

## MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37

April 29, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of RSU/MSAD #37 was held at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School, Harrington, Maine and virtually through Zoom (due to COVID-19) on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 to consider and act upon the following items of business:

**Board Members Present:** Jeffery Beal, Susan Beal, Chris Chartrand, Bethany Hartford, Grace Kennedy, Ronald Kennedy, Gary Magby, Debra Murphy, Charles Peterson, Jr., Vance Pineo, Jr., Dawn Robbins, and Mark Wright

**Other persons present:** Ronald Ramsay, Denise Vose, Lorna Greene, Susan Meserve, Maria White, Mary Ellen Day, Todd Emerson, Lori-Ann Mathews, Kandi Robertson, Ronie Strout, Donna Haire, Eric Brooks, Juana Rodriguez, Maggie Burgos, and Dawn Fickett

### MINUTES

#### A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. **The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Vance Pineo, Jr.**
2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26 REGULAR AND MARCH 18 EMERGENCY MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to approve the February 26<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup> minutes as printed.
3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**  
**INFORMATION:** Supt. Ramsay reported that June 12<sup>th</sup> will be our last day of school. Learning Packets/assignments will end the week before, giving students a week to finish up and get things sent back in. Lunch deliveries will also end that week. The Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, delivery will include meals for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. We are serving around 6300 meals per week right now.  
He noted that we still have had no news from Augusta on how to move forward with our budget process, but we are getting things in place so that we will be ready when we do hear.  
The CTE project is moving forward. There have been workers there doing sheet-rocking, electrical, etc. They are laying out the partition wall now.
4. **RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**INFORMATION:** Things are right where they should be financially. We may see a small savings from being out of school, but it's too early to tell.
5. **RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**  
**ACTION:** Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Dawn Robbins, and voted (unanimously) to adjust the agenda to consider a temporary change to the grading system for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of this year due to COVID-19 and distance learning.

#### B. OLD BUSINESS

None

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. RE: HIRING PROBATIONARY CONTRACT TEACHERS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Dawn Robbins, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of the following probationary contract teachers for 2020-2021: Tiffany Alley, Eric Brooks, Rebecca Fletcher, Claire Hall, Valerie Kennedy, Alexandra Loukas, Michael Milazzo, Elyse Rudner, Jenessa Sprague, Wanda Stanley, Deborah Schwartz, Erica Thompson, and Harry Thompson.

**2. RE: HIRING TEACHERS MOVING TO CONTINUING CONTRACTS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Jeffery Beal, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Jennifer Kempthorne and Cristina Perez and moving them to continuing contract status beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

**3. RE: HIRING ADMINISTRATORS/OTHERS WITH ONE-YEAR CONTRACTS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, second by Gary Magby, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of the following administrators/others with one year contracts: Samantha Beal, Dawn Fickett, Samantha Gray, Ron Green, Yvonne Hayward, Edward Latham, Lori Mathews, Elisabeth Patryn, and Ronald Smith.

**4. RE: APPROVAL TO OPT OUT OF CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM**

**ACTION:** Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) to opt out of the Child and Adult Care Food Program since the district does not have a qualifying after-school program and would have to start one to be eligible to participate in CACFP.

**5. RE: APPROVAL OF THE 2020-2021 DISTRICT BUDGET INCLUDING SIGNING THE WARRANTS FOR THE DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING AND VALIDATION REFERENDUM AND THE NOTICE OF AMOUNTS ADOPTED**

**ACTION:** Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously) that the warrant for the Maine School Administrative District No. 37 (the "District") Budget Meeting presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved and that a District budget meeting be and is hereby called at a date to be determined for the purpose of voting on the annual budget for the District for the 2020-2021 fiscal year; that the Superintendent shall be authorized to fill in the date of the District Budget Meeting once determined;

that the Warrant and Notice of Election for the District Budget Validation Referendum presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved, and that a District budget validation referendum be and is hereby called for July 14, 2020 for the purpose of approving the budget adopted at the District budget meeting for the 2020-2021 fiscal year; and

that the form of Notice of Amounts Adopted at Budget Meeting presented to this meeting be and is hereby approved, and that the Superintendent of Schools of the District is hereby authorized and directed to complete said Notice by adding the amounts approved by the voters for each expenditure category and the total school budget summary expenditure amount, all in accordance with the District budget meeting, and to cause copies of said notice, as completed, to be delivered to the municipal clerks of each municipality of the District for posting at the polling places for the July 14, 2020 District budget validation referendum.

**6. RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO TRANSFER FUNDS BETWEEN COST CENTERS, IF NECESSARY**

**ACTION:** Superintendent Ramsay noted that this is just a precaution in case any of our cost centers are over-drawn at the end of the year. Should we need to transfer any funds, he would notify the board at the July meeting.

**6.a. RE: APPROVAL OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER GRADING SYSTEM FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR**

**ACTION:** Supt. Ramsay noted that a letter was sent to parents about three weeks ago informing them that 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter grades would be delayed. We wanted to give everyone time to adjust to the distance learning format. Since that time, the State has recommended that all districts hold students harmless for grading during the pandemic.

Because of that, we would like to change our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grading system for the 2019-2020. High school students will receive either Pass with Distinction, Pass, or Incomplete as grades. At some point the incomplete may turn to a fail if they don't complete the work. Elementary students will receive their regular rank cards that have standards. We will use those to check the standards completed, but no number or letter grades will be given. This would only be for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of this school year and would expire at the end of the school year and we would go back to our regular grading system. We need to realize that the playing field is not level for all students in this "stay at home" model of educating them.

Motion by Mark Wright, second by Dawn Robbins, and voted (unanimously) to approve the change to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grading system for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

**7. RE: ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald C. Ramsay  
Secretary to the Board

MEETING SUMMARY, April 29, 2020

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

2. APPROVED minutes of the 2/26/20 regular meeting and 3/18/20 emergency meeting;
5. APPROVED agenda adjustment;

B. OLD BUSINESS

None

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. HIRED probationary contract teachers: T. Alley, E. Brooks, R. Fletcher, C. Hall, V. Kennedy, A. Loukas, M. Milazzo, E. Rudner, J. Sprague, W. Stanley, D. Schwartz, E. Thompson, and H. Thompson;
2. HIRED teachers moving to continuing contract status—J. Kempthorne, C. Perez;
3. HIRED one-year admin/others—S. Beal, D. Fickett, S. Gray, Y. Hayward, R. Green, E. Latham, L. Mathews, E. Patryn, R. Smith;
4. APPROVED opting out of the CACFP program;
5. APPROVED the 202-21 budget, approved & signed warrant for budget meeting with date to be added after guidance from state received, approved & signed warrant for validation referendum on July 14, and approved & signed Notice of Amounts Adopted form;
6. AUTHORIZED the Superintendent to transfer funds between cost centers, if necessary, before June 30<sup>th</sup>; and,
- 6a. APPROVED change to the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grading system for 2019-2020.