

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37

March 25, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of RSU/MSAD #37 was held at Narraguagus High School, Harrington, Maine, on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items of business:

Board Members Present: Angela Alley, Everett Grant, Beth Hartford, Ronald Kennedy, Brandi Lovejoy, Debra Murphy, Charles Peterson, Jr., Drusilla Ray, Michael W. Strout, Sally Thompson, Sarah Willson, and Mark Wright

Board Members Absent: none

Other persons present: Ronald Ramsay, Lorna Greene, Susan Meserve, Maria White, Lucille Willey, Ron Green, Susan Hodgkins, Sara Ippolito, Suzen Polk-Hoffses, Susan Bennett, Darren Hammond, and Dawn Fickett

MINUTES

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Everett Grant. He welcomed Sarah Willson, the new board member from Columbia Falls.
2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2015 AND MARCH 4, 2015**
ACTION: Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Michael W. Strout, and voted (911-yes, 90-abstentions) to approve the minutes of the February 25 and March 4, 2015 meetings as presented. (Alley abstained as she was absent.)
3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**
INFORMATION: Supt. Ramsay noted that the resignation of Dawn Coffin, Director of Transportation, was effective immediately due to health issues. She is unable to work through the remainder of the year as she had originally planned. Alfred Moore, Sr., will be acting as Transportation Director through the end of the year.~~Mr. Ramsay noted that he attended a meeting Monday afternoon at Milbridge for the Spanish population to review the plan for moving 7th and 8th grades to the high school next year. An interpreter was present to help and the presentation was translated into Spanish for them.~~The Legislative Education Committee is looking for more money for GPA than what the Governor has recommended. The committee would like to get the mill rate back down to what it is this year. If that happens, it will be good news for us.
4. **RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2015**
INFORMATION: At the end of February, we have 1/3 of the fiscal year left. With 45% of the budget remaining, we are in really good shape. At this time last year, we had much less than that available. This should allow us to do some of the projects we talked about at last week's budget meeting and still have our balance forward of \$400,000 available.
5. **RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**
INFORMATION:
 - Athletics/Student Activities—No meetings.
 - Curriculum & Instruction—No meetings.
 - Negotiations & Grievance—Michael W. Strout noted that the committee met last night. They are working to finalize the proposal to the full board for next year's salaries and benefits.
 - Policy & By-laws—No meetings.
 - Facilities, Maintenance, Safety, & Transportation—No meetings.

6. RE: ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS INCLUDING NCLB/ESEA

INFORMATION: Lorna Greene reported that DW Merritt has 147 students enrolled. Students participated in Read Across America on March 6th. Other activities for the month included participation in a Dental Poster contest, collecting Pennies for Patients for the American Heart Association, DI practices, a Pee Wee tournament in Jonesport, building snow castles and following that up with ELA and Math activities, and the Bikes for Books program. For professional development, an early release on March 11th allowed staff to receive more training for administering the SBAC tests, as well as continuing work on the plan for Proficiency-Based Ed. An application has been submitted through NCLB for a Summer Tutoring Program like we did a couple of years ago. The G/T students attended a Chinese Acrobat performance at the Grand Auditorium on March 12th.

Susan Meserve noted that Harrington has 162 enrolled. Students there also participated in the Read Across America Day, Bikes for Books, and the pee wee tourney. The Parent-Teacher Group sponsored Scales & Tales where presenters brought snakes, lizards and turtles for the students to see and touch. The County Spelling Bee Champion, who was from Harrington, placed 10th at the State Bee. Students will have a presentation tomorrow for Agriculture Week.

Maria White reported that Milbridge has 126 students. SBACs were administered last week. There were some interruptions due to snow, but the technology part worked very well. The Harlem Rockets visited yesterday before their game at the high school last night. Students really enjoyed the visit. Pee Wee season is going well with good participation, and kids are having fun. Some of the NHS girls' team have been attending practices at Milbridge and helping.

Lucille Willey noted that NHS has 192 presently enrolled. College acceptances have been received by 63% of the senior class so far. Students in the Skippers' Program attended the Fishermen's Forum on March 6th at the Samoset. Plans are underway for the Gear Up program to promote a college-going atmosphere. Four students attended the Doc4aDay program, in Calais, on March 13th. The Outdoor Club has been to Hermon Mountain twice this winter to ski and snow tube. Devin Alley was a gold medal winner at the Skills USA event this year. He attends HCTC's diesel mechanics program. Mystie McManus was elected as a Skills USA officer. The MPA Principals' Award will be given to Caryl Ann Young at an Honors Luncheon on April 11th.

