

## MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37

February 15, 2023

A regular meeting of the MSAD #37 Board of Directors was held at 7:00 p.m. on February 15, 2023 at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School to consider and act on the following business:

**Board Members Present:** Leann Beal, Stephen Dunham, Everett Grant, Shelby Greene, Beth Hartford, Grace Kennedy, Debra Murphy, David Perham, Tiffany Strout, and Mark Wright

**Board Members Absent:** Chris Chartrand and Ronald Kennedy

**Other persons present:** Ronald Ramsay, Susan Meserve, Lorna Greene, Carol Ann Lisee, Denise Vose, MaryEllen Day, Todd Emerson, Jonathan MacLeod, Dawn Fickett, Eric Brooks, Kandi Robertson, Amity Chipman, Anna Hammond, Ronie Strout, Joanne Eaton, Joan Ramsay, Myra Merritt, Anita McGray, Tom Absalom, Meg Charest, Jason Tyler, Meagan Worcester, Harry Thompson, and other citizens

### MINUTES

#### A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Debra Murphy. She noted that Directors Chris Chartrand and Ronald Kennedy were excused as they were out of town.
2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2023 REGULAR MEETING**  
**ACTION:** Motion by Everett Grant, second by Mark Wright, and voted (654-yes, 149-abstentions) to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2023 meeting with an amendment as Steve Dunham was absent from the meeting but is listed as being present. (Abstentions-S. Dunham and G. Kennedy)
3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**  
**INFORMATION:** Supt. Ramsay noted that he has negotiated with Cherryfield Foods to use the truck yard in Cherryfield as a driving range for the CDL program. They have agreed to a \$1 annual lease. The parking lot at the CTE building is too busy now with school traffic and the renovation project underway. They also will be discussing a potential training program with them.~The first budget workshop is on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
4. **RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIALS**  
**INFORMATION:** Supt. Ramsay noted that at the end of January we have the least amount of “cushion” we’ve had in several years due to increases to fuel costs and other inflation. He has put a “spending freeze” in place, in that extra scrutiny is being given to expenditures to ensure it is something we can’t get by without. We know we need to be extra careful because next year’s budget will be impacted by inflation, high fuel and electricity costs, and the movement of expenses from ESSER to the regular budget.
5. **RE: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS** (Including Professional Development, ESEA, and G/T)  
**INFORMATION:** Denise Vose noted that we currently have 168 students receiving special education services and 16 with 504 plans. She has chaired several meetings in the past few weeks.

Susan Meserve reported that Harington students have been busy as Jr. High basketball wrapped up, Valentines’ parties were held, and students did STEM activities to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Student Council sold candygrams and took gift bags and cards to the nursing home.

Lorna Greene reported that PreK-6 students have all visited the EdGE center for outdoor activities such as skating and snowshoeing. They recently held the Honor Roll assembly and had Valentines’

parties. Over \$3,000 was raised from a dessert auction to help purchase new playground equipment. **Professional Development**—All instructional staff will participate in Learning Clubs on Friday's early release, except for a dozen special education staff who will be doing Safety Care training. The Social Studies committee has met to begin review of new materials. **ESEA/Title I**—Staff are busy planning spring Family Nights. We have 147 students receiving services in math and ELA. Quarterly reports have been sent home to parents. **Gifted/ Talented**—Compasses have been purchased for all G/T students as a follow-up to the hikes they took in the fall. Upcoming trips include the Cole Museum to do interviews with vets and rocket building with Supt. Ramsay.

Carol Ann Lisee noted that some Milbridge students have visited the EdGE center and others will be going soon. SNAP Ed has visited and presented a session on citrus fruits. Second Quarter Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance awards were given out recently. They have completed activities for the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. A Father/Daughter Dance, sponsored by the PTO, will be held on Friday night.

Everett Grant asked principals if they have noticed learning gaps due to COVID and students missing out on direct instruction. Lorna Greene noted that we are catching up. NWEA and other assessments show progress. There are still gaps, but we are getting there. Supt. Ramsay noted that people tend to forget how education was affected during the last three years, and that we lost kids that may never come back.

Mary Ellen Day reported that the Sheriffs' Department did a presentation on drugs on February 7<sup>th</sup>. JMG's kindness project resulted in sticky notes all over the school providing positive affirmation for students. Grades 7/8 have been to the EdGE center. Honor parts have been announced with Lanie Oliver being Valedictorian and Matthew Haire as Salutatorian. A pep rally was held last week for the basketball and cheering teams.

**6. RE: JMG PRESENTATION**

**INFORMATION:** Lis Patryn, JMG instructor, and three of her students presented information on the JMG program and how it supports our students here at Narraguagus.

**7. RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**a. Athletics/Student Activities**—Mark Wright noted that this committee met on Monday to meet with three potential coaches that will be presented later on the agenda.

**b. Curriculum & Instruction**-none

**c. Negotiations & Grievance**-none

**d. Policy & By-laws**-none

**e. Facilities, Maintenance, Safety & Transportation**-none

**8. RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**INFORMATION:** Kandi Robertson is excited to hear of the five-year mental health grant the district has been awarded.

