

**MAINE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #50
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020
MINUTES
SOUTHERN AROOSTOOK SCHOOL**

Board members present: Barbara Burton, Laura Farnsworth, Larry Greenlaw, Kasandra Foster, Carman Lilley, Stephen Porter, Greg Ryan and Paula Stevens

Absent: Robin Crandall

Others present: Staff - April Bates, Elaine Small, Holly Vining and Janet Vose
Selectman from Island Falls: Anthony Binotto and Frank Porter
Joe Cyr from the Houlton Pioneer Times

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:35 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2020 were considered.

Moved to approve by: Larry Greenlaw

Seconded by: Greg Ryan

Vote: Unanimous

3. Time Period to Hear from Citizens: Island Falls selectman, Anthony Binotto addressed the Board as to a response regarding the concerns posed in his letter to the RSU 50 Board presented at the January 13, 2020 meeting. Additional concern: what will the financial commitment/requirement be for the Town of Island Falls?

4. Adjustment(s) to the Agenda: Discussion of the proposed Integrated Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility Project.

Moved to approve the adjustment by: Greg Ryan

Seconded by: Barbara Burton

Vote: Unanimous

a. Discussion of the proposed Integrated Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility Project.

A lengthy discussion with pros and cons took place. The original application to be considered for this project was circulated and reviewed.

Also the annual "start up" funding sheet to begin work on the project was circulated and discussed. Among the concerns expressed was the fact that the District was expected to commit these funds for startup costs before the project could begin. These funds would cover engineering studies, architectural design and other legal expenses.

At the conclusion of the discussion, each Board member present was polled as to their decision before a vote was called for.

(A narrative is enclosed for your review.)

Chair, Stephen Porter made a motion to withdraw from the Integrated Consolidated 9-16 Educational Facility Project.

Seconded by: Laura Farnsworth

Vote: 7 yes to withdraw, Kasandra Foster abstained

5. Reports

Board Chair: no report

Board Vice-Chair: no report

Committee Reports –

Building & Grounds: scheduled for Thursday, March 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Education: this Committee met before tonight's meeting. See highlights in the Elementary Principal's Report.

Finance: Holly reported for the Finance Committee as follows:

- Review of accounts payable and payroll warrants for January, 2020.
- Review statement of activities, year-to-date expenses, and restricted net assets.
- Preliminary ED279 was presented.
- Receipt of the VW Bus funds for FY21
- New Electricity Rates for FY21
- Notice of Unemployment return has been received
- Discussion of possible replacement of the gym floor
- Discussion of Infinite Visions Program
- Funding is forthcoming from the Revolving Renovations Fund to replace the outdated elementary lift.

Negotiations: meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 3 at KHS, 5:30 p.m.

Policy: see item 8 for update of policies

Region II – see Superintendent's report

Principals: see enclosed update from April:

- Most recent NWEA data
- Elementary Winter Carnival day is Wed. Feb. 12
- New science program for Elementary students to begin in late March.

Special Services Director: Janet updated the Board with Special Education IEP and 504 numbers and meetings. She reported on recent Trauma Trainings and described the many facets of the effects of trauma on children. Janet presented a staff workshop last week on Early Release day.

Superintendent: see enclosed report from the Superintendent.

6. Announcement of Appointments, Retirements, Resignations: None

7. First Reading of Policies: None

8. Second Reading/Adoption of Policies:

JLFA: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response

JLF-R: Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect-Administrative Procedure

Moved to approve by: Greg Ryan

Seconded by: Barbara Burton

Vote: Unanimous

9. Other Business – Old/New

a. Approval of School Calendar for 2020-2021

Moved to approve by: Greg Ryan

Seconded by: Barbara Burton

Vote: Unanimous

10. Future Agenda Item(s)

The Vice Chair will report on the various credentials earned by Region 2 students

11. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- No Region 2 meeting in February -

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Negotiations on Shared Services | March 3, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. at KMHS |
| - Building Grounds Comm. | March 5, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. |
| - Policy Committee Meeting | March 9, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. |
| - Finance Comm. | March 9, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. |
| - Regular Board Meeting | March 9, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. |
| - Region II Board | March 10, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. |

12. Adjournment:

Moved to approve by Greg Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Seconded by: Barbara Burton

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:



Jonathan Porter, Superintendent
Regional School Unit #50



Good Morning,

After a lengthy discussion at our meeting last night, the RSU 50 school board voted to withdraw from the Regional HighSchool/CTE Building Project.

There were many factors that went into the decision for the RSU 50 board. I will try to highlight the major points discussed at the meeting.

1. RSU 50 just spent 2.4 million dollars on renovations and repairs to our PK-12 building. This included roof repairs, new boilers, new lights, new doors & windows. The board had made this commitment to the building prior to notification of the new building project.
2. RSU 50 just recently had Katahdin Elementary & Middle High Schools, withdraw from the district to form their own district, RSU 89. The separation of the district has left some residual negative thoughts or feelings about future consolidation efforts.
3. RSU 50 is a PK-12 building. Moving our high school students to a new school would have left part of our existing building empty. There were many questions about what would happen to the space. There was a discussion about potentially housing a day-treatment program in the space, but the board had reservations about the program with PK-8 students in the same building.
4. There were concerns from citizens from the Towns of Island Falls and Crystal. The concerns were around the financial impact the new school would have on their taxes. There were also concerns about the economic impact a new school would have with the school located closer to Houlton. Their concern revolved around families and businesses moving themselves closer to the Houlton area and not residing in their town because of the distance from the new school.
5. There were concerns about the initial start-up costs to get approval for the new school building project. There was hope the State would provide funds to help us get some of the answers needed to make an informed decision about the building project.

