

able to open a school-based health center in September or October. This would mean that any RSU 1 student could receive free health, dental, mental health care on site. The school would serve as the host of the physical space while the money is awarded to the hospital as the sponsor. Ms. Joseph stated that RSU 1 would not need to provide any money and it would not affect our budget. The nurse space at our high school was created in hopes that this would happen someday. Students would be able to have easy access to health care without missing much school. Ms. Joseph wasn't sure what it would look like for our younger students yet but the hope is that we could have some clinics and bus students over as needed. The clinic would be staffed with a full-time nurse practitioner, additional mental health support and dental care available at Morse High School. Ms. Joseph would work with MidCoast Hospital to hire the staff which would be paid through MidCoast Hospital using the grant money.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Natalie Emmerson reported that May has been a busy month with our first in-school dance since the pandemic, prom last weekend, and various academic testing. The AP Capstone, AP research, and STEM students will be presenting their end of the year presentations tomorrow night from 4:30 – 5:30 before the Academic Awards Night program begins.

Student Representative Jonah Smith reported that this month has been a culmination of a lot of students' efforts throughout the year. Jonah stated that it is encouraging to see the Morse athletes outside participating in sporting events.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- Morse and RSU 1 were well represented during the high school quiz show on PBS. Dr. Manuel acknowledged the amount of prep and work involved and thanked the students for their participation.
- The Battle of the Books which is a fun academic competition took place last week at Woolwich Central School. Dr. Manuel thanked our elementary library staff as well as the staff from West Bath and Georgetown for putting this event together.
- Many end of the year events are scheduled to take place such as the Adult Education graduation, Academic Awards Night, spring concerts, Mainsail Assembly, Bath Tech Awards Ceremony, and Bath Middle School Celebration of Learning.
- Bath Tech teacher Katie Clark has been awarded Sagadahoc County Teacher of the Year. Ms. Clark had to go through a rigorous process just to be selected and has the opportunity to go through the process to be considered for the Maine Teacher of the Year honor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with a financial report for the month ending April 30, 2022. Mrs. Clark reported that 78% of the budget has been spent which leaves a projected balance right now of \$1.6 million. Last year the district had \$1.2 million left in the fund balance at the end of June, however; Mrs. Clark stated that we would have less than that amount left this year. Mrs. Clark is keeping an eye on energy costs and transportation, and Facilities Director David Richards ordered the last of this year's fuel oil last week. Revenues are coming in as planned with 83% received to date. The human resources office has been busy with hiring new staff and processing transfers within the district. Mrs. Clark attended a recent Phippsburg budget committee meeting to go over the proposed budget. The committee voted to recommend the RSU 1 budget for next year as presented. The ESSER I and ESSER II federal grants will be spent by the end of this school year and then we will begin using the ESSER III funds for next year's staffing.

SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICIES

- IMB – Teaching about Controversial/Sensitive Issues – Superintendent Manuel reported that the Policy Committee did revisit this policy due to recommendations by the Board and teaching staff.
- JEA – Compulsory Attendance – This policy was tabled due to questions about the updated language.
- JHB – Truancy
- CFB – Evaluation of Administrators

MOTION: Ryan

SECOND: Dorr

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

TO: Approve the second reading of the Board policies as presented with the exception of Policy JEA – Compulsory Attendance which will be reviewed by the Superintendent.

SPECIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Special Education Director Justin Keleher provided the Board with an overview of the special education programs in the district, the referral process and the number of students receiving services in the district. Mr. Keleher broke down the 360 identified students by school and disability category. The district referral process includes a 5-step process which begins with Response to Intervention supports and data collection. Referrals are completed by a staff member and/or parents and submitted to the building principal. If approved, the referral then goes to the Director of Special Education and the RSU 1 referral review team. The parents would then sign the consent for evaluation form at which time the district would have 45 school days to complete the evaluations after they are reviewed by the IEP team. Mr. Keleher reviewed the different services that are provided such as academic services, behavior support services, and functional life skills programming. In addition, students are provided with related services, if needed, including speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, social work, and transportation. Areas for future growth in the district's special education program would consist of taking a closer look at the curriculum, finding ways to reduce the amount of time special education teachers spend on paperwork and evaluations, and working to improve our continuum of services.

The Board broke out into small groups to learn about some of the different programs in the district. The special education staff that was in attendance to make presentations and answer questions included Krista Walker, Julia Meyers, Julia Darling, Kevin Prager, Rachel Garland and Jonathan Fisk.

Vice Chairperson Ryan asked Mr. Keleher to email the Board with any new legislation that may impact our current programming.

Mr. Keleher reported that he meets with his staff on a regular basis throughout the school year to access any needs, challenges, and to offer support. Board member Ritch-Smith felt that the one-to-one aid position needs to be protected and felt that these particular ed techs should not be pulled from their classroom if there is a need for coverage in another room. Ms. Ritch-Smith asked about allocating space in each school as the numbers of special education students increases. Mr. Keleher responded that if there is a concern then he will meet with the building principal to troubleshoot to make sure the staff and the student have the right learning environment.

Board member Dorr expressed her concern about the number of IEPs that staff are expected to attend over the year considering the high number of students receiving services. Mr. Keleher stated that it is very time-consuming for staff to complete evaluations and all other the paperwork requirements. During COVID, a staff member took over the job of completing the evaluations at the high school which freed up a lot of time for staff. Mr. Keleher stated that this continues to be a discussion in the district and we will continue to advocate for assistance in completing this paperwork.

MOTION: Ryan

SECOND: Fuller

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Approve awarding a state set minimum graduation diploma this year.

FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES

The Board reviewed the following policies for a first reading without any proposed changes or concerns:

- JLCD – Administration of Medication to Students
- JLCD-E – Medication Administration on School Field Trips/Off Campus Events
- JLCB – Immunization Requirements for Students Entering RSU 1 Schools
- JLCC – Communicable/Infectious Diseases

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

- District Budget Meeting – Tuesday, May 31, 2022 in the Morse High School auditorium– 6:00 pm
- Regular Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 27, 2022 at Morse High School - 6:00 pm

ADJOURN

MOTION: Dorr

SECOND: Fuller

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Adjourn at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick M. Manuel, Ed.D.
Secretary