

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37

November 29, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of RSU/MSAD #37 was held at the Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School, Harrington, Maine on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 to consider and act upon the following items of business:

Board Members Present: Jeffrey Beal, Everett Grant, Grace Kennedy, Ronald Kennedy, Gary Magby, Debra Murphy, Charles Peterson, Jr., Vance Pineo, Jr., Sarah Willson, and Mark Wright

Board Members Absent: Beth Hartford and Kelly Moores

Other persons present: Ronald Ramsay, Denise Vose, Lorna Greene, Maria White, Susan Meserve, Lucille Willey, John Daley, Lori Mathews, Ron Green, Blaine Grant, and Dawn Fickett

MINUTES

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. **The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Everett Grant.** He noted that directors Hartford and Moores are unable to attend tonight.
2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2017 REGULAR MEETING**
ACTION: Motion by Vance Pineo, Jr., second by Jeffrey Beal, and voted (unanimously) to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2017 meeting as printed.
3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**
INFORMATION: Supt. Ramsay reported that he was working with surrounding districts to submit a FEDES grant to the state. This grant is for school units that can partner to find efficiencies in various areas, and is a competitive grant. He and other superintendents in the area are working on an application to fund a director for the Washington County Consortium. The director would work under the present WC Leadership Team for professional development opportunities in this area. Once the application is completed, he will bring the item to the board for approval.~He has asked other area superintendents if they might be interested in going together for a Regional Service Center for things such as high-needs special education, alternative education or vocational education, but there is no interest.~We have some increased special education needs since the start of the school year, and he will be coming to the board in December to request approval to hire additional staff. This follows what is happening across the state with increasing special education costs due to higher needs. We have been able to reduce our local special education budget for the past three years, but the tide is turning now.~MEA scores for last year are included in packets for your review. It is a comparison of the last two years and the schools around us. Remember that different cohort groups and special populations from year to year can affect scores.
4. **RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**
INFORMATION:
 - Athletics/Student Activities—Debra Murphy noted that the committee met earlier this evening to talk with two cheering coaches and will have recommendations later in the agenda.
 - Curriculum & Instruction—none

- Negotiations & Grievance—none
- Policy & By-laws—none
- Facilities, Maintenance, Safety, & Transportation—Everett Grant noted that this committee met a couple of weeks ago to discuss submission of an application for a new bus for next year. They agreed to have the transportation department submit an application for a short bus with handicap ramp.

5. RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INFORMATION: Statements show that we are right on track with where we need to be at this time of year.

6. RE: PRESENTATION OF AUDIT—CHAREMON DAVIS, RHR SMITH CO.

INFORMATION: Charemon Davis noted that the district is in good standing. All financials are in order. She reviewed data from the 2017 audit, which will be submitted to the state very soon.

7. RE: ADMIN REPORTS INCLUDING ESSA, G/T, AND PROFESSIONAL DEV.

INFORMATION: Administrators reported that it has been a busy month, as usual. Parent/Teacher Conferences were held, with good turnouts. Basketball season has begun and kids are excited for that. Schools are looking at things they can do to improve MEA scores, such as increasing instructional time for math and language arts. Narraguagus and DW Merritt both held Veterans' Day Programs, which were very nice. Staff continue to work on Best Practices, and Learning Style Inventories were administered to all students. Title I staff has completed quarterly progress reports for eligible students. G/T students will attend Alice Down the Rabbit Hole on December 12th. Denise Vose reported that she attended the fall conference for Directors in Portland. The main point she brought back is the impact that all teachers have on students, and how important it is to build relationships with each student!

8. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to table this article as there are no adjustments necessary.

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. RE: APPROVAL OF FY2017 AUDIT

ACTION: Motion by Ronald Kennedy, second by Charles Peterson, Jr., and voted (unanimously) to approve the FY2017 audit as reported by Charemon Davis.

