

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD December 16, 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 **January 27, 2020 meeting).**

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

Others Present: Debra Clark, Katie Joseph, Eric Varney, Ross Berkowitz, Lawrence Kovacs, Judy Mansfield

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson August called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

RECOGNITION AND COMMENT FROM CHAIR

Chairperson August brought the Board's attention to the Board Committee Assignment list and asked the Board members to review the list before the January Board meeting.

Chairperson August recognized Board member Walton for his contributions and participation on the Board. Mr. Walton has been a great asset and resource for the Board since 2010 and plans to continue serving as a volunteer at Dike-Newell School. Vice Chairperson Ensel thanked Mr. Walton for all of his advice over the years and all that he has done for the district. Board member Ritch-Smith thanked Mr. Walton for his words of wisdom and Board member Perkins stated that it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Walton on various committees. The district means a great deal to Mr. Walton and his opinions and views are very important. Superintendent Manuel stated that every decision that Mr. Walton makes is in the best interest of our students. His passion for education and the district is very much appreciated.

APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 25, 2019

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Ensel

VOTE: Board (7-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Approve the minutes of November 25, 2019 as written.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

Item 8.1 Student Presentation will be rescheduled at a later date.

PUBLIC SESSION

None

STUDENT REPORT

None

Board member Ritch-Smith thanked Woolwich Principal Jason Libby for his report on the new social worker position and how the teachers and students are being served by this position. Ms. Ritch-Smith asked that the Board receive one more update by the end of the year.

MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

The Clerk of the Works provided the Board with a very detailed report on the progress of the Morse High/BRCTC Building Project. Superintendent Manuel reported that the interior walls are being framed out, windows installed, and the plumbing and electrical wiring roughed in. After the holidays meetings will be held to focus on furniture, equipment, and technology and going out to bid to purchase these items. Recently the focus has been on access to the building which includes the swipe key system, phones, PA system, and safety and security.

CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Katie Joseph introduced Gifted and Talented teachers Lawrence Kovacs and Judi Mansfield to update the Board on the Gate Days program which is now in its second year in RSU 1. The new program is specifically for students in 4th and 5th grade to help with the transition into the middle school.

Judi Mansfield reported that students from Phippsburg, Fisher-Mitchell and Woolwich get together once a month at one of our schools or go on a field trip to visit local places such as the Maritime Museum. The focus this year is the Arctic, global warming and learning about the ice industry in Maine.

Lawrence Kovacs reported that the program gives kids from different schools a chance to meet, work together, and interact before entering Morse High School together. The program also includes utilizing our community resources such as Bowdoin College and the Maritime Museum. Mr. Kovacs provided an example of what the students did over a four-day period while working on the ice research. Twenty-one students are participating in the program this year. Mr. Kovacs shared some of the student's responses from a survey they completed last year when asked what they learned and whether they would like to continue with the program.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Tanner Hennin reported that freshmen, juniors and sophomores have received their PSAT scores back and guidance counselors have been meeting with juniors to discuss their plans for college. Intramural field hockey was begun, basketball season is underway, and our wrestling team is doing very well. We are all looking forward to winter break.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- Congratulations to Morse student Isabel Strelneck for being elected to serve on the 1st Maine Department of Education Student Cabinet. There were over 300 applicants and 32 students were selected. The meetings held throughout the year will be focused on team building, and decision-making along with identifying key issues in education and innovative solutions.
- RSU 1 has five teachers that have completed the National Board Certification process – Joanne Powers, Kathy Henrikson, John Dever, Leslie Gallant and Abby Luchies. The district has three teachers that are now going through the process – Kelsey Frost, Larissa Costello and Abby Deci. The process requires that teachers demonstrate standards-based evidence of the positive effect they have on student learning in five areas - commitment to students and their learning, knowledge of subjects and instructional delivery, managing and

monitoring student behavior, reflection of their practice, and being a member of a learning community.

- The district's first newsletter went out a few weeks ago with the help of Communications Specialist Lindsey Goudreau and has received positive feedback. Dr. Manuel thanked Ms. Goudreau for her efforts and stated that the district will be sending out three newsletters this year and four next year.
- Chairperson August commented on the newsletter and Ms. Goudreau's Board report and felt it was a good decision to invest the additional funding in this position. According to the Board report, an increased amount of information is circulating using more social media outlets and the press releases/articles that Ms. Goudreau has written reflects a high degree of professionalism and a good reflection on the RSU.

FINANCE REPORT

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with the Financial Report for the month ending November 30, 2019. Currently the district has spent \$11.5 million of this year's budget. The November report includes the encumbered amounts which projects the salary and benefits for the remainder of this school year. The district continues to be on target on the revenue side with 40% or \$14.6 million received to date. Budget season begins in January with a Board workshop on January 6th and non-labor budgets due by January 17th. Thirty-one million dollars has been spent out of the \$75 million budget for the new high school which continues to be on target. The Department of Education reviews and approves every invoice before it is processed.

The Board received the final copy of the audit which will be reviewed by the auditor during the January 9th Finance Committee meeting.

REVIEW OF 2019-2020 BOARD GOALS

Board member Ritch-Smith stated that the Board continues to monitor the Morse/BRCTC construction project as outlined in goal 1 by receiving the monthly project updates from the Clerk of the Works. The monthly report from Communications Specialist Lindsey Goudreau is helpful in addressing goal 2. The goals relating to the district's Response to Intervention Plan (RTI) and Dropout Prevention Program continue to be researched and reviewed within the schools.

Vice Chairperson Ensel reported that the Later Start Time Committee just had their first meeting for this school year and should be able to provide the Board with an update in January.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Superintendent Manuel announced the resignation of Jeff DeRosa, Special Education teacher at Morse High School effective during the middle of January 2020.

Superintendent Manuel recognized David Ingmundson, English teacher at Morse High School and Susan Cyr, Music teacher at Dike-Newell School and Phippsburg School for their years of service in RSU 1 and announced their plans to retire at the end of the school year.

PUBLIC SESSION

None

NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

- School Board/Administrative Retreat will be held on Monday, January 6th at the Superintendent's Office – 3:30 pm

- Next regular RSU 1 Board meeting; Monday, January 27, 2020 at Bath Middle School – 6:00 pm.
- The January 27th Board meeting will include a workshop on mental health issues which is scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Ensel

VOTE: Board (7-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Adjourn at 6:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick M. Manuel
Secretary