

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37

April 25, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of RSU/MSAD #37 was held at Narraguagus High School, Harrington, Maine on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 to consider and act upon the following items of business:

Board Members Present: Everett Grant, Bethany Hartford, Grace Kennedy, Ronald Kennedy, Gary Magby, Kelly Moores, Debra Murphy, Vance Pineo, Jr., Sarah Willson, and Mark Wright

Board Members Absent: Jeffery Beal and Charles Peterson, Jr.,

Other persons present: Ronald Ramsay, Lorna Greene, Maria White, Denise Vose, Susan Meserve, Lucille Willey, John Daley, Lori Mathews, David Mathews, Ron Green, Suzen Polk-Hoffses, Melinda Reynolds, Melissa Mattes, Mark Green, Dianna Briggs, Sara Ippolito, and Dawn Fickett

MINUTES

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. **The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Grant.**
Melissa Mattes and Mark Green asked to be allowed to address the board concerning Article B-1 and the PreK Partnership.
2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2018 REGULAR MEETING AND APRIL 11, 2018 SPECIAL MEETING**
ACTION: Motion by Gary Magby, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (718-yes, 108-abstentions) to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2018 regular meeting and the April 11, 2018 special meeting as printed. (R. Kennedy abstained as he was absent from those meetings.)
3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**
INFORMATION: Supt. Ramsay noted that after this week, we have seven full weeks of school left, and they are the busiest ones of the year with a lot to get done before summer vacation! He recapped the budget, which the board will consider approving later in the agenda. With \$137,000 decrease in taxation for next year, that makes three of the last four budgets that had no tax increase for citizens. Expenditures are up with a significant portion due to adding preK to the local budget, but we knew that would happen when we started the program. Revenues in subsidy and the final portion of the preK grant will offset this increase.
4. **RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**
INFORMATION:
 - Athletics/Student Activities—Debra Murphy noted that the Athletic Subcommittee met earlier this evening to interview a new coach for Jr. High Softball, and will have a recommendation later in the agenda.
 - Curriculum & Instruction—none
 - Negotiations & Grievance—none
 - Policy & By-laws—none
 - Facilities, Maintenance, Safety, & Transportation—none

5. RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INFORMATION: Supt. Ramsay noted that this statement from the end of March reflects 25% of the fiscal year remaining with 33% of the budget left. That is a little tighter than he would like it to be, but we are still in good shape.

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

INFORMATION: Lucille Willey presented a written report with the following highlights for Narraguagus: Enrollment is at 278. Seventeen of the 43 seniors have been accepted to colleges. JMG students attended a career fair and a financial literacy fair recently. The senior class held a very successful auction. PIE day was held on April 10th after being cancelled two different evenings due to snow. Special education students competed in the Special Olympics Swim Competition at Bates on April 12th and brought home some medals. Spring sports are under way.

Maria White reported an enrollment of 122 at Milbridge. Philip and Hayden Hanscom (a father & son from Milbridge) donated their time over vacation to build a nice bicycle rack for the school. Grades 5 & 6 went to Orono on a college visit and enjoyed it very much. Island Readers and Writers will be at the school in May.

Lorna Greene reported that enrollment at DW Merritt is at 104. Grades 5 & 6 raised \$724 for the American Heart Association through the Hoops for Hearts program. Grade 4 attended the Cherryfield Foods Agricultural Safety Day. They had 58 guests attend the Spring Lunch/DI performances. 100% contact was made with parents for parent/teacher conferences. The final New Hire/Best Practices training is tomorrow. We have been approved to run the Title I Summer Program again this year with re-allocated funds. A list of G/T activities for the year was given to the board.

Susan Meserve noted that Harrington's enrollment is 159. The Parent/Teacher Support Group held a penny drive in April to raise money for the playground, and over \$2,800 was raised. They also held a round-ball tournament on April 6-8 and did well with that. Some money from this was donated to Akea, the police dog, for a vest.

Denise Vose reported that 159 students are receiving services through Special Education and 23 have 504 plans. She has had 19 referrals of which 12 have been found eligible for services.

7. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to table this article as there are no adjustments necessary.

