



## **PUBLIC SESSION**

Chairperson August reported that the Board did not receive any public comments by the noon deadline today.

## **MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE**

Superintendent Manuel reported that the project continues to remain on schedule. The furniture, equipment and technology budgets have been reviewed by administrators. The bid documents were also reviewed by administrators and will be submitted to the Department of Education by the end of the week. The RFP needed for moving services has been completed and, if everything goes as planned; the move will take place in February. The application process includes a required site visit in July and the contract will be awarded on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Morse and BRCTC staff were given tours of the new school before they left for the summer. Windows and skylights installation continues and the majority of the rooms on the third floor are getting their first coat of paint. Dr. Manuel reported that three artists were presenting their proposals today for the art display at the new school. The Board will be informed once a decision has been made. The current furniture at Morse will be offered to our schools before notifying the towns and municipalities of what is available. Any remaining items will be sold at a yard sale at some point. Tours of the new school will be offered over the summer for elected officials, alumni and donors.

## **AD HOC DISTANCE LEARNING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

During the last Board meeting Assistant Superintendent Joseph presented 14 recommendations from the Ad Hoc Distance Learning Committee which was a result of surveying our students, staff and families. The majority of the feedback was around having more consistent digital curriculum and assessment resources. Ms. Joseph has purchased for next year many different digital curricula that teachers were introduced to during the June professional development days. The district purchased IXL to replace NWEA for the year due to the fact that NWEA cannot be done easily at home. Teachers and ed techs in grades PreK-8 will have a more lengthy training during the four professional development days in September. The district also purchased Brightspace which is a learning management system that will hold student's grades and Google classroom documents in one portal with one sign-in to access all curriculum pieces. Training will be available this summer for early adOpters and everyone will receive the training in September. Parents wanted to receive more training and support on how to use these programs so we made sure there were videos available with Brightspace so they can access them as needed. We have had all of the building go through the 14 recommendations and provide feedback and ideas on how we can improve accountability. Superintendent Manuel and Ms. Joseph will read through the plans and develop a plan that is consistent across grade levels that will be presented to the committee and the Board in July. Ms. Joseph stated that another recommendation was the ability to differentiate both curriculum and feedback to students and more feedback from teachers. Brightspace will allow pieces of video to be embedded within the program. All of the programs that were purchased are adaptive so students' progress will be accessed and the curriculum will shift to where they need to be. We will also be thinking when we do create the schedules for the fall about how can we be more creative about mental health connections and have come up with some creative ideas on how to better support students in different scenarios. Lastly, in addressing the delegation of work amongst the staff, Ms. Joseph stated that it will need to be a more all hands on deck atmosphere with staff being asked to help in ways that they are just not used to and the feedback she has received from staff has been positive.

Board member Ryan referenced the chart that indicated that 14% of our students participated in remote distance learning 80-100% of the time and asked whether the teachers feel optimistic that the percentage would go up with these guidelines. Ms. Joseph responded that we will be doing things differently such as taking attendance, issuing grades, and giving make-up work when needed. There will be more accountability in place this time and while we do have some students that aren't internally motivated there are some that are so we believe that participation will go up.

Ms. Joseph stated that the PowerPoint and survey data on the COVID page on the RSU 1 website. We will be posting a letter with live links that include the processes that we went through with the different committees once the next steps have been defined.

## **DISTRICT REOPENING ADVISORY TEAM UPDATE**

Superintendent Manuel reported that the District Reopening Advisory Team has met twice in June. During the first meeting the team reviewed the function of the team and several documents from the CDC and San Diego Public Schools. The team discussed 4 possible options for reopening in the fall that were suggested by the Initial Planning Team. During the second meeting the team reviewed the CDC considerations for schools around health and safety and will be revisiting this information during the next meeting. A survey was sent to families which included two questions: 1) Would you send your children back to school with the appropriate precautionary measures the district is going to take, and 2) What specific health and safety concerns do you have. A more in-depth survey was sent to staff to determine what concerns they had if we were to return to learning in person and any ideas or feedback that they may have. We have been comparing notes with other districts and contacting the CDC as needed and looking at our classrooms to see how many students we can safely accommodate.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- Morse graduation was held at the Wiscasset Airport on June 13<sup>th</sup> and diplomas were presented to 121 graduates. Dr. Manuel thanked Eric Varney, Devon Gallice, Nate Priest and Lauren Leeman-Hook for their work in putting together the event. Members of the Bath Police Department, Sagadahoc Sheriff's Department, City of Bath, Town of Wiscasset, Alumni Association, and Wiscasset Airport staff were also recognized for their support in making the ceremony a success. The City of Bath provided a portable stage which was high enough so parents could see the children get their diploma. Dr. Manuel also thanked the members of the community that organized all the remote ceremonies and drive-bys to celebrate our students.
- Thanks to Katie Joseph and Jamie Dorr for their work in getting a \$5,000 mini-grant to partner with the MidCoast Community Alliance to help students this summer through McKinney-Vento. We also received the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers Grant between the Skate Park and Bath Middle School in the amount of \$146,000 in year one and every year afterwards for the next four years the amount of the grant will decrease by \$5,000.