The RSU 50 board has spent a great deal of time in discussion these last few months. There were many discussions about the positive impact a new building could have for kids. This was not an easy decision.

We are hopeful the State will allow the project to continue for RSU 29, RSU 70, and Region Two.

Jon Porter, Superintendent/Middle & High School Principal

RSU 50

So. Aroostook Community School

922 Dyer Brook Rd.

Dyer Brook, ME 04747

207-757-8206 ext. 111

RSU 50 Superintendent Notes

February 2020 RSU 50 Board Meeting

1. Region Two Report

- a. **Next Region Two Meeting** on Tuesday March 10, 2020, 6:00pm

2. Regional Service Center Update:

- a. **The Regional Bus Garage** mechanic was injured in a snowmobile accident and is currently out of work recuperating. The Regional Bus Garage does not have a substitute mechanic. We will be taking our buses to Acott's in Houlton in the event of any major issues and until the Regional Bus Garage is back up and running. So far, they have been very accommodating and easy to work with. The turnaround for buses has been 1-2 days.
- b. **The Summit Academy** The building is restricted. We are keeping everyone out as a safety precaution. Masks are needed inside and there are places where it is unsafe. The main education floor is pretty much gutted. Walls and ceilings and floors are mostly gone. They have not started on the 3rd floor yet. The bottom floor has damage in some spots - ceilings mostly - some walls. likely more floors will need to come up.
A structural engineer was in last week - no report yet but he did think that it is repairable. There are some support beams that will need to be replaced and new floor boards on areas of the 3rd floor.
Ellen attended a planning board meeting to get permission for the students to occupy a more permanent temporary space until the Summit is fixed. She was finishing a back and forth process with the attorneys on a lease for 2 High Street (coincidentally also an old church). If we can get the occupancy permits and fire marshal permits completed - we are hopeful to have them moved in by the end of next week. The mitigation company has cleaned the furniture and they will act as our moving company to get everything moved.

3. Maine Volkswagon Settlement-New Bus

We received word last week that RSU 50 has been selected to receive VW funding to replace one of our buses. This is the same grant we received last year to purchase a new bus. RSU 50 is one out of forty-five schools or towns to receive this grant.

4. Approval of FY 2020 School Revolving Renovation Fund Application

Maine Department of Education has awarded \$25.2 million in School Revolving Renovation Fund (SRRF) loans to 28 SAUs. The loans will be used to complete 105 health, safety and compliance projects at 62 schools, including structural roof repairs, indoor air quality improvements, ADA upgrades, hazardous material removal, life safety renovations, and security enhancements. A portion of each loan is considered a grant and is forgiven, while the remaining balance of the loan is paid back at a zero percent interest rate. RSU 50 was awarded an SRRF loan for replacing a handicapped lift in the Elementary School that is over 20 years old. RSU 50 received a 63.5 rating. Only 10 districts received a higher rating. The highest rating was 80.0.

Project #	SAU	School	Type	Rating	Approved Loan Amount	Priority
1426	RSU 50	So Aroostook School	ADA	63.5	\$35,593.00	1

The complete list of approved projects can be viewed at <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/facilities/srrf>.

5. Update on School Website/APP

We're entering the final week before the new Southern Aroostook app and website are officially announced!

Timetable for Release:

Monday (2/10) - Account invitations will be sent to content providers.

Tuesday 2/11) - Training for content providers. 2:30p Superintendent's office or MS Conf.

Friday (2/14)- Update rsu50.org to point to the new website, update social media profiles, banners

Monday (2/17) - Officially announce

The format will be more interactive and dynamic. Our current website serves as a bulletin board only. Our new website will allow us to post live events and share our success stories with the public. The new format also allows for more participation from staff to share information. Information posted on the website will be tied to our Facebook page, our Twitter account, and also will be available on a mobile app for both Android and iPhones.

6. Recognition

Congratulations to the following students and staff on their recent accomplishments:

So. Aroostook's Annual Coaches vs. Cancer "Pink Out" Game

The game was played this past Saturday vs. Katahdin High School. Proceeds from the game go to the American Cancer Society. This year we raised **\$803.00!**

2020 United States Presidential Scholars Program Nominee-Abigail Stevens

Abigail Stevens has been named as a candidate in the 2020 United States Presidential Scholars Program. Of the nearly 3.6 million high school seniors graduating this year, Abby is one of approximately 4,500 students to receive this invitation.

Maine Basketball Hall of Fame-Phil Faulkner

Congratulations to Phil Faulkner on his selection to the Maine Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2020!!

Middle School Students of the Month-January 2020

Grade 6-Conner Lane

Grade 7-Rylee Kuliga

Grade 8-Candace Day

Congratulations to SACS High School Basketball Teams.

Congratulations to both the SACS girls and boys teams as they finish the regular season. Both teams have qualified for post-season play and will be playing in Bangor next Monday Feb. 17th at the Cross Insurance Center. Below are the times of the games. Good Luck to both teams!!

Class D Girls Basketball Quarterfinal, SACS vs. TBD, 3:30pm at Cross Insurance Center

Class D Boys Basketball Quarterfinal, SACS vs. Machias, 7:00pm at Cross Insurance Center

Respectfully Submitted:

Jon Porter, RSU 50 Superintendent

2/10/20