Susan Hodgkins reported that the SBAC testing is going well, with some accommodations being made as appropriate for students with disabilities. Some of the special education teachers attended training for the new Woodcock Johnson IV, which we will be purchasing soon to replace the WJ-III. This is the last year we can use the III, and thus have to upgrade to IV.

7. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

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

B. OLD BUSINESS

None

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. RE: HIRING COACHES FOR NHS SPRING SPORTS

ACTION: Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Michael W. Strout, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of the following coaches for NHS spring sports, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Varsity Baseball—James Robertson
JV Baseball—Alan Stanwood
Varsity Softball—Tracie Martin
JV Softball—Lynn Lyford
Track & Field—Laura Osgood
Track & Field Assistant—Anita McGray

2. RE: APPROVAL OF EDGE TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C. APRIL 16-20

ACTION: Motion by Drusilla Ray, second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to approve the EdGE Trip to Washington, D.C. from April 16th-20th:

3. RE: HIRING SUBSTITUTE TEACHER—Sarah Meserve

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Sally Thompson, and voted (unanimously) to approve Sarah Meserve as a substitute teacher as recommended by the Superintendent.

4. RE: HIRING SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN—James Robertson

ACTION: Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Beth Hartford, and voted (unanimously) to approve James Robertson as a substitute custodian as recommended by the Superintendent.

5. RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT OF A CANDIDATE PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A)

ACTION: Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Beth Hartford, and voted (unanimously) to enter Executive Session to discuss employment of a candidate. Those included in the session will be the Board of Directors, Superintendent Ramsay, and Lucille Willey.

Entered Executive Session at 7:42 p.m. Came out of Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. and continued the meeting.

6. HIRING PRINCIPAL AT NARRAGUAGUS HIGH SCHOOL

ACTION: Motion by Beth Hartford, second by Ronald Kennedy, and voted (893-yes, 108-abstentions) to hire Lucille Willey as the Principal at Narraguagus High School as recommended by Superintendent Ramsay and the Principal Search Committee. (Peterson abstained.)

7. RE: ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBER TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to elect Beth Hartford to the Finance Committee.

8. RE: CONSIDERATION OF STARTING PRE-K PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER 2015

ACTION: Superintendent Ramsay noted that this will be a 4-year old program in each school. Headstart will be contributing to the program using the funding they would have had for their 4-year old program. Headstart will continue to have a 3-year old program. We will need to follow the guidelines for Pre-K. After year one, we will start getting state subsidy to help with the costs. The coordinator position in the grant is for the life of the grant, unlike the teaching positions that will continue after the grant ends.

Motion by Sally Thompson, second by Sarah Willson, and voted (unanimously) to approve starting a Pre-K program in September 2015 per the guidelines of the grant.

9. RE: CONSIDERATION OF MOVING 7TH & 8TH GRADES TO THE HIGH SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2015

ACTION: Charles Peterson, Jr., noted that a lot of positive things have been said at meetings about the benefits of this move; he wonders if there are any negatives, real or perceived. Mr. Ramsay noted that he supports the move. We are committed to it, but it will be a lot of work. We have had some express concerns and there are still some who don't support it, but the feedback after the meetings has been very positive. His biggest fear, as Superintendent, is that people won't allow it to be successful. We will all need to pull together to make it a success.

Motion by Sarah Willson, second by Sally Thompson, and voted (unanimously) to move the 7th and 8th grades to the high school in September 2015.

10. RE: ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald C. Ramsay

Ronald C. Ramsay
Secretary to the Board

MEETING SUMMARY—February 25, 2015

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

2. Approved the minutes of the 2/25/15 regular meeting and 3/4/15 special meeting;
7. TABLED agenda adjustment;

B. OLD BUSINESS

none

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. HIRED NHS spring coaches: J. Robertson, baseball; A. Stanwood, JV baseball; T. Martin, Softball; L. Lyford, JV softball; L. Osgood, Track & Field; A. McGray, Assistant Track & Field;
2. APPROVED EdGE trip to Washington, DC April 16-20;
3. HIRED Sarah Meserve as substitute teacher;
4. HIRED James Robertson as substitute custodian;
5. EXECUTIVE SESSION for employment issue;
6. HIRED Lucille Willey as NHS Principal;
7. ELECTED Beth Hartford to Finance Committee;
8. APPROVED starting a Pre-K program in September 2015; and,
9. APPROVED moving the 7th & 8th grades to NHS starting September 2015.