

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37

March 29, 2023

A regular meeting of the MSAD #37 Board of Directors was held at 7:00 p.m. on March 29, 2023 at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School to consider and act on the following business:

Board Members Present: Leann Beal, Chris Chartrand, Stephen Dunham, Everett Grant, Shelby Greene, Beth Hartford, Ronald Kennedy, David Perham, Tiffany Strout, and Mark Wright

Board Members Absent: Grace Kennedy and Debra Murphy

Other persons present: Ronald Ramsay, Susan Meserve, Lorna Greene, Carol Ann Lisee, Denise Vose, MaryEllen Day, Jonathan MacLeod, Dawn Pickett, Eric Brooks, Anita McGray, Autumn Marston, Amanda Kowalsky, Candy Tucker, Chris Tucker, Jon MacLeod, Harry Thompson, Rhonda Norton, Kandi Robertson, Maria Frankland, Sara Ippolito, Donna Grant, Anna Hammond, Amity Chipman, Ron Green, Jodi Hedberg, Valerie Kennedy, and other citizens

MINUTES

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Mark Wright. He noted that Directors Grace Kennedy and Debi Murphy were excused from tonight's meeting.
2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2023 REGULAR MEETING**
ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by David Perham, and voted (706-yes, 108-abstentions) to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2023 regular meeting as printed (R. Kennedy abstained as he was absent from that meeting.)
3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**
INFORMATION: Supt. Ramsay noted that we have two more budget workshops, April 5 & 12. The district budget meeting will be on May 23 and the budget validation will be in each town on June 13. He also reported that we were notified that the DOE discovered a mistake on the ED279 where data was input twice. It has been corrected, which has dropped the mil rate, which in turn resulted in additional subsidy for us. We are a 50% receiver from the state, so this was good news as we work on the budget.
He also reported on the following items:
 - a. Renovations at the CTE building are moving along. They are sheet rocking the ceilings, Trenching of the floor, floor leveling, and insulating are all completed. Partitions are being laid out as well.
 - b. Resolution of the timber theft is close to resolution.
 - c. Band was brought back part-time this year because of the teacher's availability. Next year it will increase to full-time (which was already in the budget).
 - d. The roof at DW Merritt will be replaced this summer at a cost of \$224,000 (approved by the board a few months ago). This will be done with capital reserve funds, so it won't affect the local budget. The plan is to do the Milbridge roof in 2024, and then begin repaving at the schools.
 - e. There are about ten weeks of school left. As of today, the last day for students will be June 16th.
4. **RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIALS**
INFORMATION: Supt. Ramsay noted that we are staying about where we've been the last couple of months. Still shy of where we need to be to have \$500,000 for the balance forward, but we will be ok. We are still waiting for more CTE revenue from the center but have been promised a payment on their next warrant. The excess revenues we receive this year will help offset the

amount needed for the balance forward.

5. **RE: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS** (Including Professional Development, ESEA, and G/T) **INFORMATION:** Denise Vose noted that we have 169 students receiving services through Special Education, and an additional sixteen with 504 plans. There has been a lot of movement in and out, with many referrals. The numbers tend to stay about the same with the changes. She has been busy chairing meetings, testing students, and checking on paperwork.

Susan Meserve reported an enrollment of 125 at Harrington Elementary. Students in grades 1 & 2 visited the EdGE Center for ice skating and snow shoeing. The Challenger Learning Center held a virtual STEM session on March 14th. District band has started for grades 4-6 with students meeting at Harrington on Friday afternoons. Pee-wee season is drawing to a close; students have had a great time. They participated in two weekend tournaments. Rylea Durkee, the elementary AD, is doing a great job.

Lorna Greene noted an enrollment of 98 at DW Merritt. Students participated in Read Across America on March 2nd. Pee-wee games have drawn in big crowds. Grades 3 & 4 are enjoying the Skills & Drills program. The Student Council has been doing Kindness Fridays. **PD**—The Leadership Team met on 3/8. School leaders reported out and the group discussed curriculum updates. Maria Frankland did a presentation to staff about the School-Based Mental Health Grant on March 16th. On the 17th, staff participated in training for the state's new assessment system and reviewed intervention plans. The Social Studies committee is reviewing curriculum and resources. **ESEA**—We have 148 students receiving Title IA services in math and ELA. Family nights will be held next month and the Title I staff are busy planning those. **G/T**—Students in the program have upcoming visits to Cole's Transportation Museum and DEL. They will also participate in Outdoor School activities and Rocket Launching.

