

**MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37**

**August 29, 2018**

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 29, 2018 to consider and act upon the following items of business:

**Board Members Present:** Jeffery Beal, Everett Grant, Bethany Hartford, Grace Kennedy, Ronald Kennedy, Gary Magby, Debra Murphy, Charles Peterson, Jr., Vance Pineo, Jr., Dawn Robbins, and Mark Wright

**Board Members Absent:** Kelly Moores

**Other persons present:** Ronald Ramsay, Lorna Greene, Susan Meserve, Maria White, Denise Vose, Lucille Willey, Todd Emerson, Danielle Woerner, and Dawn Fickett

**MINUTES**

**A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS**

**1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Grant.**

**2. RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 25, 2018 REGULAR MEETING**

**ACTION:** Motion by Vance Pineo, Jr., second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2018 meeting as printed.

**3. RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**

**INFORMATION:** Supt. Ramsay reported that the first Staff Workshop today for teachers, administrators and ed techs, kicking off another year. Tomorrow, they finish up on today's impactful topic of how to help our kids better using Student Assistance Teams. All staff will be present at 11:00 a.m. for the opening welcome address for the new year. ~ We still have a few vacancies, most of which we hope to fill tonight. ~ The FEDES CTE committee met tonight reviewing architecture proposals to help with the grant. Things are progressing. We have a November 7<sup>th</sup> deadline to get the grant submitted. ~ The septic pump station repair at NHS should be started tomorrow and completed before school opens next week. Security cameras have been installed in all the schools and staff training will be done soon. He and the principals will have remote access to view them off-site.

**4. RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**INFORMATION:**

- Athletics/Student Activities—Debra Murphy noted that the committee met earlier this evening with a potential coaching candidate, which will be on the agenda later.
- Curriculum & Instruction—Kelly Moores reported that the committee met on Monday to talk about the PBE grading system, which will also be on the agenda later.
- Negotiations & Grievance—None
- Policy & By-laws—None but will be scheduling one in the near future.
- Facilities, Maintenance, Safety, & Transportation—None

**5. RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**INFORMATION:** The July statement reflects the first month of our fiscal year. Things are set up and going well. The auditor was in last week to review our 2017-2018 financial records. He commended the office staff for the great job, noting that everything was in order. An audit report

will be ready for the board in the next couple of months before submission to the state.

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

**INFORMATION:** Lucille Willey noted that Narraguagus is ready for students on Tuesday. Open House will be on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Fall sports are underway. The Rakers' Center was in the building until August 9<sup>th</sup>, and custodians have worked to get the cleaning all done.

Susan Meserve reported that the Migrant Blueberry Harvest Summer School vacated the building last Friday. The gym floor was refinished on Saturday. Teachers are in now getting their rooms ready. Ten new students registered yesterday, and pre-K has 14 currently enrolled.

Lorna Greene noted that DW Merritt is cleaned and ready for students. Staff have been in readying their rooms. Five new students registered yesterday, and they have 13 pre-K students enrolled. In Professional development, the workshops this week dovetail nicely with the many things we already do. The Leadership Team has established a goal this year of improving student attendance. In ESSA, the district's Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) has been submitted. Staff will be reviewing it tomorrow. The G/T renewal plan is in the works.

Maria White reported that the building looks great. Kipp Latzko worked hard to rehab the shed out back and it looks great. Several teachers attended a math training in UMM over the summer, and the school will be in year 2 of the Numberacy4ME program to improve math scores. It will also be year 2 of the TREE program. That group has met several times this summer. Three new students registered yesterday and four more called for appointments.

**7. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

**ACTION:** Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Jeffery Beal, and voted (unanimously) to table this article as there are no adjustments needed tonight.

**B. OLD BUSINESS—None**

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. RE: HIRING HALF TIME PHYS ED TEACHER/HALF TIME SP ED ED TECH III**

**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, and second by Grace Kennedy, to ratify the hiring of Harry Thompson as half-time Phys Ed teacher and half-time Special Ed ed tech III at Narraguagus, as recommended by the Superintendent.

**2. RE: HIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION ED TECH**

**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, second by Vance Pineo, Jr., and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Amanda Kowalsky as Special Education ed tech II at DW Merritt as recommended by the Superintendent.

**3. RE: HIRING SECRETARY AT DW MERRITT**

**ACTION:** Motion by Mark Wright, second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Ashley Alley as secretary at DW Merritt as recommended by the Superintendent.

**4. RE: HIRING PRE-K TEACHER**

**ACTION:** Motion by Kelly Moores, second by Vance Pineo, Jr., and voted (unanimously) to approve Erica Thompson as a long-term substitute Pre-K teacher at DW Merritt until her certification is processed and approved as recommended by the Superintendent.

**5. RE: HIRING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST**

**ACTION:** Motion by Debra Murphy, second by Jeffery Beal, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Elisabeth Dudley as Occupational Therapist as recommended by the Superintendent.

