

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community Middle School & Via Zoom
October 7, 2020, 6:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Call to order:
2. Student Representative Reports: (10 min.)
3. Presentation: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning by High School Teachers (20 min.)
4.
 - a. Reports: (20 min.)
 - Staff Association
 - Principals*
 - Adult & Community Education Dir.*
 - Finance Manager*
 - Health Center Director*
 - Special Education Director*
 - Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction Director*
 - Superintendent of Schools*
 - b. Sub-Committees:
 - Facilities – 10/13/20, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
 - Health Advisory* - 11/17/20, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
 - Health Leadership Council – 10/7/20, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
 - Policy – 10/20/20, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
 - c. Ad Hoc Committee: Awesome Bear Society (ABS) 10/14/20, 6:30 p.m.
5. Citizens' Comments: (5 min.)
6. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent: (5 min.)
7. Action Items: (20 min.)
 - a. Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2020*
 - b. Acceptance of donations*
 - c. Acceptance of Nomination of Online Elementary Teacher, Amy Tucker*
 - d. Appointment of Local Delegate and Alternate to MSBA Annual Delegate Assembly*
8. Informational/Discussion Items: (30 min.)
 - a. MSMA Fall Conference – October 30-31, 2020*
 - b. School and Co-Curricula Updates
9. Executive Session to consider labor contract discussions between the RSU #38 Board of Directors and the Maranacook Area School Staff Association pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D)
10. Adjournment:

* Attachments

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83005216750>

Meeting ID: 830 0521 6750

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83005216750# US (New York)

Any citizen who wishes to add an item to the agenda may do so by notifying the Board Chair or the Superintendent's Office, in writing, ten days prior to the Board's next scheduled meeting.

4a.

Elementary Principals' Report

October 7, 2020

Janet Delmar (WES & MTV)

Abbie Hartford (MES)

Jeff Boston (RES)

	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
MES	7/7	14	12/13	19	13/13	17/16	16	147
RES	6/6	9/11	14/15	16/16	15/17	11/12	14/15	175
MTV	7	11	12	5	11	16	17	79
WES	3 @ RES	11	10	7	10	10	7	55

SEL Monthly Theme

This first month of school the theme is **School Wide Behavior Goals**. Teachers share lessons in their classrooms that focus on the following topics of discussion.

- Our job is to make sure our school is a welcoming place where all students feel they belong.
- The Second Step program is teaching students how to speak in welcoming, safe, respectful, and responsible ways.
- When we reinforce students' skill use, they will use skills more naturally outside of lessons.
- When we (adults) model being welcoming and demonstrate being respectful, safe, and responsible, it's easier for students to act that way, too.

Virtual Open House

On September 28th, the elementary schools conducted their first virtual open house with parents. Many of the teachers pre-recorded a virtual tour of their classroom and sent the video to parents as well as a zoom link prior to the event. During the open house, individual teachers had set times (15 minutes) for a question/answer session. We appreciate the participation of our families in making our school to home connection.

Manchester re-scheduled Virtual Open Houses for the week of Oct 5th, due to interruption in the weekly in school schedule.

Wednesdays: Structure for Faculty/Staff Day

As you are aware, Wednesdays are professional development days for faculty and staff. This time has been used in a plethora of ways among the four elementary schools:

- Teacher hours (7:30-8:30 am) for parents/students to check in with their teachers.
- Discussion with our new SEL curriculum: Second Step.
- Illustrative Math (IM) workshops with our district math coach, Abby Shink.
- Collaboration within grade level groups and cluster groups (K-2 or Gr. 3-5) to work on curriculum.
- Collaboration and co-planning with math interventionists, literacy specialists, and special education staff within individual elementary schools.
- Staff Wellness.
- Beginning discussions on remote learning: schedules and routines/expectations for online learning.

Technology Devices for Elementary Students

On September 18th, all 5th grade students received their laptops and are currently using them at school and home. The iPads/laptops for at home learning with support arrived at schools on September 24th and were distributed to parents on September 25th. The iPads for K-4 students arrived the week of September 28th. Diane MacGregor, along with her technology team, and elementary Ed. Techs are unpacking the iPads, labeling, putting them in cases, downloading apps, and organizing school deliveries. Parents were required to sign an "Elementary Acceptable USE (AUP) and Device Use Form for the 2020-2021 SY". In addition, we are asking a nominal \$20 usage fee for the year. This will go into a general fund account to pay for replacement and repairs not covered by the warranty. Paul McGovern, our elementary technology integrationist, will be scheduling a parent-information Zoom session (TBA).

Let's Go! 5-2-1-0

The following was an email from Emily Walters, the Director of Let's Go! Program, "Schools are recognized when they are implementing Let's Go!'s environmental and policy strategies that support healthy eating and active living. School Cafeterias are recognized when they are implementing best practices that reduce waste, increase participation, and make changes that help nudge students to make healthier choices.

