

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD February 24, 2020 AT 6:00 PM AT BATH MIDDLE SCHOOL. (NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Board. Such action, either to approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the **March 23, 2020 meeting).**

Members Present: Stephen August, Chairperson; Lou Ensel, Vice Chairperson; Anita Brown, Megan Fuller, Bill Perkins, and Lorna Ryan; Tanner Hennin, Hayden Platteter, Student Representatives; Patrick Manuel, Superintendent of Schools

Members Absent: Jennifer Ritch-Smith

Others Present: Katie Joseph, Debra Clark, Jennifer McKay, Devon Gallice, Lisa Hardman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson August called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM CHAIR

Chairperson August reported that the Finance Committee will be meeting with administrators on March 2nd and March 9th to begin to go over the details included in the proposed school budget for 2020-2021. The meetings will take place in the afternoon from 3:00 to 6:00 at the Superintendent’s Office. These meetings are public and members of the RSU 1 community are invited to attend. Mr. August stated that there won’t be an opportunity for the public to participate in the discussions but this gives them an opportunity to come in and listen to the discussions. The first public forum to discuss the budget will be held on Monday, March 30th at 6:00 pm at Bath Middle School. The forum will be held in a public session where Superintendent Manuel will present the budget to the RSU 1 community which will be followed by an opportunity for members of the Board and the public to ask questions. Mr. August express his desire to have more public participation early on in the process in order to have time to discuss any concerns, observations or comments that the members of the public may have regarding the proposed budget.

APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES FOR JANUARY 27, 2020

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Ensel

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

TO: Approve the minutes of January 27, 2020 as written.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

The agenda was adjusted to add Policy BEB – Board Member Use of Social Media under Item 12.2 as a first reading.

PUBLIC SESSION

None

DIKE-NEWELL SCHOOL LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Dike-Newell Principal Jennifer McKay introduced Librarian Ed Tech Lisa Hardman to share the enrichment opportunities that are being offered in the Dike-Newell School Library.

Ms. Hardman shared a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the 2nd Grade Readers Theater and STEM offerings available through the library. The second graders have three opportunities to be in a play throughout the school year. Ms. Hardman described the student selection process and shared the behavior expectations required to participate in the program. Students that don't have an opportunity to perform in one of the plays will be invited to participate in the end-of-year skits. The scripts and props needed for the plays are purchased through DonorsChoose. Before the students can put on a play they need to read many different versions of the story and the narrators have to practice reading the script. Fairy tale problem-solving kits are also purchased through DonorsChoose and are hands-on STEM and literacy activities. The students are required to work as a team to solve the problems included in each kit. Beebots robots are also available in the library for the students to introduce them to coding by programming the robots. Ms. Hardman reported that the students enjoy them so much that she ordered six more Beebots through DonorsChoose. Ms. Hardman invited the Board members to come and visit the library anytime.

A link to Ms. Hardman's PowerPoint presentation can be found [here](#).

MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Manuel reported that a detailed report from the Clerk of the Works was included in the Board packet. Central Maine Power is currently hooking up permanent power to the building, interior partition framing is being installed on the third floor, and the final slab will be poured this week at the base and balcony of the theater. The staff has begun the process of looking at furniture for the classrooms and has narrowed it down to a couple of different options but still has a lot of work to do. A lot of progress has been made on the bridge and the foundation off of Congress Avenue. Some of our staff was involved in an audio visual meeting today to discuss technology features in the new classrooms. Dr. Manuel reported that he was on a conference call with the Department of Education recently and expressed his appreciation for the work that the Department of Education, Crooker and Harvey Construction are doing. We have had initial meetings with the staff regarding the move and have come up with a tentative schedule. We will be putting together a Request for Proposal in order to hire a moving company.

MAINE MARITIME MUSEUM'S "SENSE OF PLACE" PROGRAM IN RSU 1

Assistant Superintendent Katie Joseph introduced Maine Maritime Museum's Director of Programs & Operations Jason Morin and Education Coordinator Luke Milardo to talk about how our students have been involved in the "Sense of Place" Program over the years.

