

**MAINE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #50**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**MARCH 9, 2020**  
**MINUTES**  
**SOUTHERN AROOSTOOK COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
**6:30 P.M.**

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

Absent: Kasandra Foster,

Others present: Staff - April Bates, Elaine Small, Holly Vining and Janet Vose  
Selectman from Island Falls: Anthony Binotto

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:30 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2020 were considered.

Moved to approve by: Greg Ryan

Seconded by: Barbara Burton

Vote: Unanimous

3. Time Period to Hear from Citizens: None

4. Adjustment(s) to the Agenda: None

5. Reports

Board Chair:

Board Vice-Chair: Laura informed the Board of a recent Melmac conference she attended stressing that students in rural areas need to be more exposed to diversity, particularly in regard to their career choices. She suggests virtual tours of job sites and also inviting past graduates back to help our students explore their future options.

Laura announced the recent resignation of Oakfield Board member, Robin Crandall.

The Chair commended Robin for her many years of caring and diligent service to the RSU and also as Chair of the Region II Board.

Committee Reports –

Building & Grounds – highlights of the March 5<sup>th</sup> Building and Grounds meeting were discussed (see Superintendent's report).

Education – next scheduled meeting, May 7

Finance – Warrants were signed and year-end reviewed.

-Holly informed the Board of the current issues with Maine Care she is working to resolve for funding to be restored.

Negotiations for Shared Services with RSU 89 – Meeting was held on March 3 @ KHS. The following services will continue to be shared for FY21: Technology Coordinator, Asst. Technology Coordinator, Elementary Phys. Ed. teacher, World Language teacher and Physical Science teacher at the high school level.

Policy – see Item 7

Region II – Meeting is scheduled for March 17

Principals: April circulated her most recent elementary disciplinary report to the Board, as well as updates on attendance, well-child checks, DHHS reports and bullying reports.

-Elementary Winter Carnival was enjoyed on February 12 with students participating in sliding, skating and skiing.

-An upcoming meeting with ACAP to discuss a potential all day 4-year-olds program will be held in the near future.

-The trimester ends on March 13 and conferences will be held on March 19.

-Elementary teachers will have FOSS Science Kit training on March 20.

-MEA's will be held March 16 to April 10.

-Tier III work continues with a meeting scheduled for next month.

Special Services Director: Updated the Board with numbers of IEPs and 504 meetings being held. She commended her staff for their growth in writing reports to serve student needs.

-Janet talked of her exploration of services for speech and language due to the current provider's family illness.

-March 27 she expects to have staff assignments completed for FY21.

Superintendent: the Superintendent's report is attached.

Other: Janet Vose talked briefly about a possible EFT student tour for RSU 50 in March of 2022 to London and Paris.

6. Announcement of Appointments, Resignations and Retirements:

Greg Ryan and Stephen Porter will serve on the Policy Committee beginning in April, 2020.

7. First Reading of Policies:

BEB – Board Member use of Social Media

BEDH – Public participation at Board Meetings

BIA – New Board Member Orientation

Moved to accept by: Greg Ryan

Seconded by: Barbara Burton

Vote: Unanimous

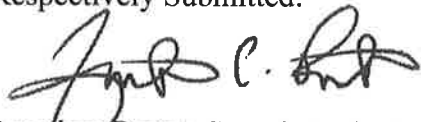
8. Second Reading/Review/Adoption of Policies: None

9. Other Business – Old/New
- a. A motion to approve the School Revolving Renovation Fund – Prepaid Loan Application to replace the elementary lift.  
Moved to approve by: Greg Ryan  
Seconded by: Barbara Burton  
Vote: Unanimous
- b. A request for a leave of absence for the remainder of this school year for an employee in the food service program; this leave will be without pay and benefits.  
Moved to approve the request by food service employee, Yvonne Goodall, for a leave of absence for the remainder of this school year; this leave will be without pay and benefits.  
By: Barbara Burton  
Seconded by: Laura Farnsworth  
Vote: Unanimous
10. Future Agenda Items: The Draft Budget for FY21 will be presented to the Board at the April 13 meeting. See Budget Timeline:  
Special Workshop Meeting & Budget Adoption by the Board on April 30, 2020  
District Budget Meeting May 28, 2020 @ 7 p.m.  
Budget Validation Referendum June 9, 2020 Local Polls  
Regular Board Meeting June 11, 2020
11. Upcoming Meetings and Events
- |                            |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - High School Science Fair | March 17, 2020 all day in the MPR |
| - Policy Committee Meeting | April 13, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.        |
| - Finance Comm.            | April 13, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.        |
| - Regular Board Meeting    | April 13, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.        |
| - Region II Board          | April 14, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.        |
12. Executive Session under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A) to discuss a personnel issue.  
Moved to enter Executive Session under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A) at 7:44 p.m.  
By: Greg Ryan  
Seconded by: Barbara Burton  
Vote: Unanimous

There was no action as a result of Executive Session 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A).

13. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous decision at 7:52 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

  
Jonathan Porter, Superintendent  
Regional School Unit #50

## RSU 50 Superintendent Notes

### March 2020 RSU 50 Board Meeting

#### 1. Region Two Report

- a. No meeting in February.
- b. **Next Region Two Meeting** on Tuesday March 17, 2020, 6:00pm

#### 2. Regional Service Center Update:

##### **Regional Bus Garage:**

Our mechanic is back and on very light duty. We are attempting to find a temp. mechanic's helper. 40 hrs a week for the next 4-6 week as he fully recovers.

##### **Alternative Education, Summit Academy:**

The students have moved to their new location - 2 High Street in Houlton.

The Summit building is still being mitigated. They are currently replacing some floor joists and beams to make things safe. This is going to be a huge undertaking. Ellen spoke with Bill Stockmeyer regarding the process to bid for the rehab of the building. Unfortunately due to the scope and cost - we will have to hire an architect/engineer and prepare very in depth specs for the bid process. Much like building a new school. This process is going to really slow down the work..

#### 3. Buildings & Grounds Meeting Agenda & Notes

##### REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #50 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

Time: Thursday, March 5, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.  
Purpose: Regular Meeting  
Attending: Stephen Porter, Larry Greelaw, Rob Betschner, Gerry Guilbeault, Holly Vining, & Jon Porter

##### **AGENDA & NOTES**

#### 1. Review of Project list-priorities moving forward

- a. See attached list

**Committee reviewed the RSU 50 Capital Improvement Project List.**

**Committee recommends \$130,000 FY 20-21 Budget to address building needs**

#### 2. Updates on Current Projects

- a. VW Bus Grant  
    **Approved for a bus, Grant pays 80% of the cost**
- b. Elementary Lift-Revolving Renovation Funds  
    **Approved for Revolving Renovation Funds**
- c. Mackenzie Grant-Wi-Fi System in the Middle/High School  
    **Approved for funds, grant will pay for cost to replace existing wi-fi system**  
    **Remaining funds from grant will pay for replacement of two switches**
- d. Compressors in the Kitchen  
    **Waiting on contractors to complete the work**

#### 3. Others

**None**

#### 4. COVID-19 Update

The RSU 50 administrative team met last week to discuss and review the Emergency Management Plan in the event of a Coronavirus outbreak in our school and/or community. We continue to get updates and information from the Maine Dept. of Education and the Maine Center for Disease Control. Today, the MDOE, released notified schools that they would be flexible in granting waivers if schools close due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

I have also met with custodial staff to discuss measures we can take to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases. I have also shared information with staff about prevention. Here is one example of information:

*AASA recognizes your concerns about the encroaching spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and its potential impact on schools, and aims to provide the best, most up-to-date information available from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). We are also working on other communications measures to keep you abreast of strategies, tools and recommendations.*

*At this time, no anti-viral treatment attacks the coronavirus and individuals are being treated with pain relievers, cough syrup and other medications for the symptoms. So, it is important that we rely on prevention, as we did when advising superintendents about the "swine flu" (H1N1) in 2009. As we await guidance from CDC on specific strategies for schools, AASA encourages you to follow common-sense strategies for preventing the spread of communicable diseases:*

##### **Individual level**

###### *Social Distancing When Ill*

- Ask parents to keep children home who exhibit cold and flu-like symptoms.
- Encourage staff to refrain from coming to work if they have cold and flu-like symptoms.

###### *Handwashing*

- Encourage all students to keep unwashed hands out of their mouths, eyes, etc.
- Encourage all students to use anti-bacterial soap.

##### **Classroom/School level**

- Have teachers review hand-washing techniques with students.
- Discourage the sharing of food.
- Provide anti-bacterial soap rather than hand sanitizers in classrooms and bathrooms.
- Encourage maintenance and classroom staff to use anti-bacterial products on all high-touch surfaces daily.
- Increase frequency of school building cleaning by maintenance staff and upgrade via the use of more effective cleaning products.