2. RE: HIRING JR. HIGH CHEERING COACH

ACTION: Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Sarah Willson, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Dayna Barker as junior high cheering coach as recommended by Superintendent Ramsay and the Athletic Subcommittee.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. **RE: HIRING SUBSTITUTE(S)**
ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Ronald Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to approve Nicholas Birtz as a substitute teacher and Carla McLean as a substitute cook as recommended by the Superintendent.

2. **RE: APPROVAL OF WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA TRIP**
ACTION: Motion by Vance Pineo, Jr., second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (800-yes, 52-abstentions) to approve the Wreaths Across America trip on December 10th -11th. (Wright abstained.)

3. **RE: APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT COACHES FOR NARRAGUAGUS**
ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to approve Daniel Kane as a volunteer assistant for the NHS boys' basketball teams and Zachary Look as a volunteer assistant for the NHS girls' basketball teams.

4. **RE: HIRING VARSITY CHEERING COACH AT NARRAGUAGUS**
ACTION: Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Sarah Willson, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Kristen Fahey as the varsity cheering coach at Narraguagus as recommended by the Superintendent and the Athletic Subcommittee. They noted that her extensive experience with competitive dance will be helpful for future competitions.

5. **RE: APPROVAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COOPERATIVE TEAM FOR INDOOR TRACK WITH SUMNER MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL**
ACTION: Motion by Ronald Kennedy, second by Sarah Willson, and voted (unanimously) to approve establishment of a cooperative team for indoor track with Sumner Memorial High School.

6. **RE: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A \$2,000 GRANT FROM THE STEPHEN KING FOUNDATION FOR THE DW MERRITT FREE LIBRARY PROGRAM**
ACTION: Motion by Jeffery Beal, second by Sarah Willson, and voted (unanimously) to approve submission of a grant application to the Stephen King Foundation as noted above.

7. **RE: CONSIDERATION OF ACCREDITATION PROCESS FOR NARRAGUAGUS**
ACTION: Supt. Ramsay noted that every ten years we have to go through the process to be accredited. It is a lengthy and expensive process, and we question every time it comes up if we should pursue or not.

Lucille Willey shared information she got from a recent workshop on the process. She feels that if this was the only thing the school was doing, it would be beneficial; however, we have so many other things going on and being looked at that are similar to this process that she doesn't feel it would be that beneficial and it would require a lot of staff time to complete. This would take away from all the things we are already doing. The value of the process is having a set of standards that every NEASC school has. Most colleges now say that they don't look at this as much for college admissions now as they look at the student as a whole, looking for well-rounded students not just those coming from an accredited school. She noted that there is nothing in the process that schools shouldn't have to do, but we are already doing it now.

Supt. Ramsay noted that he doesn't recommend pursuing accreditation, but that doesn't mean he


doesn't recommend that we have standards for our school and students. We have a lot of ways that we are measuring progress through PBE, Leadership Teams, MEA scores, etc. These all provide the data we need to focus on weak areas. Even though they have reduced the work needed to get accredited, it will still monopolize all the free time of high school staff, and will prevent us from moving our own initiatives along.

Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Sarah Willson, and voted (755-yes, 95-no) to follow the recommendation of Supt. Ramsay and not pursue accreditation.

8. RE: ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., and voted (unanimously) to adjourn at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Ronald C. Ramsay
Secretary to the Board

MEETING SUMMARY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

2. APPROVED minutes of the October 18, 2017 regular meeting;
8. TABLED agenda adjustments;

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. APPROVED 2017 audit
2. HIRED Dayna Barker as Jr. High Cheering Coach;

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. HIRED Nicolas Birtz as a substitute teacher and Carla McLean as a substitute cook;
2. APPROVED Wreaths Across America trip;
3. APPROVED Dan Kane and Zach Look as volunteer assistants for boys' and girls' basketball at NHS;
4. HIRED Kristen Fahey as varsity cheering coach;
5. APPROVED establishing cooperative indoor track team with Sumner HS;
6. APPROVED submission of grant application to Stephen King Foundation for DWM Library;
7. APPROVED not pursuing accreditation for Narraguagus HS.