

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #16 SCHOOL BOARD  
Mechanic Falls - Minot - Poland**

**The 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the RSU #16 School Board  
for 2010 - 2011 was held  
Monday, May 2, 2011 at 5:30 P.M.  
in the Poland Regional High School Library**

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**MINUTES**

**Present:** Annette Annance, Terri Arsenault, Carl Beckett, Sue Callahan, Norm Davis, Dave Griffiths,  
Melissa Hodgkin, Steve Holbrook, Mary Ella Jones, Jeanne Manley, Scott Sawyer,  
Martha Stone, Jack Wiseman  
**Absent:** Yvette Murray

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** Dave Griffiths, Chair

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- .1 **5:30 P.M.** To consider the possible suspension or expulsion of a public school student  
pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6) (B).
- .2 **6:00 P.M.** To consider the possible suspension or expulsion of a public school student  
pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6) (B).

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to enter into Executive Session at 5:30 PM.

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to come out of Executive Session at 7:00 PM.

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

Executive Session for student X, cancelled.

Dave Griffiths called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dave Griffiths read a resolution. On April 2, 2011, student (Y) was involved in conduct that was deliberately disobedient and disorderly at PRHS. It is necessary to suspend student (Y) from school until the end of the current school year.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to suspend student (Y) through the end of the school year

Seconded: by Annette Annance

Vote: Unanimous

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**2.0 PRESENTATIONS:**

- Solar Panels @ WMS – Shane Barker (continued from last month) Two Reps from Revolution Energy (Tabled)
- Speech & Debate Team Performance – D’Arcy Robinson  
D’Arcy Robinson talked about the Speech & Debate Team and the honor of being chosen for the National Competition. There were presentations for the board by three students. Oratory presentation by Jackie Joncas and Duo Interpretation by Elijah Breton and Tyler Myers.
- Project Graduation – Parents Terry Girouard & Sue Goulet updated the board on Project Graduation, which takes place June 5th after graduation. Project Graduation started fundraising last August and they are done. It is usually a secret where they go, so that it’s a surprise for the seniors. This year they are going to the Alford Youth Arena at the Waterville YMCA. Activities and food have been planned for the entire night.  
Parents and teachers will be chaperoning. Cost, not including food, prizes and tokens for the kids, was \$6,900. Over 60 area businesses donated to the Price is Right fundraiser. Cari Medd thanked all the parents who have put a tremendous amount of time and energy into Project Graduation. She thanked Mary Martin for allowing the Price is Right fundraiser to come over to PRHS from the Elm Street 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Food Service – Betty Hayes  
Betty Hayes provided an overview of the Food Service Program in RSU16. She provided information on her background and the organizations she is involved with and current work within the federal government with regards to school lunch. She provided graphs of the sales for the district for the last two years.  
Terri said she would like to see the full food service budget. She asked, if we raise the price what is our plan, as she does not want anyone not eating. Betty said they are working on a number of programs to assist.  
Norm said a few years ago the program was close to breaking even now we seem to be going in the other direction. Why aren’t we charging more for adults? Dennis said with what we charge the staff will buy food here instead of bringing it in.  
Steve Holbrook asked why the federal government is going to mandate what we have to charge for hot lunch? Betty explained that it is part of the reauthorization bill (every 5 years).  
Mary Ella asked when the new prices would be going into effect. 2014. You have to get as close to the rate of reimbursement (for free and reduced) as possible for both breakfast and lunch. Betty shared what other districts around the state are charging for lunch.  
Terri asked if they are they going to change the income guidelines? Betty said they usually do every year.  
Sue said her kids love their school lunch, but it adds up fast for parents and she worries about the ones who pay full price and pricing kids out of a nutritious lunch. Thank you for providing teachers a nutritious lunch at a reasonable price.  
Scott asked if this would include the ability to buy locally grown products as a way to reduce costs? Betty said she is in some opposition to that, due to the minimally processed food guidelines.
- Chad Petherbridge – School-to-Work

Chad talked about the School- to-Work program at PRHS. These are Special Ed students who are enrolled in the program through their IEP after not having had success in other programs. Things are done differently in STW. We try to provide them with a highly structured environment and look at the real world including employment, lifestyle expectations, and map out their future. They have hands-on opportunities academically with projects and get out in the community volunteering. They have been to the animal shelter and the food bank. They work on healthy lifestyles and harassment issues. There are currently ten (10) students in the program.

