer. The final bond for the Morse High School project is closed and all the funds are in. We have spent approximately 20% of the budget equaling \$15 million which is an average of about \$2 million per month.

## **FOLLOW-UP ON CONCERNS RELATED TO STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

Assistant Superintendent Katie Joseph presented a report on Student Behavior and Assessment which was shared at recent PTA meetings in Woolwich and Bath. Ms. Joseph stated that it is very

important to all staff that our students feel safe and respected in our classrooms and that learning is happening. Ms. Joseph wanted to assure the community that teachers and administrators are proactively thinking about student behavior. Ms. Joseph highlighted the ways in which we are responding to behavior concerns such as additional staffing, additional programming and new initiatives, and staff surveys.

In response to our assessment scores, Ms. Joseph reported that the district has a clear plan for reviewing and improving all content areas over the next few years. To address concerns, we have begun to restructure the services we provide our students such as creating the interventionist positions at Dike-Newell and Fisher-Mitchell. We are purchasing a new reading program for next year which will be a more consistent strategic way to go about teaching reading to our students.

A copy of the presentation will be included with the official Board minutes.

## **REVIEW OF 2018-2019 BOARD GOALS**

Chairperson August reported that the Board addressed all the topics listed in the 2018-2019 Board goals throughout the year.

## **SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICY IKF – GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

**MOTION:** Perkins                      **SECOND:** Ensel                      **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Approve the second reading of Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements as written.

## **SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICY IKA – GRADING SYSTEM**

**MOTION:** Ensel                      **SECOND:** Perkinsl                      **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Approve the second reading of Policy IKA – Grading System as written.

## **PERSONNEL ITEMS**

Superintendent Manuel announced the retirement of Pam Provost, Secretary at BRCTC and the resignation of Marite Kruze, Special Education Teacher at Woolwich Central School.

## **PERSONNEL NOMINATIONS**

**MOTION:** Ensel                      **SECOND:** Fuller                      **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Approve the following nominations as presented:

- Micah Depper, Science teacher, BMS
- Nancy Riggs, Special Education teacher, MHS
- Sarah Gagnon, ELL teacher, District-wide
- John Dever, Social Studies teacher, MHS

## **REQUEST FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**MOTION:** Ensel                      **SECOND:** Perkins                      **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Approve a request for a leave of absence for the school year 2019-2020 from Ashley London as presented.

**APPROVE THE COMPUTATION OF DECLARATION OF VOTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2019 BUDGET REFERENDUM**

**MOTION:** Ensel                                    **SECOND:** Walton                                    **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

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

**APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT’S CONTRACT FOR 2019-2020**

**MOTION:** Ensel                                    **SECOND:** Fuller                                    **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Approve the Superintendent’s Contract commencing July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2022 as written.

**AUTHORIZE LEASE PURCHASE OF PHOTOCOPIERS**

Technology Director Dean Emmerson reviewed the RFP process used in awarding the bid to A-COPI. The company will replace all the copiers and most of our printers. Mr. Emmerson reported that the district will see a savings of approximately \$20,000 a year over the five-year agreement due to cutting down on the number of units in the district, eliminating waste, and a lower cost per page.

**MOTION:** Ensel                                    **SECOND:** Perkins                                    **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Move that the resolution entitled, “Resolution to Authorize Lease Purchase of Photocopiers in the Principal Amount of \$190,000.00,” be adopted in form presented to this meeting.

**AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO HIRE STAFF OVER THE SUMMER ON THE BOARD’S BEHALF**

**MOTION:** Perkins                                    **SECOND:** Ensel                                    **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Authorize the Superintendent to hire staff over the summer on the Board’s behalf.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

None

**NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS**

- Next regular RSU 1 Board meeting; Monday, August 26, 2019 at Bath Middle School – 6:00 pm

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Walton                                    **SECOND:** Brown                                    **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

**TO:** Adjourn at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick M. Manuel  
Secretary