

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37

March 18, 2020

An Emergency Meeting of the Board of Directors of RSU/MSAD #37 was held at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School, Harrington, Maine on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 to consider and act upon the following items of business:

Board Members Present: Susan Beal, Chris Chartrand, Beth Hartford Grace Kennedy, Ronald Kennedy, Gary Magby, Debra Murphy, Vance Pineo, Jr., and Mark Wright

Board Members Absent: Jeffery Beal and Charles Peterson, Jr.

Other persons present: Ronald Ramsay, Todd Emerson, MaryEllen Day, Maria White, Lorna Greene, Susan Meserve, Lori Mathews, David Mathews, Kipp Latzko, and Dawn Fickett

AGENDA

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Vance Pineo, Jr.

II. RE: APPROVAL OF CHANGE TO SCHOOL CALENDAR

ACTION: Superintendent Ramsay noted that things changed so rapidly from Saturday to Monday due to COVID-19 that we had multiple letters go out. He is asking the board to approve the change to the school calendar with no school for students until further notice. He also would like the board to authorize him to re-open schools as soon as the state and the CDC recommends it is o.k. As far as he knows right now, we won't have to make up the days missed if we provide alternative/remote learning educational programming to students, and we make meals available to children. We are doing both of those things.

Motion by Debra Murphy, seconded by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) to approve the change to the school calendar due to COVID-19 and authorizing Supt. Ramsay to re-open schools as soon as it is allowed.

III. RE: APPROVAL OF REMOTE/ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PLAN

ACTION: Supt. Ramsay expressed his appreciation to the principals and staff for the work they've done to get a program in place for students during the COVID-19 closure. Teachers will be keeping in contact with students through a variety of methods such as packets, online work, emails, phone calls, etc. They have offered to meet with parents, if necessary. Parents can pick-up/drop off homework at the schools from 10 a.m. to noon Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Meals will also be available for pick-up or will be delivered by our bus drivers with help from ed techs. Special education services will be provided as best they can under the circumstances. Special education teachers and therapists will be in contact with students and parents to help them.

In addition, we've had many offers from outside agencies willing to help in any way they can, such as EdGE, TREE, Mano N' Mano, etc. Mr. Ramsay expressed his appreciation for all who've reached out with offers of assistance.

Motion by Gary Magby, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to approve the remote/alternative learning plan as outlined above.

IV. RE: CONSIDERATION OF STAFF PAY & BENEFITS DURING SCHOOL SHUTDOWN

ACTION: Supt. Ramsay recommended that the district continue to pay salaries and benefits to our regular employees during the shutdown, as recommended by the state. He noted that most districts around the state have agreed to this already. We need to realize that the workload won't be the same for everyone. Some will be working from home, while others may be in the schools some of the time. A few may continue working their regular hours, while many others will work limited hours, but this is an unusual situation. He would like to include anyone that we had promised work to for the remainder of the year (long-term subs). This would be just a handful of people (4-6).

Motion by Mark Wright, second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to continuing paying our regular staff and any long-term subs that have committed to us for the rest of the year.

V. RE: OTHER

INFORMATION: Chairman Pineo noted that the shutdown will also affect the meeting schedule for the board. He wondered if the board should give Mr. Ramsay the authority to make decisions, if necessary, without board action during this time. However, Mr. Ramsay doesn't feel that's necessary right now. Supt. Ramsay noted that we've looked at the March agenda for next week and there is no business on there that can't wait another month. If anything comes up before then that absolutely must be taken care of, and he can legally do it, he will. If not, then legislation has been approved that would allow for remote meetings of the board. We aren't set up for that, but several mentioned "Go To Meeting," which is easy to use.

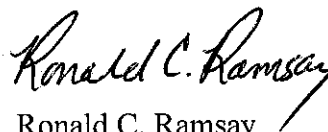
Supt. Ramsay also noted that nothing has changed with the CTE project schedule. Nickerson & O'Day still has a crew on site working and they are hoping they don't have to shutdown due to the virus. They still anticipate being able to meet the July 31st completion date.

Supt. Ramsay noted that we won't be having the first budget workshop tonight. We are not ready to present it due to being side-tracked with all the COVID-19 correspondence. We hope to have it ready next week and can send it out to everyone for review. Maybe we could try a remote meeting to discuss it once everyone has had time to review it. We will keep you posted.

VI. RE: ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald C. Ramsay
Secretary to the Board