We are pleased to announce that our elementary schools were recognized by the Let's Go! site for the 2019-20 program year AND the cafeteria has achieved 2020 Let's Go! Smarter Lunchroom recognition. We applaud the efforts of our school nurses who oversee the Let's Go! 5-2-1-0 work and **Jeff Bridges** who oversaw the Let's Go! Smarter Lunchrooms work. Reaching this status is no easy task."

Congratulations to our elementary school nurses and the late Jeff Bridges for their time and effort with supporting the health of our students!

Maranacook Community Middle School
Regional School Unit 38
2100 Millard Harrison Drive
Readfield, ME 04355
www.maranacook.org/mcms



Kristen Levesque, Principal
Phyllis Cote, Office Coordinator
Office Phone: 207-685-3128 x1114
Office Fax: 207-685-9876
We're on Twitter! @MaranacookMS

"A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence"

October 2, 2020

Dear RSU 38 School Board,

As you know, the middle school experienced a turbulent day on Monday, 9/28/20. **I want to thank all of you for your support as we navigate this new time.** We know this has brought up many emotions and questions for all of us. At Maranacook Community Middle School, we are a caring school community and it is especially important to be respectful of each other during these challenging times. Please respect the privacy of all members of our school community by not discussing or speculating about who in our community may be positive for Covid19. The health and safety of all members of our community needs to be our top priority.

Remote Learning

We are officially in a full remote learning phase at MCMS, which was effective starting 9/29/20. An email explaining the remote learning schedule and logistics were sent to MCMS families and students on the evening of 9/28/20, and a follow up email was sent out to families and students on 9/29/20. MCMS will continue their remote learning through Thursday Oct. 8th. Friday, Oct. 9th is a workshop day for teachers and students have the day off. Students will return to school on Tuesday Oct. 13. Below are the schedule and expectations for Remote Learning during the 2020-21 school year.

Maranacook Community Middle School

2020-21 Remote Learning Expectations

Daily Attendance

- ❖ Students have advisee time at 8:30am via Google Classroom
 - If there are extenuating circumstances and a student cannot attend the Google Classroom, then they need to email their advisor by 8:35AM with a brief summary of work accomplished the day before and their plan for the upcoming day.
- ❖ Advisors will mark "present" only if they have contact with the student by 8:35AM
 - If an advisor does not have contact then the student will be marked as "Unexcused Absent."
 - Parents/ Guardians: please email the school if your child will not be participating in school on a particular day so we can mark attendance accordingly.

Grading

We will continue to provide an extensive level of academic and behavioral support. Remote learning experiences will have the same expectations and rigor. Classes will have virtually meeting time. If there are extenuating circumstances preventing a student's ability to attend virtual classes, please email the advisor and team.

PowerSchool Grading Platform

- ❖ Teachers will go into PowerSchool, the online grading database, at a minimum of every two weeks to update traditional grades (50-100). Habits of Work will also be included in PowerSchool.

Grade Equivalents

97-100 = A+	93-96 = A	90-92 = A-	87-89 = B+	83-86 = B	80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+	73-76 = C	70-72 = C-	68-69 = D+	65-67 = D	0-64 = NC

2020-21 Quarter Schedule

Quarter 1: September 8th - November 6th	Quarter 2: November 9th - January 22
Quarter 3: January 25th - April 2nd	Quarter 4: April 5th - Last Day

Privacy Statement for Remote Learning

The content is for educational purposes only. By accessing this material students agree not to share the content with anyone not enrolled in the class or assisting an enrolled student. Unauthorized distribution of any distance learning content,

including sharing video recordings or screenshots on the internet or social media, is strictly prohibited and could result in disciplinary action or impact the students ability to access certain distance learning materials.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday Expectations

Instructional Expectations

- Classes will be designed to have up to 30 min of teacher directed instruction (either synchronously or asynchronously) with the remainder of the time being for feedback, individual support, assignments and practice (based on the lesson)
- Class and homework will be assigned regularly in Google Classroom.
- Assessments will be included in classes. Information about these, and how to access them, will be provided via email or Google Classroom.
- Students are expected to complete all assignments as scheduled by their teachers.
- Students will have access to their advisee group and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum through their advisor (by email and Advisee Group Google Classroom).
- When students have questions from class, they should email or private message on Google Classroom their teachers as needed.
 - They may also ask questions during the teacher's office hours.

Google Meets Video Conferencing

- Classes will be designed to have up to 30 min of teacher directed instruction (either synchronously or asynchronously) with the remainder of the time being for assignments and practice (based on the lesson). This will largely be done through the use of Google Meets or video options embedded within Google Classroom
- Advisee time will happen through Google Classroom and Google Meets at a designated time.
- Teachers have specific office hours which are an opportunity for students to ask the teacher questions.
- Students may be asked to participate in Google Meets with school specialists. This will be arranged ahead of time via communication from the specialist.

Wednesday Expectations

Instructional Expectations

- All work will be posted in Google Classroom.
- Appx. 40 min of work per period. (240 min total/ 4 hours)
 - This work will likely be a continuation of work done in class on Monday and Tuesday. Some students may choose to complete work earlier to have less on the actual day
- Some classes may have a little more work and some may have a little less
- Students should email teachers with questions. Teachers will be checking email periodically throughout the day.

