

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD November 25, 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 **December 16, 2019** meeting).**

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**Members Present:** Steve August, Chairperson; Lou Ensel, Vice Chairperson; Anita Brown, Megan Fuller, Bill Perkins, Jennifer Ritch-Smith, Alan Walton; Tanner Hennin, Student Representatives; Patrick Manuel, Superintendent of Schools

**Members Absent:** Hayden Platteter

**Others Present:** Debra Clark, Katie Joseph, Jason Libby, Devon Gallice, Dawn Lee, Charlie Bingham, Becky Roak, Meg Barker, Abby Luchies, Brenda Fagan

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### **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 announced that the Board will hold another workshop on December 16<sup>th</sup> (Note: the workshop will now be held on January 27<sup>th</sup>) following the regular Board meeting which will be held at Bath Middle School at 6:00 pm. The focus for the workshop will be mental health issues and concerns. Mr. August will work with Superintendent Manuel over the next few weeks to narrow down the topic and get information out to the public prior to the meeting. Mr. August noted that a video of the October Board meeting and workshop is available on the RSU 1 website.

Mr. August thanked the administrators for providing the Board with monthly reports and asked the Board to review the Special Education report which provides the number of students with special needs and the number of students by handicapping condition. Currently approximately 20% of the district's student population receives some sort of special services.

Mr. August acknowledged Communication Specialist Lindsey Goudreau's Board report and was very impressed with the amount of material that she is getting out to the RSU 1 community. Mr. August thanked Superintendent Manuel for identifying the opportunity to create this position which has been a good investment.

Board member Ritch-Smith suggested that the principals include a reminder to the public of the upcoming Board meeting in the weekly newsletter that goes out the week prior to the meeting.

### **APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 28, 2019**

**MOTION:** Perkins

**SECOND:** Ensel

**VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Students (1-0)

**TO:** Approve the minutes of October 28, 2019 as written.

### **ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

None

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

None

## **STAFF REPORT**

Superintendent Manuel announced that RSU 1 received recognition as a Special Olympic unified champion district. Morse physical education teachers Becky Roak and Charlie Bingham along with Morse High students were present to talk about becoming a champion school and share their experiences. Ms. Roak explained that there are different steps involved in becoming a champion school including emerging, developing and then full implementation. This year Morse was granted full implementation status. There are 53 schools across the state that are champion schools and 106 schools working towards becoming a champion school. In order to be a champion school we need to have unified sports teams, youth leadership, and whole school engagement. A slide show was provided to highlight the volleyball and basketball unified sports teams. Ms. Roak stated that the program has been a huge community builder and has given Morse an opportunity to do some community outreach which included a basketball game with members of the Bath Police Department.

Mr. Bingham announced that he was asked to present at the Maine physical education conference to talk about the unified physical education program at Morse. Mr. Bingham reported that Morse is the only school in Maine that offers a unified physical education program. The class is split with half special education students and half regular education students. Some of the activities that the students have participated in include kayaking, fishing and horseback riding.

Morse High students Alex Maccio, Delaney Pascuzzo and Ben Doughty shared their reasons for choosing to participate in the program. The students felt that this was a good opportunity to help people, learn new skills, meet new people, and make a difference.

As part of the whole school engagement criteria, the Civil Rights Group and Shipbuilders Committed created a video "Spread the Word to End the Word" to promote inclusion and hosted the Special Olympics spring track meet last year.

Ms. Roak reviewed the action plan moving forward that included developing a youth leadership council as well as a unified anti-bullying campaign and young athletics program. The plan also included expanding the unified sports program by adding an alumni basketball game and additional sports or intramural programs. The Maine Principals Association is trying to build more opportunities for athletes to be involved in a league and have opportunities to compete beyond Special Olympics.

## **MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE**

Superintendent Manuel reported that the brick work on the new school will continue throughout the winter. There will be tenting and heating available so the masonry can continue. The front lobby and theater stairs are now installed along with some interior walls. The under slab mechanical systems, electrical and IT conduit has been put in place. A base layer of payment has been laid around the building. The geothermal well is 100% complete which will allow air conditioning and heating in the school. The project is going as planned and on budget. The next step will be to form a committee of staff and students to help pick out the furniture for the new school.

## **CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Morse High School Librarian Dawn Lee and Woolwich Central School Librarian Abby Luchies provided a video to share what is happening in the Morse and Woolwich libraries. Staff and students were highlighted in the video and shared how valuable the library is to them.