Carol Ann Lisee reported 130 students enrolled at Milbridge. Students there also participated in Read Across America. The PTO bought books for all students. The Harlem Tricksters stopped by for a visit. Grade 1 visited the EdGE center. Grades 4-6 are participating in weekly SNAP Ed classes for health, as well as spending time working on science fair projects. Skills & Drills is going well.

Mary Ellen Day noted an enrollment of 315 at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High. There has been a lot of activity at the school with the following events: Winter Sports Banquet, Outdoor Club trips to Hermon Mountain, Grade 8 to the CTE programs here and in Machias, Grade 8 to Colby College to visit the Art Museum, National Honor Society inductions for Junior and Senior High, a junior high dance, boys' volleyball club, Senior Fun Night, the Junior Auction, a performance by the Harlem Tricksters, a blood drive, and the Mud Season Madness pee-wee tournament. Pitchers and catchers started practicing last week, with the season officially beginning on Monday. The Girls' Basketball Team won both the DAC and MPA Class North Sportsmanship Awards. Three students in our CNA program participated in the Skills USA competition and came in 4th place, which was great for their first time there. Lanie Oliver will attend the MPA Luncheon with Mrs. Day on Saturday. The 8th Annual Student Art Exhibit will take place at the Schooner Gallery from May 12th to June 5th.

6. **RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- a. Athletics/Student Activities-none
 - b. Curriculum & Instruction-none
 - c. Negotiations & Grievance-none
 - d. Policy & By-laws-none
 - e. Facilities, Maintenance, Safety & Transportation-none

7. RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS
INFORMATION: None

8. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

ACTION: Motion by Everett Grant, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to table this article as there are no adjustments necessary tonight.

B. OLD BUSINESS--none

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. RE: APPROVAL OF 2023-2024 PROGRAM OF STUDIES FOR NJSHS

ACTION: Maria Frankland noted that the Program of Studies is not a lot different from last year's. Tiffany Strout asked if what we offer is comparable to what districts around us are offering. Dr. Frankland said to the best of her knowledge, they are. School can only offer what they have staff for, and core classes have to be provided to meet graduation requirements. Tiffany noted that she is hearing from some in the community that their children don't feel challenged by what is being offered. Dr. Frankland noted that we offer classes with different degrees of rigor based on students wants and needs. We have dual enrollment classes, honors level classes, and regular classes.

Everett Grant asked if we are offering labs with our Science classes and Dr. Frankland said they were. She noted that Science is an area they want to make changes for next year as juniors pursuing medical field jobs need to have both Biology and Chemistry by the end of their junior year. Currently we offer Science 2 for sophomores. That will be replaced next year by Biology with labs. Then they can take Chemistry, Physics, or Everyday Science their junior year, all of which include labs. Shelby Greene asked if classes are still weighted, and Dr. Frankland noted that they are with standard level classes having a weight of 1.0, honors classes a weight of 1.2, and early college/dual enrollment classes weighted at 1.3. She also noted that CTE students do participate in early college classes like other students. Supt. Ramsay noted he wished we could go back to offering Chemistry one year and then Physics the next, just because it is better to have proper labs set up each year instead of trying to set up two different labs each day. When asked about foreign languages, Dr. Frankland noted there has not been much interest in Spanish so they offer French 1 and French 2, but they could include Spanish in the Program of Studies and see if there is interest enough to offer it.

Supt. Ramsay noted that a report to the board showing where our students that have graduated have gone on to school, and what they are doing. He keeps hearing our students have limited opportunities because of what we offer, but he doesn't think that is accurate and would love to have the data to share.

Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Beth Hartford, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to approve the 2023-2024 Program of Studies with the addition of Spanish.

2. RE: HIRING SUBSTITUTE TEACHER(S)

ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by David Perham, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to approve Carl Faulstick as a substitute teacher as recommended by the Superintendent.

3. RE: HIRING JR. HIGH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL COACHES

ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Beth Hartford, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to approve Brad Cirone as Jr. High Baseball Coach and Lanie Perry as Jr. High Softball Coach as recommended by the Superintendent.