##### **System/District level**

- *Provide clear and transparent communication to your communities especially around any suspected or confirmed cases.*
- *Ensure that your school nurses are vigilant in monitoring the student body, especially in cases where students exhibit symptoms associated with the virus.*
- *Establish a process for determining whether students are contracting the virus and a system for reporting updates to health officials.*
- *Share overall school strategies for dealing with the spread of the virus should school/district be impacted.*
- *Currently, public health officials are not recommending the use of masks or gloves in public settings.*
- *At this time, federal health authorities are not recommending that schools cancel classes. Refer to your district policy on school closure should closure or dismissals become necessary.*
- *Take action without stigmatizing any students/families/populations.*
- *If you have planned out-of-district trips overseas or within the United States (if there are reported outbreaks at the U.S. destination), consider cancellation.*

*And remember, while the Coronavirus news is concerning, it is important to point out that there are other respiratory viruses like influenza currently circulating in schools. Fever, coughing and difficulty breathing are symptoms associated with all of them. Therefore, anyone exhibiting these symptoms should not be assumed to have COVID-19.*

## **5. Shared Services-Withdrawal agreement**

RSU 50 and RSU 89 Shared Services Committees met last week to review the Withdrawal Agreement in regards to shared services for the 2020-21 school year.. The agreement for shared services is due to expire on June 30, 2021. The committees agreed to continue to share the current services for one more year and then to reconvene prior to the expiration of the withdrawal agreement next June to determine if we will continue to share services after the agreement expires. Shared positions between RSU 50 & RSU 89 are: Technology Coordinator, Asst. Technology Coordinator, Elementary Physical Education Teacher, World Language Teacher, and High School Physical Science Teacher.

## **6. Recognition**

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

**2020 MPA Principal's Award:** Abigail Stevens

**Middle School Student of the Month: February 2020**

**Grade 8:** Madison Shields

**Grade 7:** Rylee Webb

**Grade 6:** Lincoln Hardy

**All-Aroostook Basketball Team:**

**Class D Boys Team:** Jacob Brooks, Xavier Morales, Camden Porter

**Class D Girls Team:** Kacy Daggett, Makaelyn Porter, Madison Russell

**Class D Basketball North Regional All-Tournament Girls Team:**

Kacy Daggett, Madison Russell, & Makaelyn Porter, Tournament MVP

**IABBO #150 Sportsmanship Award-Girls:**

So. Aroostook Girls High School Basketball Team & Coaches Cliff Urquhart & Brandon McCarthy

**McDonald's Senior All Star & Aroostook Senior All-Star Basketball Game:** Makaelyn Porter

**Maine Association of Basketball Coaches Class D Girls Basketball Coach of the Year:** Cliff Urquhart

**Aroostook League Senior Scholar/Athlete Award:** Gavin Vining & Makaelyn Porter

**Class D Northern Maine Girls Basketball Champions and Class D State Runner-Up:**

So. Aroostook Girls High School Basketball Team & Coaches Cliff Urquhart & Brandon McCarthy

**7. Nice email shared about SACS ASP students and staff**

This was sent to me today, thought I would share:

*Hello,*

*Let me first say that the students today were wonderful, not to mention the teachers! They even helped us pack the trailer backup and were awesome on the trail and worked well together as a team. What a wonderful bunch you have there, we've never had students help so much! The teachers you sent were, as usual, a delight and wonderful as chaperones and with the students. All together, a wonderful day. All tried out skiing and a number of students came back and ate and then tried snowshoeing.*

*Thank you for coming out again this year for Head North Ski Days. Please let the students know how impressed we were. Thanks again.*

*Kala J. Rush*

*c: (406) 728-5692*

*Education Coordinator*

*Katahdin Woods & Waters*

Respectfully Submitted:

Jon Porter, RSU 50 Superintendent

3/9/2020

# Elementary Report March 2020

## 1. Elementary Discipline Report 2019/2020

Discipline	September to December	December to March	March to June
Behavior	39	32	
Behavior that resulted in suspension	4-out 2-in	5 - out	
Bus	18	11	
Bus that resulted in suspension	6	2	
Attendance	2	11	
Well Child Checks	1	2	
DHHS Reports	3	7	
Bullying Reports	2	3	

2. Winter Carnival on Feb. 12th was a success. Elementary students went skating, sliding, and skiing in Houlton.
3. Jon and April will be meeting with ACAP to discuss numbers for Pre-K next year and to also discuss potential all-day 4 year old program.
4. The trimester ends March 13th. Elementary students and staff will have conferences on March 19th.
5. Elementary teachers are being trained in FOSS Science Kits on March 20th.
6. MEA's start March 16th and end April 10th.
7. Thursday Bulletin is now being posted on the RSU 50 website.
8. Jon and April are meeting with George Tucker from the state on Wednesday to start the Tier III work.