Google Meets Video Conferencing

- Classes and assignments will be asynchronous on Wednesdays
- Teachers will have Office Hours at specific times on Wednesday
- Advisee time will happen through Google Classroom and Google Meets at the designated time.
-

2020-21 Remote Learning Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-8:30	Breakfast and Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time to check Google Classroom and check school email • Use the Student Planning Template to help you organize your day • Students, please reach out to teachers via email or Google Classroom at this time with specific questions! 				
8-8:30	Team Based Office Hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available for any student who needs to check in with a team teacher. Check your Google Classroom and Maranacook Email for the Google Meets link! 				
8:30-9	Advisee Time on Google Meets Students have advisee time at 8:30am via Google Classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ If there are extenuating circumstances and a student cannot attend the Google 		Advisee Time Asynchronously By 8:35 each morning, please go on Google Classroom and make a guess for the school wide	Advisee Time on Google Meets Students have advisee time at 8:30am via Google Classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ If there are extenuating 	

	<p>Classroom, then they need to email their advisor by 8:35AM with a brief summary of work accomplished the day before and their plan for the upcoming day.</p> <p>Advisors will mark “present” only if they have contact with the student by 8:35AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ If an advisor does not have contact then the student will be marked as “Unexcused Absent.”❖ Parents/ Guardians: please email the school if your child will not be participating in school on a particular day so we can mark attendance accordingly.	trivia which is emailed to you in Morning Announcements at 8AM each morning. Attendance will be taken based on you posting something by 8:35 that morning. (You do not have to guess the trivia correctly)	<p>circumstances and a student cannot attend the Google Classroom, then they need to email their advisor by 8:35AM with a brief summary of work accomplished the day before and their plan for the upcoming day.</p> <p>Advisors will mark “present” only if they have contact with the student by 8:35AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ If an advisor does not have contact then the student will be marked as “Unexcused Absent.”❖ Parents/ Guardians: please email the school if your child will not be participating in school on a particular day so we can mark attendance accordingly.		
9-9:25	Black P. 1	Gold P. 1	Black P.1 Work	Black P. 1	Gold P. 1
9:25-9:50	Google Meets with class starting at 9	Google Meets with class starting at 9	Gold P.1 Work	Google Meets with class starting at 9	Google Meets with class starting at 9
9:50-10	Break				
10-10:25	Black P. 2	Gold P. 2	Black P.2 Work	Black P. 2	Gold P. 2
10:25-10:50	Google Meets with class starting at 10	Google Meets with class starting at 10	Gold P.2 Work	Google Meets with class starting at 10	Google Meets with class starting at 10
10:50-11	Break				
11-11:25	Black P. 3	Gold P. 3	Black P.3 Work	Black P. 3	Gold P. 3
11:25-11:50	Google Meets with class starting at 11	Google Meets with class starting at 11	Gold P.3 Work	Google Meets with class starting at 11	Google Meets with class starting at 11
11:50-12	Work Check: <i>Did you email your teachers or talk to them with any questions you have? Did you submit any assignments that were due?</i>				
12-12:40	Lunch and Clubs: <i>If you are in any clubs, refer to your club advisor for specific days and times (these are currently being scheduled and will start in the next few weeks).</i>				
12:30-12:50	UA, GT, RtI and World Language Office Hours				

Technology Support for Students

As all of the middle school is in remote learning for the time being, we felt it was especially important to make sure students and families have support with the technology we use in the virtual classroom. **Moose Island teacher, Ms. Bickford** made [this video for students](#) to help them learn the ins and outs of Google Classroom, Google Meets, Slides and Docs. We have encouraged all students and families to take some time to watch this if they need help navigating these sites! Our **technology integrator, Mrs. Churchill** has also created an [online support site](#) to help families and students with technology.

Meal Support During Closure

During the closure, the school will be providing breakfast and lunch for anyone in need, available for pick up on Tuesdays and Fridays, 2-3pm outside of the high school. This is available for every student. If you will need this everyday, please email either Jen Hall: jen_hall@maranacook.com or myself: kristen_levesque@maranacook.com

As a school, we are resilient, caring and determined to make this year an incredibly valuable year for our students. We are going to strive to always make our school special, safe, and socially and academically engaging for our students- no matter what learning platform we are in!

First Days of School Summary

We had a great start to the school year! Our students came in, eager and ready to learn. Throughout the entire month of September, our students exceeded all of our expectations with their level of respect, sense of responsibility, and caring attitude as they navigated the new ways of school, and learned the new protocols. Below are two photos of the first day of school for our 6th graders. Please notice how respectful they are being with following all of our safety procedures!



Also to help us make the start of school go well, our PTO donated single-wrapped nutritious snacks (such as nutigrain bars or goldfish crackers), paper towels, extra gloves, waters and more. All of the items have helped to provide students with additional health and safety support while we are learning in-person. In addition to these donations, we have received a donation of 300 clipboards from Saunders, which allows for us to have more opportunities for outdoor learning activities. Finally, we also received 300 mini hand sanitizers and 300 water bottles from Otis Federal Credit Union, which we are distributing for student use. We are incredibly fortunate to live and work in such a caring community, who have all come together to support us!