**6. RE: HIRING ELEMENTARY FALL COACHES**

**ACTION:** Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Vance Pineo, Jr., and voted (unanimously) to approve the following elementary fall coaches as recommended by the Superintendent:

**DW Merritt:** Harry Beal, Jr., soccer; Amanda Kowalsky, cross-country; **Harrington:** Michael Peterson, soccer; Kandi Robertson, cross-country; Moriah Nichols, cross-country volunteer assistant; **Milbridge:** Galen Elliott, soccer; Roberto Vasquez, soccer volunteer assistant; Donald Parker and Richard Parker, cross-county co-coaches. All were recommended by the Superintendent.

**7. RE: HIRING JR. HIGH FALL COACHES AND 9-12 SOCCER VOLUNTEER**

**ACTION:** Motion by Vance Pineo, Jr., second by Debra Murphy, and voted (unanimously) to ratify the hiring of Russell Vivier, Jr. High Volleyball; Harry Thompson, Jr. High Cross-Country; and Daniel Kane, 9-12 Boys' Soccer Volunteer Assistant, as recommended by the Superintendent.

**8. RE: HIRING VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH**

**ACTION:** Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., second by Debra Murphy, and voted (949-yes, 52-abstentions) to ratify the hiring of Eric Beal as Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach as recommended by the Superintendent. (Moores abstained.)

**9. RE: CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE PBE PILOT GRADING SYSTEM AT NHS**

**ACTION:** Kelly Moores noted that the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee had good discussion on moving towards a proficiency-based grading system of 1-4 vs. 0-100. Six of the teachers at the high school are willing to use both grading systems simultaneously this year to compare how they work.

Supt. Ramsay noted that the DOE is no longer mandating PBE, but are allowing districts to continue with it if they want to. Allowing the pilot this year is a good way to move forward to see where it leads us. Using rubrics and standards is something we have been working on and doing for several years now.

Ron Kennedy feels there is a reason the state backed off on this, and he disagrees with moving forward if it is not required by the State. In his mind, piloting the new system will be a waste of time, and we can't do it without everyone on board. Lucille Willey noted that the pilot gives the opportunity to show what the system would be like. If it doesn't work out, we don't have to move any further with it.

Motion by Kelly Moores, second by Mark Wright, and voted (695-yes, 216-no, 90-abstentions) to approve the PBE Pilot Grading System at NHS for 2018-2019. (R. Kennedy and Peterson voted no; Magby abstained.)

**10. RE: CONSIDERATION OF UP-FRONTING EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH WRITING OF THE CTE FEDES GRANT**

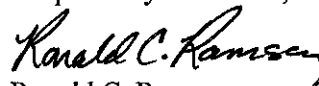
**ACTION:** Everett Grant noted that we have entered a process with neighboring school districts to expand CTE offerings through a FEDES grant opportunity. The group needs to secure an architect to begin the work of seeking out facilities and determining what would need to be done to make them usable for CTE programming. The committee received two proposals, PDT Architects and Merriam Architects. PDT estimated a cost of \$13,000, Merriam attached a rate schedule for specific work. Other entities joining us in the endeavor have less flexibility with finances than we do, so the board is being asked to approve up to \$15,000 for architectural services, with the hope that we will get most of it back if the grant is approved.

Motion by Dawn Robbins, second by Ronald Kennedy, and voted (unanimously) to approve up-fronting expenses associated with writing of the CTE FEDES grant.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** Motion by Charles Peterson, Jr., and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald C. Ramsay  
Secretary to the Board

MEETING SUMMARY, AUGUST 29, 2018

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

2. APPROVED minutes of the July 25, 2018 Regular meeting;
7. TABLED agenda adjustments;

B. OLD BUSINESS

None

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. HIRED Harry Thompson as ½ time PE teacher and ½ time SpEd Ed Tech III at NHS;
2. HIRED Amanda Kowalsky as SpEd Ed Tech II at DW Merritt;
3. HIRED Ashley Alley as Secretary at DW Merritt;
4. HIRED Erica Thompson as long-term PreK substitute at DW Merritt;
5. HIRED Elisabeth Dudley as Occupational Therapist;
6. HIRED soccer coaches—Harry Beal, DWM; Michael Peterson, HN; Galen Elliott, ML; Roberto Vasquez, volunteer assistant at ML; HIRED cross country coaches—Amanda Kowalsky-DWM; Kandi Robertson, HN; Moriah Nichols, volunteer assistant HN; Donald and Richard Parker, co-coaches at ML.
7. HIRED Russell Vivier as Jr. High Volleyball Coach; Harry Thompson as Jr. High Cross County Coach; and Daniel Kane as volunteer assistant for 9-12 boys' soccer.
8. HIRED Eric Beal as varsity girls' basketball coach;
9. APPROVED pilot grading system for PBE at NHS for 18-19;
10. APPROVED up-fronting expenses associated with writing of FEDES CTE grant (up to \$15,000)