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. RE: CONSIDERATION OF CONTINUING PRE-K PARTNERSHIP WITH PCP (HEADSTART)

ACTION: Supt. Ramsay noted that four years ago the state asked us to write a grant with them to begin a PreK program, partnering with Downeast Community Partners (formerly known as Head-start). In order to be eligible, we had to partner with an outside agency, and Head-start was one of the few available for us to partner with. We have now concluding year 3 of the grant, which ends in December of 2018. There is no longer this requirement to partner and we could choose to dissolve it now but will still need to provide some of the services, such as a Family Advocate.

Financially speaking, what DCP provides is two Head-start qualified teachers (comparable to our ed techs), a family advocate, and other expertise. Without the partnership, we could do away with some things, but keep others. It is close to a wash financially either way we go. We would need to hire two ed techs but a current PreK employee would handle the family advocacy piece. The lunch program would be different as students currently do "family style dining" in the PreK room vs. cafeteria lunch.

Supt. Ramsay listed the three options, which include 1) continuing the partnership; 2) continuing the partnership through next year and then discontinuing; or 3) discontinue the partnership at the end of this school year. Much discussion followed as to things that might change. The enrollment process for Head-start is more stringent than ours, so that would change. Licensing requirements are different as well. We could reduce some of the work of data collection that is required by Head-start. Some modifications to the agreement have been made over the last three years, but the Head-start rules still have to be followed.

Suzen Polk-Hoffses, the PreK teacher from Milbridge, noted it boils down to local control. The district has PreK teachers who are all hold proper state certification for birth to age 5, with over 300 hours of coursework/training in early childhood education. The collaboration was wonderful to begin with, but local control would be great.

When asked what the benefit was to students to keep the partnership, Melissa Mattes, Director of Early Childhood Programs at DCP, noted that they focus on the whole-family aspect, providing the family advocacy piece with comprehensive services which include financial/social/health/etc. well-being. They are a private non-profit entity. Mark Green, Executive Director of DCP, noted that WHCA and Child & Family Opportunities merged to form DCP, blending programs to help families more. If the partnership is discontinued now, it could cause families to lose services. If the local decision is to discontinue it, he respects that but asks the board to consider phasing it out and giving DCP time to fill its slots.

Supt. Ramsay recommended that the district let the grant expire and then terminate the partnership as of June 2019 when the grant will be gone. He doesn't recommend doing it mid-year when the grant ends in December.

Motion by Vance Pineo, Jr., second by Mark Wright, and voted (718-yes, 108-no) to terminate the partnership with Head-start/DCP at the end of the school year in June 2019 as recommended by Supt. Ramsay. (R. Kennedy voted no.)

2. RE: HIRING JR. HIGH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL COACHES

ACTION: Debra Murphy noted that the Athletic Subcommittee met with Hannah Alley earlier tonight and would recommend her as co-coach for Jr. High Softball, along with Hilary Oliver, and to recommend Alan Stanwood for Jr. High Baseball. This was seconded by Kelly Moores and voted (unanimously) to approve these coaches as recommended by the high school administration and the superintendent as well.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. RE: HIRING ONE-YEAR ADMINISTRATORS

- a. Motion by Mark Wright, second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Samantha Beal, School Nurse/CNA Instructor for September 2018 to August 2019 as recommended by the Superintendent.
- b. Motion by Mark Wright, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Dawn Fickett, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent for July 2018 to June 2019 as recommended by the Superintendent.
- c. Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Ron Green, Maintenance Director for July 2018 to June 2019 as recommended by the Superintendent.
- d. Motion by Bethany Hartford, second by Kelly Moores, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Edward Latham, IT Assistant for July 2018 to June 2019 as recommended by the Superintendent.
- e. Motion by Mark Wright, second by Sarah Willson, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Lori Mathews, Transportation Director for July 2018 to June 2019 as recommended by the Superintendent.
- f. Motion by Sarah Willson, second by Bethany Hartford, and voted (774-yes, 52-no) to ratify the hiring of Lisa Roeber, Food Services Director for July 2018 to June 2019 as recommended by the Superintendent. (Moores voted no.)
- g. Motion by Sarah Willson, second by Bethany Hartford, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Ron Smith, IT Director for July 2018 to June 2019 as recommended by the Superintendent.