Cohort Structure

At MCMS, staff members worked tirelessly to create cohorts of students who had many off team classes together, in order to reduce mixing of students as much as possible. Because of these efforts, we were able to significantly minimize the impact of the COVID case that we had in our school. The CDC commended our school for having such small carefully formed cohorts! We plan to continue the cohort structure for the foreseeable future in order to best support the health and safety of our staff and students.

New SEL Curriculum

Since the first week of school, we have been using our new SEL Curriculum, "Second Step." This curriculum is delivered to students during advisee time once a week. Throughout the month of September, we had SEL lessons about navigating the return to school during this current time, and about identifying what is most important to us, what we each value, and why. In October, we will be focusing on bullying and harassment within each grade level.

MCMS Student Clubs

This year, students do not have their Activity Time nor did we offer Fall Athletics. Throughout these past few weeks, staff have been thinking creatively about ways to incorporate more extracurricular activities for our students, as we know these are incredibly important for the whole child. I am proud to announce that we currently have 16 clubs available for all middle school students to participate in! Much of these clubs were thought up by our students, and many staff graciously volunteered to act as the advisor of these clubs. For more information about our clubs, check out our [club information site](#). These clubs include:

- Yearbook Committee
- MineCraft Club
- Arts and Crafts Club
- Geography Club
- Book Club
- Maine Student Book Award Challenge
- Filmmaking Club
- Civil Rights Team
- GSA
- Manga Club
- Magic and Dungeons & Dragons Club
- Environmental Club
- Debate Team
- Fantasy Sports Club
- Student Government
- Math Team

Important Dates

10/7: All non-close contact staff need to return to school
 10/9: Workshop Day (all staff including ed techs)
 10/9: Progress Reports
 10/12: Holiday, No School
 10/13: Return to in school learning
 10/20: PT Conferences (virtual for families teachers at school), 3-7pm
 10/23: Flu Clinic
 10/23: Warning Notices Sent Home and HOW scores must be in by now
 10/27: PT Conferences (virtual for families teachers at school), 3-7pm
 11/6: Quarter 1 Ends (& HOW score update day)

As a school, we work hard, are student-centered, and are a caring school, dedicated to excellence. We are still learning and adjusting to these new styles of instruction, but I feel privileged to work with such an amazing group of educators, fantastic students, and a supportive community.

Sincerely,
 Kristen Levesque, EdD
 MCMS Principal

Student Enrollment Counts:

6th:	99	7th:	96	8th:	86	Total:	281
At- Home Learners 19							

Board Report October, 2020

Maranacook Adult and Community Education is working with the other Kennebec county adult education programs to design and implement a learning management system (Brightspace) that will allow us to provide expanded remote learning options for our students. This is a monumental task, requiring our programs to provide staff training in the new LMS, administrator training for technical staff and purchasing, setup and distribution of laptops and WiFi hotspots to those students without the necessary online learning hardware.

At Maranacook AE we have always felt that our greatest strength was in our face to face educational classes and enrichment activities, however, as this might once again become impossible or at least severely limited, we want to take the steps now to ensure the future success of our program. We also understand that by providing our surrounding communities with online learning opportunities we also allow students encumbered with child care and transportation problems an opportunity to attend our educational classes.

Maranacook AE is excited to start the fall semester with 4 HiSET students. These students are currently meeting twice weekly face to face with a tutor, however, plans are in place to continue these sessions remotely should that become necessary.

Maranacook AE started the fall semester with 20 new online enrichment opportunities. Enrollment in our online classes, at this point, remains low, as this delivery model becomes accepted by our surrounding communities and beyond as the new "normal". We plan to continue through the next several years to train new online enrichment staff, expand our advertising, and purchase the software and hardware required to create high quality online programs. Even the greatest journey must begin with a single step!

Thanks!

Steve Vose
AE Director
RSU 38

*A Caring School Community Dedicated To Excellence***WARRANT ARTICLE RECONCILIATION
REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 38****2020-2021****October 2, 2020**

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>	<u>TRANSFER</u>	<u>REVISED</u>	<u>EXPENDED</u>	<u>ENCUMBERED</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>% REMAIN</u>
Regular Instruction	7,812,593.00		7,812,593.00	1,877,922.25	41,741.22	5,892,929.53	75.43%
Special Education	2,666,998.00		2,666,998.00	539,528.97	7,540.96	2,119,928.07	79.49%
Career & Technical Educ.	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!
Other Instruction	473,961.00		473,961.00	31,548.49	200.00	442,212.51	93.30%
Student & Staff Support	1,858,100.00		1,858,100.00	440,449.60	27,406.12	1,390,244.28	74.82%
System Administration	678,548.00		678,548.00	209,537.85	612.54	468,397.61	69.03%
School Administration	1,146,077.00		1,146,077.00	303,253.76	6,208.01	836,615.23	73.00%
Transportation	1,089,759.00		1,089,759.00	215,692.84	121,239.84	752,826.32	69.08%
Facilities/Maintenance	2,530,881.00		2,530,881.00	950,116.53	327,057.59	1,253,706.88	49.54%
Debt Service	541,743.00		541,743.00	0.00	0.00	541,743.00	100.00%
All Other Expenses	114,159.00		114,159.00	5,712.05	0.00	108,446.95	95.00%
TOTAL BUDGET	18,912,819.00	0.00	18,912,819.00	4,573,762.34	532,006.28	13,807,050.38	73.00%