**MOTION:** Walton

**SECOND:** Perkins

**VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Students (1-0)

**TO:** Approve the second reading of Policy IKE – Promotion, Retention, and Acceleration of Students as written.

## **SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairperson August reported that the Solid Waste Committee had their first meeting and had representation from all the schools along with Facilities Director David Richards and Food Service Director Tim Harkins. The task of the committee is to bring back a waste reduction plan for the Board to consider by June. Future meetings will be announced on the RSU 1 website. Members of the community are invited to attend and participate in the discussions.

## **PERSONNEL ITEMS**

Superintendent Manuel announced the resignation of Wendy Connors, MHS Administrative Assistant and thanked her for her 11 years of service in RSU 1.

## **OUT OF STATE OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST**

**MOTION:** Perkins

**SECOND:** Ensel

**VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Students (1-0)

**TO:** Approve the out-of-state overnight field trip request from the Morse High School French class to visit Quebec City.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

RSU 1 resident Kevin Bachman addressed the Board with his concerns about the district's policy regarding private school students' access to public school activities. Mr. Bachman felt that the policy is discriminatory because his 6<sup>th</sup> grade daughter was allowed to play on the middle school soccer team but not allowed to try out for the basketball team. Mr. Bachman stated that there was no mention of the policy from either the athletic director or coach until the day before tryouts. Mr. Bachman received an email from the Woolwich principal to let him know that his daughter would not be allowed to tryout per Board policy. Mr. Bachman spoke with the principal, superintendent and board chair to try to understand why the tryout wasn't based on ability and skill; however, when he spoke to the athletic director he was told that it was the criteria. Mr. Bachman's daughter Hazel addressed the Board to share her feelings about not being able to try out for the team. Mr. Bachman would like to have the policy reviewed and possibly go away because he doesn't believe that a child should get preferential treatment over another child especially if they are living in the same school district regardless where they go to school.

Bath resident Bob Warren spoke in support of Hazel and Kevin Bachman. Mr. Warren felt that the policy should be revisited and that everyone should have the right to try out for a sport. The highest dropout for student athletes in sports occurs in middle school. The coach is the person to decide who makes the cut and who has the skill and ability to best represent the school.

Bath resident MJ Warren stated that policy is always meant to mean well. Ms. Warren asked if there is a benchmark for too many kids trying out for a team. She felt that every child should have the ability to tryout and participate in sports in the district and denying a child this opportunity is not policy.

Morse 9<sup>th</sup> grader Lee Hinds addressed the Board about his concerns about situations at Morse when students fall under LGBTQ are isolated, bullied and belittled. He stated that there is a refusal to address it and teachers do not know how to handle these situations. Lee reported that all of the situations he has had this year have taken place inside the classroom with a teacher nearby. Morse Assistant Principal Devon Gallice thanked Lee for being a huge advocate at school and reported that two staff trainings have been scheduled to address this issue as a result of hearing the students' concerns.

Morse senior Grayson Burpee, who also is a member of the SAFE team and Civil Rights team, reported that over the past two years he has heard that more and more underclassman don't feel safe and don't want to come to school. The school is doing a great job at talking about this subject but Grayson feels that it isn't resonating within the student body and staff.

Morse freshman Vivian Peavey shared her concern that not enough is being done to prevent bullying at school.

Bath resident Jen Harkins addressed the Board as a mother of three children and stated that every child has a right to feel safe at school and be treated equally among their peers. Ms. Harkins reported that the students shared their experiences at school with her and felt that kindness needs to be taught past grade school. Ms. Hinds asked for the Board's help in addressing these concerns.

Bath Scout Master Mike Guethle echoed the concerns heard during the meeting and expressed his concern about the youth in our community. Mr. Guethle was upset to hear that people that may be a little different from others may not be experiencing the same level of acceptance in the classroom, school, or sports. Mr. Guethle felt it was time to enact additional levels of assistance for kids. We have an incredible amount of opportunity in this community. We are an outstanding community and want to make sure that we are inclusive of everyone here.

## **NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS**

Next regular RSU 1 Board meeting; Monday, December 16, 2019 at Bath Middle School – 6:00 pm.

## **ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Ensel

**SECOND:** Perkins

**VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Students (1-0)

**TO:** Adjourn at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick M. Manuel  
Secretary