Mr. Morin stated that in 2015 the Maine Maritime Museum started to refocus on rebuilding their connections with local schools. They spoke to some of the stakeholders in the area to see how the museum could better serve the schools and how we could be a better resource for the schools. The common theme in many of these conversations was that there were some primary barriers with this collaboration including time, money, and transportation. As a result of these conversations, the education staff at the museum began to work closely with RSU 1 staff to create a program that will help students better understand and foster pride in the community they live in and their heritage. Mr. Morin stated that they found they needed to have several visits over multiple years involving various age levels. The goal was to work with students in grades 2, 4, 7, and 10 and connect with them over and over throughout their entire academic career. The trustees of the museum supported the development of the program by donating \$75,000 which will be used over a three year period to support the program and help eliminate the barriers. The "Sense of Place" program began in 2016 with 41 programs and served 395 students in RSU 1. The museum was able to raise another \$25,000 to support a fourth year of the program.

Education Coordinator Luke Milardo provided an overview of the curriculum which included introducing our 2nd graders to marine transportation and lobstering. The students complete the year with a cruise

up the Kennebec River on the Merrymeeting cruise ship. Mr. Milardo reported that when the students return in 7th grade they are excited and glad to be back. The museum staff works closely with the science and social studies teachers to connect to the curriculum. The theme of the 7th grade program is the environmental history of the cod fishery. All of the lessons included in the "Sense of Place" program involve real hands-on physical activities which creates memorable experiences for the students that are relevant to the community. The feedback from students and teachers has been positive and indicates that the experiences the students have in the program strengthen their understanding of other subjects.

Mr. Morin stated that the staff at the Maine Maritime Museum views the program as being extremely successful. The museum is connecting better with the students and the students are getting a better sense of the community in which they live. The goal would be to keep the students in the program, keep them learning and recognizing the benefits of being in this community. The program's 5th year is now fully funded which takes the program through 2021. While work is being done to obtain funding options for a longer term, the museum would love to have the program valued enough to slowly work into the school budget. The teachers feel that this is a beneficial resource for them and reinforces what they are doing in class. This year RSU 1 helped with some of the transportation costs. The museum received a grant from Merrymeeting Bay Trust to take every 4th grade student on a cruise to Merrymeeting Bay to teach them about the ecology of the bay. The museum also offers the Discovery Boat Building Program with the Woolwich students and gave 50 students full scholarships to attend summer camp last year.

Assistant Superintendent Katie Joseph reviewed the upcoming testing schedule for RSU 1.

- May - NWEA (grades K-8)
- March 16-April 10 - eMPowerME (grades 3-8)
- End of April – Science test (grade 5 and 8)
- Mid-April – SAT test (grade 11)
- Early April – Science Assessment (grade 11)

Ms. Joseph stated that we will be taking time to review the data before an upcoming Board meeting as we did last year. The test results were released to the district around the end of December and sent home in January. The information is available on the Maine Department of Education website and available to the public.

In terms of what we do with this data in the district, Ms. Joseph reported that the information is sent to the principals and shared with the teachers. Once the data is reviewed, staff will engage in conversations about where we did well, where fell short in terms of our instruction, and what we can do about it. We also pay attention to the individual student test results and subgroups within the data.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Hayden Platteter reported that everyone is back from break and students are getting ready for spring sports to begin. The Drama Club is getting ready for Morse senior John Russell's play, My BSF!, which will be part of the MPA's One Act Play competition and auditions are beginning for the Adam's Family musical. Later this month the Creative Writing Club, Teen Library Council and the Patten Free Library will be collaborating to present a sit down murder mystery dinner which everyone in the community is invited to attend.

Student Representative Tanner Hennin reported that Morse senior Emma Roth-Wells was selected as one of five finalists at the Regional MPA Poetry Out Loud event. Senior Deja Douglas is the girl's state champion in her weight class in wrestling. In swimming, junior Evan Willertz finished first in the 100 yard backstroke and first in the 200 yard IM at states, senior Olivia Harper was first in the 100 yard backstroke and first in the 100 yard butterfly, and senior Haily Harper was first in the 100 yard backstroke and first in the 200 yard IM. In indoor track, senior William Carrolton won the state