4. RE: APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT FOR NJSHS

ACTION: Motion by David Perham, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to approve Angela Rackliff as a volunteer assistant for Jr. High Softball and Thomas Absalom as a volunteer assistant for Jr. High and High School Baseball as recommended by the Superintendent.

5. RE: CONSIDERATION OF GRADE 6 PLAYING JR HIGH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

ACTION: Supt. Ramsay noted that there is a difference of philosophy in the district, so he wanted to bring the issue to the board to decide. For the last 50 years, we've allowed 6th graders to play baseball/softball if the numbers allowed it. We've even gone to grade 5, if necessary, to field school teams.

This year we had plenty of baseball players to fill the team with 6th graders, but not for softball. Some wanted to let Cherryfield 7/8 graders play over our own 6th graders. He did not agree with that. As it worked out, we ended up allowing Cherryfield to play and our own 6th graders because we had so few players without them. The board could table the issue if they would like or decide on whether we allow our own 6th graders to play on our teams before giving Cherryfield 7/8 graders the opportunity.

Motion by Everett Grant, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to prioritize our 6th graders playing if the numbers allow and to refer the issue to the athletic subcommittee for further consideration.

6. RE: CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO DRAW FROM ED TECH SICK BANK

ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Everett Grant, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to allow Saydee Bowers to withdraw twelve days from the Ed Tech Sick Bank as she has met the criteria to do so.

7. RE: APPROVAL OF USE OF FACILITIES FOR SUMMER MIGRANT PROGRAM

ACTION: Motion by David Perham, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to approve the use of Milbridge Elementary by Mano N Mano for the Summer Migrant Program with a suitable charge to do so.

8. RE: CONSIDERATION OF DISTRICT FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE JMG PROGRAM AT NJSHS (\$13,000 for 23-24)

ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Bethany Hartford, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to approve supporting the JMG program for 2023-2024 with \$13,000 of funding in the local budget.

9. RE: EMPLOYMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by David Perham, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to hire Kenneth Johnson as the Superintendent of Schools beginning July 1, 2023, and authorize the board chair and vice-chair to negotiate a contract with Mr. Johnson.

10. RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR LEGAL ISSUE PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(E)

ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Beth Hartford, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to enter executive session for a legal issue pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(E). Those entering the executive session include the board, Supt. Ramsay, and Dawn Fickett. Entered executive session at 8:42 p.m. Came out of executive session at 8:58 p.m.

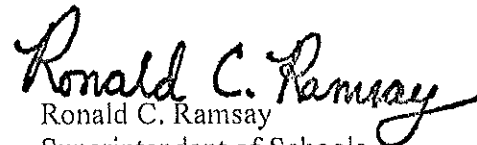
11. RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL ISSUE PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A)

ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by David Perham, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to enter executive session for a legal issue pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A). Those entering the executive session include the board, Supt. Ramsay, and Dawn Fickett. Entered executive session at 8:59 p.m. Came out of executive session at 9:16 p.m.

12. RE: ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion by Tiffany Strout, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Ronald C. Ramsay
Superintendent of Schools

March 29, 2023 MEETING SUMMARY

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

2. APPROVED minutes of February 15, 2023 Regular Meeting;
8. TABLED agenda adjustments;

B. OLD BUSINESS

none

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVED 2023-2024 NHS Program of Studies;
2. HIRED Carl Faulstick as substitute teacher;
3. HIRED Brad Cirone (baseball) and Lanie Perry (softball) as junior high coaches;
4. APPROVED volunteer assistants for softball/baseball: Angela Rackliff (jr high softball) and Thomas Absalom (jr high and high school baseball);
5. APPROVED prioritizing 6th graders playing jr. high baseball/softball and referring the matter to the athletic subcommittee;
6. APPROVED request from Saydee Bowers to withdraw 12 days from the ed tech sick bank;
7. APPROVED use of Milbridge Elementary School for Migrant Summer School for 2023;
8. APPROVED supporting JMG with \$13,000 in local funds for 2023-2024;
9. HIRED Kenneth Johnson as Superintendent of Schools starting July 1, 2023, and authorized board chair and vice-chair to negotiate a contract with him;
10. EXECUTIVE SESSION for legal issue;
11. EXECUTIVE SESSION for personnel issue.