2. RE: APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT FOR VARIETY BASEBALL-NHS

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Kelly Moores, and voted (unanimously) to approve Daniel Kane as a volunteer assistant for varsity baseball at Narraguagus.

3. RE: APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT FOR TRACK AND FIELD-NHS

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Sarah Willson, and voted (unanimously) to approve David Baldwin as a volunteer assistant for track and field at Narraguagus.

4. RE: ACCEPTANCE OF BID FOR INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL SECURITY CAMERAS IN DISTRICT SCHOOLS

ACTION: Superintendent Ramsay noted that upgrading security cameras was the first thing in the area of safety that was recommended by the safety consultant we hired. There are other things that will be coming forward to do as well, but this is the top priority. The cost will be paid from the outside maintenance fund that we have so it won't impact the local budget. It will provide video surveillance in all common areas of the schools as well as at all outside exits. He also noted that the price difference in the bids is because Seacoast Security included more than what we asked them to.

Motion by Vance Pineo, Jr., second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to accept the bid from Black Bear Security in the amount of \$25,323.

5. RE: APPROVAL OF 2018-2019 DISTRICT BUDGET, INCLUDING SIGNING WARRANTS FOR THE DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING AND VALIDATION REFERENDUM, AND THE NOTICE OF AMOUNTS ADOPTED

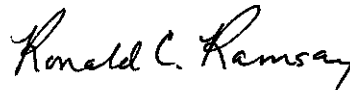
ACTION: Supt. Ramsay noted that we held three public budget meetings to review the expenditures and revenues associated with the 2018-2019 budget. He recommends that the board approve the budget they've been given to go forward to the District Budget Meeting on May 22, 2018. The expenditure side of the budget is up \$378,225 or 4.63% but the taxation to citizens decreases by \$137,883 or 2.63%.

Motion by Sarah Willson, second by Vance Pineo, Jr., and voted (unanimously) that the warrant for the Maine School Administrative District No. 37 (the "District") Budget Meeting presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved and that a District budget meeting be and is hereby called for May 22, 2018 for the purpose of voting on the annual budget for the District for the 2018-2019 fiscal year; that the Warrant and Notice of Election for the District Budget Validation Referendum presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved, and that a District budget validation referendum be and is hereby called for June 12, 2018 for the purpose of approving the budget adopted at the District budget meeting for the 2018-2019 fiscal year; and that the form of Notice of Amounts Adopted at Budget Meeting presented to this meeting be and is hereby approved, and that the Superintendent of Schools of the District is hereby authorized and directed to complete said Notice by adding the amounts approved by the voters for each expenditure category and the total school budget summary expenditure amount, all in accordance with the District budget meeting on May 22, 2018, and to cause copies of said notice, as completed, to be delivered to the municipal clerks of each municipality of the District for posting at the polling places for the June 12, 2018 District budget validation referendum.

6. RE: ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald C. Ramsay
Secretary to the Board

MEETING SUMMARY, APRIL 25, 2018

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

2. APPROVED minutes of the April 4, 2018 Regular meeting and the April 11, 2018 Special Meeting;
7. TABLED agenda adjustments;

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. APPROVED discontinuing PreK Partnership with DCP as of June 2019;
2. HIRED Jr. High Coaches: Softball—Hannah Alley & Hilary Oliver; Baseball—Alan Stanwood;

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. HIRED one-year administrators: Samantha Beal, school nurse/CNA instructor; Dawn Fickett, Administrative Assistant; Ron Green, Maintenance Director; Edward Latham, IT Assistant; Lori Mathews, Transportation Director; Lisa Roeber, Food Services Director; and Ron Smith, IT Director;
2. APPROVED Dan Kane as volunteer assistant for varsity baseball at NHS;
3. APPROVED David Baldwin as volunteer assistant for track & field at NHS;
4. ACCEPTED bid from Black Bear Security to install security cameras in the schools;
5. APPROVED the 2018-2019 district budget, set the District Budget Meeting and Validation Referendum, signed the Notice of Amounts Adopted, and the Warrants.