

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD September 23, 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 **October 28, 2019 meeting).**

Members Present: Steve August, Chairperson; Lou Ensel, Vice Chairperson; Anita Brown, Megan Fuller, Jennifer Ritch-Smith, Alan Walton; Hayden Platteter, Student Representative; Patrick Manuel, Superintendent of Schools

Members Absent: Bill Perkins

Others Present: Debra Clark, Katie Joseph, Dean Emmerson, Julie Kenny, Allen Lampert, Dawn Wheeler

CALL TO ORDER

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

RECOGNITION AND COMMENT FROM CHAIR

Chairperson August reported that the opening of school in all buildings went very well according to feedback he received from parents and the administrator's Board reports. Mr. August had an opportunity to visit one of our elementary schools during their open house and was struck by the variety of activities that schools are involved in beyond the classrooms. Mr. August expressed interest in having a conversation with representatives from the state and other school districts to get a true measure of what we do in the RSU and individual schools to serve and support our kids in a multitude of ways.

APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES FOR AUGUST 26, 2019

MOTION: Walton

SECOND: Ensel

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

TO: Approve the minutes of August 26, 2019 as written.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

None

PUBLIC SESSION

None

MERRYMEETING ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education Director Allen Lampert and Site Coordinator Dawn Wheeler were present to talk about the transition phase in partnering Bath Adult Education with the Merrymeeting Adult Education Program. Mr. Lampert reported that the transition began on July 1st and has gone very well. Mr. Lampert has met with stakeholders and community members and will be meeting with Morse High guidance counselors to talk about how to help the students in RSU 1. Academic classes have

started and all of the teaching positions have been filled except for one math position. Mr. Lampert shared some of the new class offerings and is looking forward to having the program grow and provide quality courses that serves the community and district.

MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Manuel shared the report from the Clerk of the Works included in the Board packet. Dr. Manuel reported that the project continues to progress smoothly. The building foundation walls are 100% complete, second floor slabs are about 50% complete and the main staircase is in place. Goodwin Well is finishing off the geothermal system and Maine Drilling & Blasting has completed the blasting. The ongoing bridge work is being done by Bridge subcontractor Wyman & Simpson. The Building Committee met to review the interior colors and will talk about the front sign on Congress Street at the next meeting. The topping off ceremony will be held on Wednesday at 2:30 at the site.

MELMAC SYSTEMS INNOVATION GRANT

BRCTC instructor Katie Clark presented a report on the summer bridge program that was offered to incoming freshman and sophomore through the MELMAC grant. The Systems Innovation grant provided the funds for a two-week program and offered five different programs. The goal of the program was to promote BRCTC programs, recruit potential students and give students an opportunity to earn a high school credit during the summer. The programs offered included engineering, automotive technology, carpentry, culinary arts, and welding/metal fabrication. Students had an opportunity to choose two classes with one in the morning and one in the afternoon. There were 37 slots available and 35 were filled for the duration of the program. Twenty-three students were able to earn a ½ credit through their high school. BRCTC staff worked with the Bath YMCA to provide the students with a free lunch each day. Each student had a product to leave with at the end of the program such as smoothies, cakes, cookies, and Adirondack chairs. The program had a lot of parent involvement and support. A parent information night was held in June to provide an overview of the program and an end of the program celebration on the last day.

BRCTC Director Julie Kenny stated that the grant is for four years and has been a great success. This is a new grant and the purpose was to address the need to get more students and a more diverse population into this program. The students that participated in the program needed a high school credit or had a full class load and couldn't fit a BRCTC class into their schedule. It was a big commitment by the students and teachers during the first two weeks of summer.

Assistant Superintendent Katie Joseph commended Julie Kenny and Katie Clark for all their work and felt that this program has been one of the highlights of our district. Ms. Joseph stated that she will be bringing more presentations to the Board meetings each month and asked the Board members to contact her with any ideas or topics to include on the agenda.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Hayden Platteter reported that the start of school has gone really well. The sports teams are doing pretty well and there was a large turnout for the fall theatre production. Today was the first day of spirit week which was college or sport team apparel.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

APPROVAL OF EXPLORATORY PROGRAM AT BRCTC FOR 2020-2021

BRCTC Director Julie Kenny presented the proposal of offering an Exploratory Program at BRCTC for students in grades 9 and 10 during school year 2020-2021. Ms. Kenny attended a retreat at Sugarloaf with the State Board of Education and superintendents and one of their goals is to develop an exploratory program for 9th and 10th graders to give these students the opportunity to access these programs. The Exploratory Program has to hit 15-20% of four program standards with a requirement of only 170 hours per year. The program would meet the basic standards of Engineering, Graphic Design, and Carpentry with an integration of technical mathematics and build upon our STEAM program. The program would be offered as an elective credit for up to 30 students per year. Other than the need to add a ½ time position, the costs associated with the program would be minimal.

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Ritch-Smith

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

TO: Approve Bath Regional Career and Technical Center to offer an Exploratory Program in year 2020-2021.

DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ED TECH POSITION AT BRCTC

Superintendent Manuel reported that BRCTC had 146 students at the end of last year and have 210 enrolled this year. We are concerned about liability and supervision in some of our programs and feel we would need this position in the new school particularly with adding more programs. We feel that we can afford to add an ed tech II this year and have talked to sending schools to ask for contributions and have received funds from one district already. Dr. Manuel stated that when we revisit the cost sharing agreement for next year new language will be added because the new way the CTE is funded doesn't cover all of the costs.

BRCTC Director Julie Kenny reported that carpentry, automotive, culinary arts, and engineering classes are full and welding currently has one opening. Ms. Kenny stated that the ed tech would be available to support the teacher with all the students. The position would be created primarily for safety reasons and would help in culinary and carpentry this year as well as with the study hall due to the increase in enrollment.

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Walton

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

TO: Approve hiring an additional ed tech for BRCTC.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Walton

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

TO: Approve the overnight field trip requests to allow the Morse JMG students to visit the Pine Tree Camp in Rome, Maine and BRCTC students to visit the Washington County Community College and regional industries.

PUBLIC SESSION

Woolwich resident Lorna Ryan asked whether the Board will be scheduling the public workshops that Chairperson August referred to during the previous Board meeting. Chairperson August responded that he will work with Superintendent Manuel to come up with a date and a topic for discussion. Mr. August felt that this should be a good opportunity for the Board to engage in conversations with the community at large.

NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

- Next regular RSU 1 Board meeting; Monday, October 28, 2019 at Bath Middle School – 6:00 pm

ADJOURN

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Fuller

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

TO: Adjourn at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick M. Manuel
Secretary