Superintendent Manuel stated that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers Grant is for programming for around 70 students in grades 6-8 at the Skate Park for 2 ½ hours after school, 4 days per week for the 36 weeks. There are many components to the program including youth leadership, STEAM, and student enrichment.

Assistant Superintendent Joseph reported that the collaborative RSU 1 used to be involved with for McKinney-Vento students that involved SAD 75, Brunswick and the Tedford Shelter opened up again so we are hoping to be able to receive funds from that grant for three years to support these students.

In response to a question about homeless students affected by COVID 19, Assistant Superintendent Joseph responded that she hasn't received any paperwork for new students, however, if you don't have a stable home you don't necessarily have a stable connection with school. We reached out to all students during distance learning so the students that were previously identified have been contacted like all of our students to make sure they have a connection with guidance counselors, teachers or other staff at school. The main supports we are providing to these students include transportation, food support and hygiene supplies.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Business Manager Debra Clark presented the financial report ending May 31, 2020. To date, we have spent \$28 million out of our \$34 million budget. There is around \$4 million in encumbered funds with the majority of being in payroll. Mrs. Clark reported that she is hoping for a larger than normal ending balance this year and that revenue continues to come in as planned.

## **PERSONNEL ITEMS**

Superintendent Manuel reported the resignation of Nina Willette, Dean of Students at Woolwich Central School.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON FY21 BUDGET ARTICLES, SCHOOL BUDGET REFERENDUM QUESTIONS AND BOND REFERENDUM QUESTION**

Chairperson August read the following Notice of the Public Hearing:

TO: Debra Clark, a resident of Regional School Unit No. 1 (the "Regional School Unit") composed of the City of Bath and the Towns of Arrowsic, Phippsburg, and Woolwich, State of Maine.

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify the voters of each of the municipalities within the Regional School Unit, namely, the City of Bath and the Towns of Arrowsic, Phippsburg, and Woolwich, that a Regional School Unit Public Hearing will be held by remote participation at 6:00 p.m. on June 22, 2020 for the purpose of public participation in and receipt of public comment on the proposed 2020-2021 school budget and on the referendum questions set forth below. Pursuant to Title 1, section 403-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, the School Board has determined that the hearing will be conducted by remote means and may be accessed by the public as follows:

To access the remote public hearing or to participate (provide comment/input): Follow the instructions to access and participate in the public hearing as provided on the Regional School Unit No. 1 website at: [www.rsu1.org](http://www.rsu1.org)

The following questions will be considered at a Regional School Unit No. 1 Budget and Minor Capital Bond Referendum election to be held on July 14, 2020.

### **Question 1 on the Ballot is the total of Articles 1 through 10**

**Article 1: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction: Recommend: \$11,841,750**

This cost center is up .71% from last year. Regular Instruction is the largest expenditure article of all of those presented and accounts for salary and benefits for regular classroom teachers as well as supplies.

**Article 2: To see what sum the regional school unit will expend for Special Education: Recommend: \$6,295,027**

This cost center is increasing by 6.83% this year. The budget provides for 4 ed tech positions in lieu of contracted behavioral health providers with a private firm. Salary and benefits for the special education staff, outside tuition placements, and individual treatment expenses are included in this cost center.