As of today's date we are optimistic that the overall budget for Regional School Unit No. 38 remains sound as budgeted for fiscal year 2020-2021

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions through e-mail at brigitte_williams@maranacook.com or telephone at 685-3336.

Health Center Board Report

October, 2020

The beginning of the school year has always been an exciting time for students and staff to reconnect after being apart for the summer. This year, things feel very different for all of us. We are adjusting to the new normal and are working overtime to follow guidelines and ensure student safety.

Our Mental Health providers are seeing patients both in person and virtually.

We are pleased to report that Dr. Syd Sewall will be joining us this fall as our medical provider. Dr. Sewall is an experienced pediatrician who treats patients at Maine Dartmouth Family Practice in Waterville and the Family Medicine Institute in Augusta in his role as a faculty instructor for the Maine-Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency (MDFMR) Program. Dr. Sewall also provides pediatrics instruction for MDFMR's resident physicians and has practiced locally since 1982.

We are partnering with Maine General to bring flu vaccine clinics to both the High School and Middle School.

Our Health Advisory Board met earlier this week. The minutes from that meeting are attached. We reviewed our data from last year and talked about our plans for the coming school year.

The School Health Leadership Council will be meeting next week. This committee works on wellness initiatives district-wide.

Thank you for your support of our health center and for your support of our incredible nursing team and administrators. It is important that we work together to keep this train on the tracks!



MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence

James Charette
Superintendent of Schools

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Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

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October Board Report

Dear RSU #38 School Board:

Staff throughout RSU #38 continue to work tirelessly and with great dedication to the systems, students, parents and their school community as we transition everyone back to in-person school activities. Many aspects of our typical services and structures were disrupted during the closure, but we are extremely happy to be able to have students back in school. For many students with Individualized Education Programs the in-person instructional model is critical to maximizing their learning growth. In addition to instructional services, a major role for the special education department is the evaluation and identification of students in need of services.

In this Board report I would like to take some time to introduce our new school psychologist Dr. Donna Benjamin. Donna's interest in RSU 38 began last March 2020 when a colleague she admired could no longer push back her retirement plans. As she met the interview committee, it became clear the position was unique, and a very meaningful role was unfolding for her. As she learned more about Maranacook Community Schools, Donna understood the match between her training, experience, education, and values were in line with what RSU #38 was looking for.

Donna grew up in Newark, New Jersey under less than ideal circumstances. She worked her way through a faith-based denomination elementary and high school that further led to a scholarship at Smith College Northampton, MA. After graduation, she continued to earn a Clinical Social Work master's degree from Boston College, Newton, MA. Donna then practiced social work in Portland and Lewiston schools as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, when a mentor encouraged her to apply for a Doctoral Fellowship in Psychology. She then obtained a Fellowship, and her Doctor of Psychology from Alfred University, New York, concentrating in the area of early interventions for students and families.

After becoming a Licensed Psychologist, Donna worked within schools and mental health agencies within the Southern Maine area. When the opportunity in RSU 38 appeared, Donna was very excited to relocate to an area she knew well. She is currently living in Augusta, and enjoys exploring beautiful Central Maine, walking the Rail and River Trails, doing yoga, cooking, and bike riding. We are very excited to welcome Dr. Donna Benjamin to our school community and look forward to having her as a part of our Maranacook team. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ryan Meserve

To: Board of Education
 From: Nancy Harriman
 Re: Curriculum and Instruction Update
 9/29/20

I am pleased to report that our three public PreK's (at Readfield Elementary, Mt. Vernon Elementary, and at Manchester Elementary) are up and running despite the challenges of social distancing and other pandemic safety measures.

We have an exceptional team of faculty who gracefully welcome their young charges into their classrooms every day and gleefully enjoy their learning time together, whether it's moving in time to music, counting, or enjoying stories together. Together, these teachers have creatively figured out how to provide young children a positive pre-school experience while implementing the many protocols in place for health and safety.

Our PreK programs address the Maine Early Learning and Development Standards (updated in spring of 2015) through a personalized, developmental, play-based approach. Over the last few years the district has purchased an updated integrative early childhood curriculum, Opening the World of Learning. This program includes 4-6 thematic units which provide instruction on basic concepts through a variety of interactive sensory, language, literacy, motor, arts, and social activities. The units in the first half of the year include Friends, Family, and Community. Customarily, teachers have "centers" that relate to the unit theme and provide an opportunity for students to work (play) together on tasks. This year, for safety reasons, centers are set up for just one or two students to use at a time, 4-6 feet apart from each other, each with their own materials. Also, the district has adopted the Building Blocks Mathematics curriculum, designed to integrate well with a program like OWL. *Building Blocks ranges from designated math activities to circle and story time to help kids relate their informal math knowledge to more formal mathematical concepts.*

One of the decisions the PreK Team has been struggling with is how to safely do PreK Screening this fall. Developmental screening is required when students first enter a school district as part of Child Find. Screening helps parents find out if their young child's development is in the range expected for his/her age. If there are any concerns, then the family is connected with resources for more thorough evaluation and potentially early support services.

