

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Maranacook Community Middle School**  
**January 15, 2020**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

Members Present: Chair Gary Carr, Vice Chair Wendy Brotherlin, Kim Bowie (arrived 6:39), Patty Gordon, Rebecca Lambert, Betty Morrell, Shawn Roderick, Melissa Tobin, David Twitchell, Alexander Wright

Member Absent: Cathy Jacobs, (two vacant positions)

Administrators: Superintendent James Charette, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve, Principals Jeff Boston, Dwayne Conway, Janet Delmar, Abbie Hartford, Kristen Levesque, Assistant Principal Tina Brackley, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Nancy Harriman, Finance Manager Brigitte Williams, Adult & Community Education Director Steve Vose

1. Call to Order: Chair Carr called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Presentations:
  - a. Jobs For Maine Graduates (JMG)  
JMG Specialist Sam Smith reported the JMG program is new to Maranacook Community High School this year. The mission of the JMG program is "To identify students who face barriers to education, and to guide each one on to a successful path toward continued education, meaningful career, and productive adulthood." Maranacook students Alle LaRochelle, Dillon McIntosh, and Jackie Gordon spoke to the Board about their experience with the JMG program and how it positively impacts their lives and is helping them to plan for the future. They extended an invitation to the School Board to attend the JMG Closing Ceremony on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
  - b. Sabbatical Report from Middle School Teacher, Aimee Reiter  
Aimee Reiter reported on the work she accomplished as a result of the Board approving her sabbatical request for the second semester of the 2018-19 school year. Ms. Reiter has been teaching in the district for 20 years and this sabbatical gave her the opportunity to really look at the middle school's math curriculum and how to make math more accessible for students. It provided her time to do research regarding teaching parents how to understand mathematics; she took 2 classes through Stanford University; looked at the Middle School math curriculum, figured out how to create real world problems; and how to introduce those units to parents and help staff to look at that. Upon her return she got in touch with the new math coach, the math teachers at the middle school as well as all regular education teachers.
3. Citizens Comments: none
4. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent: none
5. Action Item: Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2020  
**MOTION** by Brotherlin, second by Wright to approve the Minutes of January 8, 2020 as presented. **Motion Carried:** unanimous
6. Budget Workshop  
Superintendent Charette reviewed the process the Board will be following during the budget workshops. He asked that citizens who wish to speak during the budget process to sign in and they will be recognized once the presentations are made and the Board members have an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Charette presented on the budget, reviewing the baseline data used when developing the first draft budget. Handouts include current enrollment in each grade, by school; a yearly comparison of the state valuations by town; and the first draft general fund summary budget.

Superintendent Charette reported there have been multiple meetings with administrators and managers on the budget. He wants to be transparent and let the Board know what they have been talking about before this presentation.

Major factors in the draft budget include: health insurance 10% and dental 5% increase. These figures may change once we receive our experience factor for health insurance, and we expect true figures by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The bond payment is a 2.23% increase over this year's budget, and wages and salaries total 1.60% increase over this year. These three items equate to an increase of close to 6% over current budget. The team has been directed to work toward little to no increase in overall spending, with a target of 2%. Instructional line spending will be based on the number of students in a building, with additional allocations for Title 1 schools (MTV, WES). The budget includes \$175.00 for instructional supplies per student, with an additional \$50.00 for students in Title I schools.

Building principals were asked not to bring forward any new requests for the following reasons:

- We recognize the financial constraints of this budget due to the investment in facilities through the recent bond.
- We want to honor the board budget goal knowing that each school has individual wants but understand the need to examine this budget from a district perspective. Individual school needs will be addressed in future budget cycles.
- We don't want the budgeting process to become contentious between the towns and the district.

The Administrative Team have and will continue to meet to discuss factors affecting the budget. We acknowledge that our end goal has not been reached yet and respectfully ask for the Board's support in allowing the team to continue this work.

Board Questions/Comments:

In order to meet the goals that you have set, are you looking at any reductions in staff in any particular areas? We know there will be some turnover so we will look at it case by case.

Dollar value to every student. This will be hard to do because it will cost more to educate the students in the smaller schools. Be cautious on that dollar value and keep an eye that every student has equal opportunity. Clarification that the allocation is for instructional supplies and books.

Appreciate trying to keep the costs down, but need to be real with the tax payers and parents about the cost to keep these schools open.

Citizens Comments:

John Harker, Mt. Vernon resident, reported that he came to ask about providing a list ahead of time of changes being made to the budget. He is encouraged that they are working hard to hold the line. Mr. Harker asked in terms of the medical and dental estimates, will you come back later if it's lower and ask for more to be included in the budget? Superintendent Charette responded that we should get a report from MEA on our experience factor soon, which will give us a sense of what our rates will come in as, but we usually have the final rate around the first of April.

7. Executive Session to discuss information in confidential records, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F)

**MOTION** by Brotherlin, second by Wright to enter Executive Session to discuss information in confidential records, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F). **Motion Carried:** unanimous

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:35 and returned to public session at 7:57.

8. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Charette, Superintendent/Secretary  
D. Foster, Recorder