**Article 3: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education: Recommend: \$1,546,080**

This cost center is up .45% from last year. New additions to this cost center include the addition of a half time Career Exploration program and increased hours for the administrative assistant to make that position full time. Necessary costs to support the nine BRCTC programs are included in this article. The programs are Carpentry, Drafting, Electrical Repair, Commercial Art, Health Occupations, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood, Automotives, and Welding.

**Article 4: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend in Other Instruction: Recommend: \$759,990**

This cost center is increasing by 7.14% this year. The cost center includes funding for co-curricular programs in all of our schools and athletic programs at Bath Middle School, Woolwich Central, and Morse. Costs for coaches, officials, field trips, and admission fees are reflected throughout this category. The increase this year is due to a co-curricular musical program at Morse High School which was covered in the Instruction cost center last year. The addition of an Indoor Track Coach at MHS also contributes to the increase.

**Article 5: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support: Recommend: \$2,977,413**

This cost center covers funding for six areas: Guidance, Health, Technology, Improvement of Instruction, Library, and Student Assessment. This cost center is actually a decrease this year and it is because new literacy materials for a K-5 reading curriculum were purchased last year and have been removed from the budget.

**Article 6: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration: Recommend: \$609,906**

This cost center is increasing .19% and includes the Office of the Superintendent, Central Services Business Office, and expenses for the Board of Education such as fees for auditors, attorneys, insurance, election expenses, and a contribution to district-wide communication initiatives.

**Article 7: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for School Administration: Recommend: \$1,773,557**

This cost center is up 1.35% and includes funds to operate the Office of the Principal in all of our schools. Salaries and benefits for the principals and secretaries as well as amounts for staff development, postage, copier costs, telephone, supplies, and dues and fees are included.

**Article 8: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for transportation: Recommend: \$1,444,925**

This cost center is increasing 3.43% this year and includes the Bath Bus Service contract, repairs, maintenance, and insurance for our district maintenance vehicles. Funds are also included in this cost center to cover out-of-district transportation that may be needed throughout the year for our students.

**Article 9: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance: Recommend: \$3,327,671**

This cost center is decreasing by \$34,253 this year and the main reason is the portion of the local debt service for state funded projects (Woolwich and MHS/BRCTC) has been moved to the Debt Service cost center per a recommendation from the Department of Education. The non-state funded debt service remains in this cost center as well as general operating.

**Article 10: To see what sum the regional school unit will be authorized to expend for Debt Service: Recommend: \$7,290,652**

There is an increase of \$3,851,907 this year and it is because of the full obligation for the new Morse/BRCTC debt. We will be receiving \$3,437,261 more in state subsidy to cover the cost of this debt service payment. The article covers principal and interest expenses for the state-supported addition to the Woolwich Central School as well.

**Question 2 on the Ballot**

Shall Regional School Unit No. 1 raise and appropriate \$215,000 for the school nutrition program with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the school nutrition program?

**School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.**

This cost center is decreasing by \$10,000 this year. This locally shared contribution to the Food Service program is to help close the gap between revenues and program expenses. We are no longer operating with a deficit in this fund and continually try to increase participation in our breakfast and lunch programs.

**Question 3 on the Ballot**

Shall Regional School Unit No. 1 raise and appropriate \$73,569 for the adult education program with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program?

**School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.**

RSU 1 adult education has consolidated with Merrymeeting Adult Education along with Brunswick and Topsham. We will raise the \$73,569 as our local share. The remainder of the adult education budget comes from tuition, fees, subsidy, and contributions from Brunswick and Topsham.

**Question 4 on the Ballot**

Capital Reserve Funds – Shall the School Board be authorized to raise \$50,000 for the previously established capital reserve fund and expend the funds if necessary?

**School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.**

These funds are raised separately and set aside for major facility repairs that may need to be addressed in the future. With this allocation, we will have a balance of \$140,504 after spending \$216,037 for the



**AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO HIRE STAFF OVER THE SUMMER ON THE BOARD'S BEHALF**

**MOTION:** Perkins

**SECOND:** Fuller

**VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Students (1-0)

**TO:** Authorize the Superintendent to hire staff over the summer on the Board's behalf.

**NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS**

- Budget Validation Referendum; Tuesday, July 14, 2020
- Next regular Board meeting; TBD

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Ryan

**SECOND:** Perkins

**VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Students (1-0)

**TO:** Adjourn at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick M. Manuel, Ed.D.  
Secretary