

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37

August 26, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of RSU/MSAD #37 was held at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School, Harrington, Maine on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 to consider and act upon the following items of business:

Board Members Present: Jeffery Beal, Susan Beal, Chris Chartrand, Grace Kennedy, Ronald Kennedy, Gary Magby, Debra Murphy, Charles Peterson, Jr., Vance Pineo, Jr., Sarah Willson, and Mark Wright

Board Members Absent: Beth Hartford

Other persons present: Ronald Ramsay, Denise Vose, Lorna Greene, Susan Meserve, Maria White, Mary Ellen Day, Todd Emerson, Ron Greene, Lori Mathews, David Mathews, Tiffany Strout, Tracie Martin, Alison Wallace, Laurie Lee, Yvonne Hayward, Brenda Beal, Katrina Beal, Donna Haire, Suzen Polk-Hoffses, Amity Chipman, Dawn Fickett, and other citizens

MINUTES

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. **The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Pineo.**
2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 29, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
ACTION: Motion by Grace Kennedy, second by Gary Magby, and voted (unanimously) to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2020 meeting as presented.
3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**
INFORMATION: The school calendar for 20-21 has workshop days on 8/31 and 9/1 and school beginning on 9/2. Since Wednesday's are remote learning days, no students will be present. He will be asking the board later the agenda to approve a change to the calendar, converting 9/2, 3, & 4 to workshop days to give staff more time to prepare for the opening. Students would begin on Tuesday, 9/8. Despite the issues, everyone is eager to start the school year.~~ We are still busy interviewing and trying to fill the vacancies we have.~~Our grant approval for the Covid Relief Fund was approved. This will allow us to hire some extra people on a temporary basis (through December) to help us out. We will also purchase a couple of vans for individualized transportation, water bottle filling stations, heat pumps for the schools, and other items.~~Custodians have participated in webinar training on cleaning and sanitizing the buildings.~~The CTE building is progressing. The inside work is almost complete and Nickerson O'Day will be concentrating on the exterior.
4. **RE: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (Including Professional Development, ESEA, and G/T)**
INFORMATION: Susan Meserve reported that she reached out to parents and was able to reach all except for three. As of right now, 95 students will be in attendance, 17 will be doing remote learning, and 9 will move to home-schooling. The building looks great. PPE supplies have arrived. The elementary principals worked out a schedule for itinerants so that they will work one-week at a time in each school, instead of a different school each day of the week. This will limit their traveling from school to school each week. The music program will concentrate on music appreciation, teaching rhythm, singing with masks, and individual band lessons.

Maria White noted that her building looks great. Tiling in the entryway is completed. The gym floor was refinished. Staff have been busy opening supplies, putting things away. They will do some outdoor classes when weather is good and may even have some lunches outside on good days for some grades. They have several nice picnic tables that can be used. She has 80 attending, 36 remote learners, 20 undecideds, and only 1 moving to homeschooling that she is aware of.

Lorna Greene reported that DW Merritt will have 77 students attending, 16 remote learning, and 8 homeschooling. The custodians have been busy cleaning, labeling/stenciling for social distancing and traffic flow, etc. Hand-sanitizer dispensers have been installed throughout the school. Six new windows have been installed. A virtual open house is being planned. ~Professional Development meetings will be held virtually this year. ~The FY21 ESEA application has been submitted and substantially approved. ~The G/T committee will hold its first meeting on 9/14.

Denise Vose noted that IEP meetings have resumed. She is working with staff to meet student needs with their schedules. Title IX training began today, the first in a four-part training. The DOE is working on individual remote learning plans for students. The local entitlement grant has been fully approved.

Mary Ellen Day reported that Narraguagus will be doing a hybrid schedule with about half the students attending on Monday and Thursday and the other half on Tuesday and Friday. Wednesday will be remote learning for all. Almost all families have been contacted. As of right now, 65 students will be doing remote learning and 18 have moved to homeschooling. Custodians have been busy cleaning and finishing/waxing the floors. Furniture has been moved for social distancing. Electric wenchers have been installed in the gym to lower/raise the backboards, a new fence was installed on the back of the soccer field, pull-down shades were installed on windows that didn't have them, and a new flagpole has arrived and will be installed soon. Music classes will be meeting three times a day with plans including band, chorus, 7th grade music exploration. Software will be used allowing students to compose and record music.

5. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

ACTION: Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to approve adjustments to the agenda as follows: 1) hiring a long-term substitute Jr. High math teacher (add as C-11a) and 2) approval of Flexible Spending Account (FSA) plan for 9/1/20-8/31/21 (add as C-11b).

B. OLD BUSINESS--None

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. RE: HIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION ED TECHS

ACTION: Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of John Batson (Ed Tech III at DW Merritt) and Donna Grant (Ed Tech I at DW Merritt) as recommended by Supt. Ramsay.

2. RE: HIRING SUBSTITUTES

ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Charles Peterson, Jr., and voted (unanimously) to approve the hiring of Elizabeth Chartrand, (sub teacher), Neil Berthiaume (sub bus driver), and William Sproul (sub custodian) as recommended by the Superintendent.

3. RE: HIRING SCHOOL NURSE/CNA INSTRUCTOR

ACTION: Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Gary Magby, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Amanda Cirone Tozier as School Nurse/CNA Instructor as recommended by Supt. Ramsay.

4. RE: HIRING CUSTODIANS

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of William Tripp as evening custodian at Milbridge Elementary as recommended by Supt. Ramsay.