In 2015, Kindergarten and PreK teachers in the district supported an update to the Developmental Indicators for Assessment of Learning (DIAL4) in place of an older version of the DIAL. Using the DIAL, students are assessed through a series of active tasks that reflect a student's development in the areas of Motor, Concepts, Language, Self-help and Social-emotional growth. Each child answers questions and completes tasks at three different stations, each taking 10-15 minutes. Ordinarily, parents accompany their children into the room where the stations are set up, although the children work independently with a teacher at each station. In recent years the screening has taken place in the professional development center at the bus garage for all prospective PreK students in the district.

The adaptive plan for this year is to hold PreK screening on three consecutive Wednesday mornings (one at each school with all 3 PreK teachers helping with the assessment stations). Families will bring their child, at a pre-selected screening time, to the child's home school, where the family will be met at the entrance by someone from the Office (i.e., principal, nurse or secretary) who will escort the student to the PreK room for screening. Family members will be given any needed paperwork to complete and told what time to meet their child at the PreK room exit door. Once the developmental screening is completed, the PreK Teacher will briefly review the results with the family outdoors. We think this plan will honor the safety precautions in place at each school, be comfortable for students, and allow families time for a personal "check-out" conference with their child's teacher.

Here's to the class of 2034!



MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence

James Charette
Superintendent of Schools

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Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

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Superintendent Report – October 2020

September has been an incredible month - it is certainly like none I've ever seen in all my years in education! From the incredible amount of work that was done at the beginning of the month by our dedicated staff to ready for students, to return to approximately 4 weeks of education to a positive case in one of our schools! It has certainly been a roller coaster of a trip through the month of September.

We were notified by the CDC Monday morning of a probable positive case and they directed us on the necessary steps that included identifying contacts within the school. The school does not determine who is a close contact, this is determined by the CDC. The definition of a close contact per the ME CDC SOP for positive cases in schools is: In general, being within 6 feet of an infected person (with or without a face mask) for at least 15 minutes (in aggregate for certain situations like extracurricular or athletics), or having unprotected direct contact with secretions or excretions of a person with confirmed COVID-19 during the infectious period. *If someone is a close contact they will have been advised by their physician, supervisor, CDC or school nurse.* We contact trace where the student would be during the school day only, including classrooms, busing and participation in school sponsored co and extra-curricular activities. Our course of action as a school district is defined in the Standard Operating Procedure which I have linked [here](#). Please note this document is in draft status and is continually being updated. It is also important to mention in this report that school officials cannot in any capacity provide personally identifiable information about any individual who might be positive. Schools have strict confidentiality laws that prevent us from sharing this type of information.

You will see on the agenda that we hired a teacher to work one day a week to work with our At Home Supported Learners. She is someone very familiar with RSU 38 and our expectations. Her task will be to prepare learning plans for the students to do with family support. She has a team of 4 Educational Technicians that will provide additional support specifically on Wednesdays to the students and families. She began the work this week and I am expecting the program is off and running. Families can begin to expect contact over the course of the next week.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our staff as we bring the month of September to a close, this has been a school year start that is unprecedented in the demands it placed on everyone who works in education. Our administrative team worked countless hours to "check and adjust" the myriad details it takes to safely operate our schools in a pandemic with our amazing office support staff. The instructional staff has had to re-imagine every detail of education from in-person learning to virtually learning. The custodial staff has worked to implement enhanced cleaning procedures in addition to their regular duties. Our transportation staff has been working under new guidelines and managing the many demands around pick up and drop off at our various schools. Let's not forget our food service staff who again had to reimagine meals in new spaces other than the cafeterias! These people have all put the health and safety of our students at the forefront of all they do. These are the heroes of our current situation - when you get a chance thank them for what they have done.

4b.

Health Advisory ZOOM meeting:

Date: Sept. 29, 2020 (Tuesday)

Present: Becca Reynolds, Dwayne Conway, Dr. Carol Mansfield, Birdie/Alberta Messier, Jen Durgin, Angela Palmer, Rick Wilson, Kini Tinkham, Anya Davidson, Kristie Sniffen, Kim Bowie, Sandy Hunter, Jay Charette

Becca checked in with everyone.

We had originally talked about having this meeting about two weeks ago but needed to take some time to figure some Health Center issues out.

AGENDA

1. Data from last school year. Last year was cut short b/c of COVID in March.
2. Expanded services.
3. Nursing update from Anya and Angela.
4. Food pantry and Boutique update. Food pantry is closed until October 15th.