Regarding the discussion on learning loss due to COVID, Candy Tucker noted that her son really struggled during COVID, but he is back on the honor roll again. Also, as an Ed Tech in the district, she sees growth in the students she works with at D.W. Merritt and noted that staff have worked extremely hard to help students get back to where they were before COVID.

A parent with a student in grade 1 at Milbridge noted that she is concerned about the teacher turnover there. Students lost kindergarten when they had a "remote" teacher and now they have a long-term sub for grade one. She feels there needs to be more support there.

**9. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Everett Grant, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to table this article as there are no adjustments needed tonight.

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. RE: HIRING SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Everett Grant, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to approve Haley Batson and Nevaeh Skinner as substitute teachers as recommended by the Superintendent.

**2. RE: HIRING NARRAGUAGUS HIGH SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS COACHES**

**ACTION:** Motion by Everett Grant, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (751-yes, 52-abstentions) to approve the following spring coaches at Narraguagus as recommended by the Superintendent (Mark Wright abstained):

Varsity Baseball-James Robertson

JV Baseball-Kameron Grant

Varsity Softball-Tracie Martin

JV Softball-Lynn Lyford

Softball Volunteer Assistant-Ashley Cirone

Softball Volunteer Assistant-Lanie Perry

Track & Field-Yvonne Hayward

Track & Field Assistant-Lona Hillman

E-Sports-Dexter Wright

**3. RE: APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER ASSISTANTS FOR JR. HIGH TRAVEL TEAMS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to approve Vincent MacLean, Jr. as a volunteer assistant for the girls' travel team and John Batson as a volunteer assistant for the boys' travel team, as recommended by the Superintendent.

**4. RE: CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO DRAW FROM TEACHER SICK BANK**

**ACTION:** Motion by Everett Grant, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to approve the request from Alexandra Loukas to draw 30 days from the Teachers' Sick Leave Bank as she has met the criteria to do so.

**5. RE: APPROVAL OF FY22 AUDIT SUBMISSION TO THE STATE**

**ACTION:** Supt. Ramsay presented information from R.H.R. Smith, Inc., the district's audit firm, showing that the district ended Fiscal Year 2022 in good financial condition. The firm noted that the audit reflected "as clean of a single audit result as we can issue, an unmodified opinion with no material weaknesses, no significant deficiencies, and you also qualified as a low-risk auditee." Supt. Ramsay did note that although the board had approved the transfer between costs centers, if necessary, at its May 2022 meeting, he wanted to make you aware that we did transfer some funds from the Regular Instruction Cost Center to the Transportation and CTE Cost Centers to cover overages. The transfer was well within legal limits of 5% of the cost center.

He also noted that the unassigned balance is the largest we've ever had. This was partly planned to

allow us to have funds to do things that need to be done (such as helping fund the CTE renovation project), and also partly unplanned as we had a large increase to the anticipated revenue we budgeted for tuition from surrounding towns due to increased enrollments in those towns. We plan to spend down some of that for outside articles in the next year to replace the roof at DW Merritt and for the CTE renovation.

Motion by Everett Grant, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to approve submission of the FY22 Audit to the State, and to acknowledge the transfer from Regular Instruction to Transportation and CTE cost centers, as generally approved by the board in May 2022.

**6. RE: CONSIDERATION OF EXTENSION OF 2-YEAR ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS**

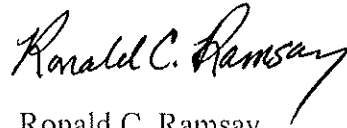
- a. Todd Emerson, Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal (through 6/30/25)
- b. Maria Frankland, Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School Guidance Counselor (through 6/30/25)
- c. Lorna Greene, DW Merritt Elementary Principal (through 6/30/25)
- d. Carol Ann Lisee, Milbridge Elementary Principal (through 6/30/25)

**ACTION:** Motion by Everett Grant, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to approve the extension of 2-year administrative contracts as noted above and recommended by the Superintendent.

**7. RE: ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** Motion by Tiffany Strout, and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald C. Ramsay  
Superintendent of Schools

## February 15, 2023 MEETING SUMMARY

### A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

2. APPROVED minutes of January 25, 2023 Regular Meeting;
9. TABLED agenda adjustments;

### B. OLD BUSINESS

none

### C. NEW BUSINESS

1. HIRED Haley Batson and Nevaeh Skinner as substitute teachers;
2. HIRED spring coaches--Varsity Baseball-James Robertson; JV Baseball-Kameron Grant; Varsity Softball-Tracie Martin; JV Softball-Lynn Lyford; Softball Volunteer Assistants-Ashley Cirone and Lanie Perry; Track & Field-Yvonne Hayward; Track & Field Assistant-Lona Hillman; E-Sports-Dexter Wright
3. APPROVED Vincent MacLean, Jr. and John Batson as volunteer assistants for travel teams;
4. APPROVED request from Alexandra Loukas to draw 30 days from the teacher sick bank;
5. APPROVED the FY22 audit submission to the state;
6. APPROVED extension of 2-year administrative contracts for Todd Emerson, NHS Asst Princ; Maria Frankland, NHS Guidance; Lorna Greene, DWM Principal; and Carol Ann Lisee, Milbridge Principal;