championship in shotput and junior Aiden Pryor is advancing to the New England. The student led 826 Ski Club has started and has been a success.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- The district received a school revolving renovation fund application approved by the state for a steam to hot water conversion project at Dike-Newell School. The amount funded through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank is \$365,000. The portion of the loan to be forgiven is \$187,000 while the amount to be repaid is \$178,000. The length of the loan is 5 years at zero percent interest.
- Dike-Newell students have an opportunity to participate in the "Go2Science" program which gives them a chance to video-chat with teachers and field scientists live on the big screen. The program helps to bring science to life and gets students excited about authentic learning. The program was funded through different grants and the Bath Elementary PTA.
- The district had six Special Olympians participate in the Special Olympics in Sugarloaf and our Morse Unified Basketball team continues to be successful and very rewarding to watch.
- Morse High Principal Eric Varney included in his Board report that several Morse programs have been selected to receive grant funding. The Berlin City Auto Group chose to support our AP Biology program, which is currently working on a service-learning project to help design native landscapes around the new school that will be friendly to native bee populations. Berlin City Auto Group also chose to support our Unified Athletics program. Additionally, Morse's AP Computer Science program has received financial support from the Amazon Future Engineer program for the second consecutive year.
- The Morse Ocean Bowl teams had strong finishes at this year's competition with one team placing 3rd and the other placing 5th.
- The district's School Nutrition Program was reviewed in January. Foodservice Director Tim Harkins was praised for his leadership and the foodservice staff was recognized for the healthy meals, different food options, and their interaction with students.

FINANCE REPORT

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with the Financial Report for the month ending January 31, 2020. Currently, \$16.7 million has been spent out of the district's \$33.7 million budget and have an encumbered amount of almost \$12 million in salary/benefits. The district has used 20,000 gallons less fuel as compared to last year at this time. We have brought in \$18.4 million in revenue or 54% which is in line with last year. We have seen a gain in interest in our investments which will increase that line in the 2020-2021 budget. The district received a CTE grant of \$56,000 for additional equipment for our vocational program. We have spent \$35 million or 47.74% of the \$75 million budget for the new high school. Mrs. Clark reported that the district has approximately \$109,000 remaining for substitutes which is close to what we had budgeted for this year. In answering a question about MaineCare legislation, Mrs. Clark explained that in the past some districts used to do their own billing to MaineCare but things have changed so now outside districts bill MaineCare and when MaineCare pays them then we receive the reduction in our subsidy. It has been hard to budget because you never know when we will receive the reduction and how much our subsidy will be reduced. Superintendent Manuel stated that this topic will be discussed during the Finance Committee meeting when Special Education Director Justin Keleher makes his presentation in March.

REVIEW OF 2019-2020 BOARD GOALS

Item tabled for this month.

NEW MORSE HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH ELECTIVE PROPOSAL

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Fuller

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

TO: Approve the Morse High School Health Elective Proposal as presented.

FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES

- IHBAC – Child Find Policy – The policy was reviewed without any questions or concerns.
- JJIAA – Private School Students – Access to Public School Co-Curricular, Interscholastic and Extracurricular Activities – The Board discussed the language on page 2 that addressed the need for students in an equivalent instruction program to submit an application to try out for any extracurricular activity and the school's capacity to provide the student the opportunity to participate.
- BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics – The Board discussed the deletion of Item Q within the policy.
- KE – Public Concerns/Complaints – Chairperson August provided some suggested language for the Policy Committee to consider during their next meeting.
- JLCB – Immunization Requirements for Students Entering RSU 1 Schools – The changes to the policy included updating the types of immunizations.
- JICJ – Student Use of Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices – Superintendent Manuel stated that administrators are the only members of the staff that would conduct any searches.
- BEA – Board of Directors Use of Electronic Mail – The policy was reviewed without any questions or concerns.
- BEB – Board Member Use of Social Media – The policy was reviewed without any questions or concerns.

PUBLIC SESSION

None

NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

- Next regular RSU 1 Board meeting; Monday, March 23, 2020 at Woolwich Central School – 6:00pm
- Public Forum to discuss the FY2021 Proposed Budget – March 30, 2020 at Bath Middle School – 6:00 pm

ADJOURN

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Perkins

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

TO: Adjourn at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick M. Manuel
Secretary