Data report from 2019-2020 (last year). Year-end report compiled by USM. Synthesizes the work we are doing.

- School population 600. 363 students were enrolled in expanded services. Total of 90 users of the Health Center.
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Grade
- Insurance for the enrolled.
- More female than male.
- 90 users. 25% of enrolled students took part in the service. We need to increase that number.
- 11th graders used the services most followed by 12th graders.
- Mental health. 57 users for this service. More female than male users.
- Encounters: 800 came through the door. 9% medical and 90% mental health. These are only Maine General medical records not visits with Anya (high school nurse).

-Medical encounters = 73. 1.6% each person

-Primary medical diagnosis: contraceptive visits, acute type visits

-Mental health: anxiety disorder, depressive disorder

-We also do an Assessment for High Risk Adolescent behaviors.

-When you enroll in expanded services, you give us the family health insurance and the Health Center uses it to bill. Students that do not have insurance can use state grant monies to compensate for cost of the visit.

-Athletic Trainer visits are not part of this report, though the trainer works with our nurses.

SERVICES THIS YEAR

Medical:

We have been working with Maine General and it looks like Dr. Sid Sewall will be able to see students this fall. They have agreed for him to be with us for 4 hours/week. We are waiting for an MOU with Maine General. We hope that word will get out and students and families will be excited to see Dr. Sewall. Becca plans to invite Dr. Sewall to come out and visit the Health Center next week.

Behavioral Health:

-We currently have two providers through KBH. We may need to add another provider based on a potential wait list.

NURSING UPDATE:

Angela: Middle school

- Flu clinic was cancelled. 120 kids signed up. Upset that we lose out on that and try to figure out how we can reschedule another Flu clinic.

-COVID issues this week.

-new nurse, Justin Easter.

Any: High School -

-not a lot of student visits at high school. 90 students are signed up for the High School Flu clinic, for Friday (10-2-20) and Monday. Maine General is providing this service.

OTHER:

-Dr Mansfield mentioned that there is a possibility that COVID test kits will become available to schools. This is a discussion and would love for it to be a possibility and potentially something Dr. Sewall could help with. Jay acknowledged that this is a priority notice from the state. There are certain requirements to get the tests. Jay has handed this over to Angela and the nurses are aware of this possibility.

-Birdie is going to share some examples of mobile health clinics that she knows of.

FOOD PANTRY

- Volunteers are currently being asked not to come in. Everything is closed right now. Closed to donations and volunteers. If there is a need within the community, folks should contact their school nurse. Rick reminded us that we still have some donations coming in through the MEF. Dwayne will check. MEF has given \$7,000. If money is low, Rick said he can do a push through MEF. Fuel assistance is going to be needed now as well.

NOVEMBER 17 is the next health advisory meeting. We will meet by zoom.

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Maranacook Community Middle School & Zoom
September 16, 2020
Minutes of Meeting

7a.

Members Present: Chair Gary Carr, Vice Chair Wendy Brotherlin, Kim Bowie, Patty Gordon, Cathy Jacobs, Rebecca Lambert, Betty Morrell, Shawn Roderick, Melissa Tobin, David Twitchell, Alexander Wright

Member Absent: Dane Wing, (one vacant position)

Administrators: Superintendent James Charette, Special Education Director Ryan Meserve, Principals Jeff Boston, Dwayne Conway, Janet Delmar, Abbie Hartford, Kristen Levesque, Assistant Principal Tina Brackley, Technology Director Diane MacGregor, Adult and Community Education Director Steve Vose

1. Call to Order: Chair Carr called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Charette stated, *in accordance with An Act to Implement Provisions Necessary to the Health, Welfare and Safety of the Citizens of Maine in Response to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency as enacted to read Sec. G-1 MRSA Subsection 403-A Public proceeding through remote access during declaration of state of emergency due to Covid-19 this business meeting is being held with a mix of in person and virtually, through zoom. The meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the maranacook.org YouTube channel.*

This meeting has a public comment portion on Item 2. We respectfully ask that the virtual audience with the exception of the board members mute their microphones. There is a chat box feature in zoom but we will not be utilizing this feature for this meeting. If you have questions or comments we respectfully ask that you contact the central office or email the superintendent or any board member and an answer will be provided as soon as possible. We ask for the public's patience during these highly unusual circumstances. Attendance and all votes will be done through roll call.

2. Citizens' Comments: none

3. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:
 Superintendent Charette requested the removal of item 5d from the agenda.

4. Workshop: School Board Member Orientation with Maine School Management Association
 MSMA Deputy Executive Director Eileen King, conducted a school board member orientation.