5. RE: HIRING ELL ED TECH

ACTION: Motion by Grace Kennedy, second by Gary Magby, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Isamar Lara as an ELL Ed Tech as recommended by the Superintendent.

6. RE: HIRING HALF-TIME ADMIN ASST AT CENTRAL OFFICE

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to table this article.

7. RE: APPROVAL OF CHANGE TO SCHOOL CALENDAR

ACTION: Supt. Ramsay noted that staff have been meeting extensively to plan for the start-up under COVID restrictions, but we are still not 100% ready with procedures, attendance, etc. Some staff members have not been involved because of summer vacation, so once everyone gets back on 8/31, having a few extra days to finalize plans would benefit everyone. As he mentioned early, he is asking that the school calendar be changed to include workshop days on 9/2, 3, and 4 for staff and students begin attending on Tuesday, 9/8 after Labor Day.

Motion by Grace Kennedy, second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to approve the change to the school calendar as recommended by Supt. Ramsay.

8. RE: CONSIDERATION OF SUSPENDING OUTSIDE USE OF OUR FACILITIES UNTIL COVID RESTRICTIONS EASE

ACTION: Supt. Ramsay suggested that due to COVID-19, we should not allow outside groups to use our buildings for now. We have no way to guarantee that they will stay under 50 people, wear masks, social distance, sanitize after use, etc. This would be in effect until restrictions ease in the state or things change. TREE, EdGE and drivers' ed will still be allowed as these programs directly benefit our students and they are following the same criteria that we must use.

Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to suspend the outside use of facilities until COVID restrictions ease.

9. RE: CONSIDERATION OF FALL SPORTS

ACTION: Supt. Ramsay noted that he expected the state to resolve the issues with fall athletics before tonight. Today the MPA and other committees recommended playing all fall sports; however, another will take place tomorrow voting on their recommendation as well as any restrictions. This would only affect high school varsity sports but will have a trickle-down effect on all level of sports. He recommends that we post-pone elementary sports for now and allow high school sports to continue in Phase 4 as they are now until a vote comes down from the state. He did note that he has reservations because he doesn't feel it makes sense that the DOE has not dictated how sports will be handled when they are dictating how schools will be. Sports are an

extension of the school program. It is in the DOE's domain to come up with rules, but instead they have caused great angst across the state by not deciding. This is not an MPA issue, it's a COVID-19 issue! Even if the state allows us to move forward with fall athletics, it is still up to each school/district to decide if they want to allow students to play or not.

Tracie Martin noted that there will be issues with spectators to work out as there can be no more than 50 people inside and 100 people outside including the athletes, coaches, and officials. This would eliminate the possibility of any spectators inside for volleyball. There have been some adjustments already to the schedule by shortening the season and keeping teams more regional for shorter bus trips.

Tiffany Strout noted that many of our students have been traveling all over the state this summer playing. If we don't allow athletics here, they will continue to play on community teams and be traveling all over the state to hot spots. Then they will come back and interact with all the other kids that are not allowed to play sports.

Jeffery Beal noted that if younger students must wear masks all day, how is it reasonable that we can allow high school students to take off the masks after school to play sports. He wonders if the board shouldn't vote to cancel sports for the year. Mr. Ramsay suggested that things could change so he wouldn't recommend cancelling for the entire year.

Motion by Ronald Kennedy, second by Gary Magby, and voted to postpone elementary sports until further notice and continue with high school sports in Phase 4 until the MPA/State rules come out at which time the board can meet again to vote on whether or not to allow fall sports.

10. RE: ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSPORTATION BIDS FOR KIDSPEACE AND CTE

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to table action on this article.

11. RE: APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER CUSTODIAL ASSISTANT

ACTION: Motion by Gary Magby, second by Ronald Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to approve Shannon Leighton as a volunteer custodial assistant at Narraguagus.

11a. AGENDA ADJUSTMENT: HIRING LONG-TERM SUB

ACTION: Motion by Grace Kennedy, second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to approve Denise Curtis as a long-term sub for Jr. High Math at Narraguagus.

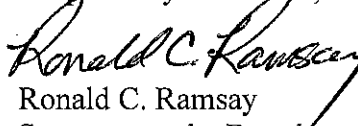
11b. AGENDA ADJUSTMENT: APPROVAL OF FSA PLAN

ACTION: Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously) to approve the Flexible Spending Account plan for 9/1/20-8/31/21.

12. RE: ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Ronald C. Ramsay
Secretary to the Board

MEETING SUMMARY, August 26, 2020

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

2. APPROVED minutes of the 7/29/20 regular meeting;
5. APPROVED agenda adjustments (add to agenda as C-11a and C-12a);

B. OLD BUSINESS

None

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. HIRED John Batson and Donna Grant as SpEd Ed Techs at DWM;
2. HIRED Elizabeth Chartrand (sub teacher), Neil Berthiaume (sub driver), and William Sprout (sub custodian);
3. HIRED Amanda Cirone Tozier as school nurse/CNA instructor;
4. HIRED William Tripp as evening custodian at ML;
5. HIRED Isamar Lara as ELL Ed Tech;
6. TABLED hiring ½ time administrative assistant at the Supt. Office;
7. APPROVED change to school calendar;
8. APPROVED suspending outside use of district facilities for now;
9. APPROVED postponing elementary sports for now and allowing high school sports to continue in Phase 4;
10. TABLED acceptance of transportation bids;
11. APPROVED Shannon Leighton as volunteer custodial assistant at NJSHS;
- 11a. HIRED Denise Curtis as long-term sub for jr. high math at NJSHS;
- 11b. APPROVED FSA plan for 9/1/20-8/31/21