Chad talked about the Boat Project – It came from a kit he purchased at a discount from a former PRHS science teacher. He did a slide show of the boat building. It was a good experience of students working in the shop with other adults from the community, Don Stover and Steve Young. The boat is now being raffled and the drawing is the day after graduation. The shop space at ESS was utilized for the project.

**3.0 ACT ON MINUTES:** Approve 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes – 4-4-11

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept the minutes of the 4/4/11 meeting  
Seconded: by Jeanne Manley  
Vote: Unanimous

**4.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** Approve Financial Statement of April 2011

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to accept the Financial Statement for April 2011  
Seconded: by Jack Wiseman  
Vote: Unanimous

**5.0 NEW BUSINESS:**

- Approve overnight field trip (Dallas, Texas) – Speech & Debate Team  
Motion: by Terri Arsenault to approve the overnight field trips to Dallas, TX and Washington, DC for the Speech & Debate Team  
Seconded: by Jack Wiseman  
Vote: Unanimous for both
- New contracted staff hires during July  
Dennis explained that this is an annual process in July to authorize him to hire because there is no July meeting. Mary Ella added that if we hire at an administrative level, then a school board member would be involved.

**Sub-Committees:**

Public Relations Committee Report – No update.

Budget Committee Update:

- Dave Griffiths – simple math tells me that if we pass this budget, a \$300,000 house in Minot will add \$20 a month in extra taxes. Poland & Mechanic Falls will pay an extra \$10.00 per month, but we need to take care of the needs of our kids who don't have a vote. Jeanne suggested a breakdown of what each town would pay extra for each \$100,000 of value.

- Annette – We have people on fixed incomes that cannot absorb that cost.
- Terri – Is it appropriate for her to answer the letter in the Sun Journal? If people are going to say the numbers, than they need to say them correctly. Dennis agreed that some of the facts might be distorted about the current budget.
- Jeanne – How we can say this is the only increase without having finished negotiations? It was discussed that whatever gets approved is all the money we will have.
- Terri – Understands that Minot has had more increases, but it's important to explain to people that it's because of the cost-sharing formula and not increases in the budget. Consolidation has hurt Minot in this regard.
- Carl reminded us that when it was Union 29 three years ago, the budget was over \$19 million. This budget is less than that.
- Mary Ella – In looking at school committee stipends, maybe we should have an additional stipend for subcommittee chairs, which might change our approach and do more in subcommittee work.
- Sue – We should step up to the plate and take that responsibility on without pay. We could look at cutting the number of members on the board, we have 15 members. Maybe we only need nine people on this board. With fewer members there would be more committee work for each member.
- Norm – We should work a little closer with the towns when putting together our budget. Jack agreed that working with the town budget committees is a good idea. Part of the disconnect in the community is the difference between the town budget and the school budget. Dave agreed, last year we invited all those appointed administrative officials to meetings and they were good meetings. We should do that again. This year we only invited them into the public meeting.
- Terri – In two years we have to look at the funding formula again and that is when we should decide if we want to restructure the board.
- Negotiations Committee – Dennis reported that the next meeting is May 12, 2011.
- Facilities Committee – Rick reported that the facilities assessment will be completed by the end of the month

## **6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION – REPORTS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

- A-team Reports  
Dave reviewed some highlights from the A-team reports.
- School Health Coordinator Grant – Gary Chapin  
On April 11, 2011, Gary received a letter from Healthy Maine Partnerships to inform us we have received a \$350,000 grant so that we can hire a District Health Coordinator. It is a 5-year fully funded position. This person coordinates all the various aspects of district work that affects the health of kids and oversees the health vision of the district.  
Motion: by Terri Arsenault to accept the grant and approve the addition  
Seconded: by Jeanne Manley  
Vote: Unanimous  
Norm asked if there was any language in the grant that specifies that at the end of the grant we have to keep the person. We went through this with the school resource

officer. After three years the grant ran out, it was mandated that we had to keep the position for another two years. There is no language like this in this grant.

Terri – What are the required credentials for the position? Gary said it could be a nurse, teacher, social worker, etc. Carl asked if they would they be grant writing as well, and Gary said yes.