5. Action Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes of September 2, 2020

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright to accept the minutes of September 2, 2020 as presented. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Bowie)

- b. Acceptance of Nomination of First Probationary Contract Nurse – Elementary Nurse, Justin Easter

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright, to approve the nomination of first probationary contract nurse, Justin Easter, as presented. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous

- c. Acceptance of Nomination of First Probationary Contract Teacher (1 yr. position) – MCMS, Matthew Lajoie

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright, to approve the nomination of first probationary contract teacher, Matthew Lajoie, as presented. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous

d. Acceptance of Nomination of First Probationary Contract Online Elementary Teaching Principal, Lauren Kolenda – removed from agenda

e. Consideration of request for 6 month leave of absence – Lora Pinkham, Food Service

MOTION by Brotherlin, second by Wright, to approve the request for a 6 month leave of absence for Lora Pinkham as recommended. **Roll Call Vote – Motion Carried:** unanimous

6. Informational/Discussion Items:

a. Opening of Schools Update

Superintendent Charette reported on technology, playgrounds, lunch time, the Covid Screener App, at home supportive learning and the opening of certain sports.

Discussion ensued about how attendance is being taken at the schools as well as for those students taking part in at home support learning, and on Wednesdays when all students are home. Superintendent Charette will send out information to staff and parents to clarify the expectations for Wednesdays. Request was made to have a follow up discussion from August on the plans to bring students at the high school back to in school learning. Question was also asked about extending the school day. Superintendent Charette plans to bring a discussion back to the Board at one of the October meetings, looking at expanding the days to a regular day, and then look at bring back Wednesdays.

Regarding sports, Superintendent Charette read a statement from Student Services Director Brant Remington. Question was asked about whether the board needed to vote on how the district is reintroducing sports. Superintendent Charette responded it is not a requirement that the Board vote on the decision, but they are certainly welcome to do so. Regional schedules are being developed. There will be no visiting spectators at this time at home events, with the exception of senior recognitions at the first game of each sport. Mr. Remington is working on having events videotaped or live streamed.

b. Review of Board Committees and Assignments

Superintendent Charette reported that he work with Chair Carr to develop the board committee assignments and grant as many requests as possible. He asked that any questions or concerns to be emailed to him.

7. Adjournment: **MOTION** and second to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James Charette, Superintendent/Secretary
D. Foster, Recorder

Acceptance of Donations

7b.

October 7, 2020

Donor	Amount	Department
Jonathan & Bonnie Gasper	\$150.00	Boys' Soccer
Joann Lee Wiebe	100.00	Maranacook Food Pantry
Wendy Brotherlin & James Dunlap	\$200.00	Middle School
Anne Marie Jenkins & RJ Jenkins	\$500.00	Track & Field Program
Deborah Stahler	\$500.00	Maranacook Food Pantry
L & N Perkins	\$100.00	Maranacook Food Pantry
Maranacook Education Foundation	\$2,500.00	Maranacook Food Pantry
Bruce & Sandy Hunter	\$200.00	Maranacook Food Pantry
Jean Roesner	\$200.00	Maine College Circle



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7c.

TO: RSU #38 Board of Directors

FROM: Jay Charette, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Nomination of Online Elementary Teacher, Amy Tucker

DATE October 2, 2020

I am nominating Amy Tucker for the position of Online Elementary Teacher for RSU #38. As many of you may know, Ms. Tucker is currently on leave for the 2020-2021 school year due to health concerns for immediate family members and their increased risk due to COVID 19.

Ms. Tucker will do this work remotely and will be working the equivalency of one day per week. She will have the assistance of district educational technicians on Wednesdays when students are not in the buildings.

Sample Motion: "I move to accept the nomination of Online Elementary Teacher, Amy Tucker, as recommended by the Superintendent."

7d.

Purpose of the MSBA Delegate Assembly

Governance and policy decisions affecting MSBA are dealt with at the Delegate Assembly. The importance of each School Board being represented at the Delegate Assembly cannot be overstated. The following information about the Delegate Assembly is to inform your School Board of the importance of electing a delegate.

According to Article VIII of the Constitution, the Delegate Assembly is the policy making body of the Association. The Delegate Assembly has four specific powers.

1. It adopts resolutions that express the beliefs and purposes of the Association.
2. It transacts such other business as presented to it prior to the opening of the Delegate Assembly by any delegation or the Executive Board of Directors.
3. It elects the Officers and Executive Board of Directors.
4. It may adopt amendments to the Constitution.

According to Article V of the Constitution, the Association is governed by the Executive Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of Regional Directors and At-Large Directors.

The Delegate Assembly consists of one voting delegate for each member district. In order to be an official delegate the member School Board must report the name of the elected delegate and alternate prior to the Assembly. (See Delegate Form for actual date.)

The resolutions adopted at the Delegate Assembly are an expression of the Assembly's views regarding various issues and define the Association's position on legislative proposals.

As the Officers and Board of Directors approach any legislative session, it is crucial that they represent the Association's members. Make your local Board's voice heard and send a delegate to the MSBA Delegate Assembly held virtually this year, during the MSMA Annual Fall Conference on October 30, 2020.

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Speakers

Friday Keynote Speaker

Judge John Broderick, Jr.
Sr. Dir., External Affairs and
Former Chief Justice, N.H. Supreme Court

Keynote: *Changing the Culture
Surrounding Mental Illness:
It's Way Past Time*

Saturday Endnote Speaker

TBD

***Registration and more
detailed information will be
available later in September!***