- 7.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:** Report of the Superintendent – Dennis Duquette
- Mary Martin has made the decision to retire for personal reasons. She said it has been an extraordinary year for her and she has had 27 years in this district.
    - Adult Education location update

Dennis provided an update about Adult Ed moving. The original plan was to move to the Head Start building in Mechanic Falls and lease for \$1 per year with a 20-year lease. The costs were astronomical (\$70,000). They narrowed it down again to \$39,000. That is ¼ of our CIP fund for the district. Dennis is proposing that the Adult Ed program move into Elm Street School. They would be in their own wing separate from the rest of the school. He reviewed the pros and cons on moving to ESS.

      - Nancy Watson – There is an additional \$10,000 in the FY 2012 Adult Ed budget to add to the \$30,000 from CIP. Adult Ed hasn't asked for a lot in years past and it has always been a flat amount. She said at ESS the doors would need a handicap accessible door. Staff & students would need a key to enter the ESS wing. The handicap people would have an issue, so they would need a door buzzer. In an emergency someone with limited mobility would be behind locked doors. She provided a handout of what she believed would need to be done at Elm Street and the potential costs.
      - Annette – Couldn't they install a wheelchair ramp? Nancy said she hasn't looked into that. Jeanne asked if we could get an estimate on a ramp. Dennis said we could, but we already have handicap access to the building.
      - Terri asked what time frame they would be coming into the school. 9 AM until 2:30 PM and then evening hours.
      - Dave – If this goes to ESS we will hear from some parents.
      - Jack – Mindful of the money that Adult Ed brings in, but the kids' safety and their place in that building takes top priority. There are also busses and people constantly coming and going.
      - Dennis said it's difficult not to paint a negative picture with this discussion. We need to look at the financial picture. I wouldn't propose it if I didn't think it would work. We have to maintain a day and a night program. I think the bathroom and the traffic can be worked out. We don't even own the Head Start building.
      - Mary Martin said she felt it could work and the challenges could be addressed.
      - Carl – Has supported Adult Ed for as long as he can remember. These kids end up in Adult Ed because school has failed them or they have failed school. Clarifying, is the cost of the Head Start building \$40,000 and the cost of ESS \$20,000?
      - Nancy – it would be \$30,000 from CIP and \$10,000 from the Adult Ed budget for the Head Start building.

- Annette – Doesn't think it a wise idea to put Adult Ed at ESS.
- Missy – How many 16 to 20 year olds do we have in a given year? Nancy – typically we have more 17 year olds than any other particular age.
- Norm – Doesn't see any tremendous savings no matter what way we do it.
- Jack – Request a legal opinion from Drummond Woodsum regarding having sex offenders on the premises.
- Dennis – Currently, Adult Ed is offered in public school buildings around the state. Drummond Woodsum says you can serve the sex offenders after school is out in the evening. Many Adult Ed programs are housed in the local school buildings.
- Steve– Make sure we look at the costs of maintaining that Head Start building over the years and what it needs.
- Mary Ella – What have we been spending for the current lease? \$15,000 per year. Could we have a site visit to the two potential facilities and then make the decision?

Motion: by Carl Beckett to accept the Head Start building as the Adult Ed facility

Seconded: by Norm Davis

Vote: 6–5 (Mary Ella Jones abstained) (See tally sheet)

- Support Staff New Hires:
  - Andrew McBean, Mechanic
  - Tamra Wight, Ed Tech II (BMWMS)
- Handouts:
  - Snow days piling up in local schools
  - Kearsarge Extended Learning Network
  - Maine Principals' Association – Great Beginnings
  - Maine School Nutrition Association
  - Maine Association of School Libraries
  - Adult & Community Education graduation
  - Poland Community & Economic Development Committee RSU #16 School Board Representative

## **8.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None

## **9.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:**

None

## **10.0 COMMUNICATIONS:** Communications to the School Board

None

## **11.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Discussion of personnel issues pursuant under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A)

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to enter into Executive Session at 9:46 PM.

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Terri Arsenault to come out of Executive Session at 9:57 PM.  
Seconded: by Steve Holbrook  
Vote: Unanimous

**12.0 REMINDER:**

**13.0 ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 9:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis J. Duquette