

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #16 SCHOOL BOARD

Mechanic Falls – Minot - Poland

The 7th Regular Meeting of the RSU #16 School Board
for 2012–2013 was held

Monday, February 25, 2013

6:30 P.M.

Poland Regional High School, Library

MINUTES

Present: Eleanor Biron, Jennifer Boenig, Sue Callahan, Steve Holbrook, Mary Ella Jones, Tina Love, Mary Martin, Joe Parent, Ed Rabasco, Scott Sawyer, Jessica Smith, Scott Tiner, Jack Wiseman
Absent: Grace Gendron, Melissa Hodgkin, and Delaney Woodford

1.0 **CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Ella Jones, Chair, Pledge of Allegiance
Mary Ella Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance

2.0 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

3.0 **RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Cari Medd, PRHS Principal was congratulated for being a finalist and runner up for *Maine Principal of The Year*.

Tami Wight, Author and WMS Education Technician is publishing a book Cooper and Packrat: Mystery on Pine Lake.

Jennifer Boenig announced a March 8th fundraiser for Rusty Goulet, an alumni who was in a snowmobile accident and lost his home to a fire while in the hospital.

Delaney Woodford, Student Representative to the school board has achieved High Honors.

ACTION ITEMS:

4.0 **AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:**

5.0 **PRESENTATION:**

5.1 To hear a request from Skip Crosby to approve a trip with students to Guatemala.

Skip Crosby, HS Spanish teacher asked permission to take a group of students to Guatemala City for a program called Safe Passage. This would be a service-learning project. Students will be working with children who have been saved from the garbage dump and it would include a lot of language learning. They would be working with 550 children who have been rescued. A weeklong project will be created to work with these kids who represent the interests and talents of the group of students going. Dan Bennett has just returned from his 6th trip to Guatemala City and has learned about all the safety precautions taken to keep kids safe. The minimum number of students going would be eight.

Joe Parent asked why only juniors would get Community Service hours. Cari Medd explained that part of the work we do as junior class is a day of service work during the junior year. It is attached to the RT grade, and advisors track it.

Tina Love asked about liability insurance. \$75 pays for an insurance policy.

Motion: by Joe Parent to approve the trip in April 2014 to Guatemala City

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

5.2 To hear a presentation from Craig Freshly on the results from the surveys, public meetings, and meetings with teachers, administrators and teacher that will inform the development of the strategic plan.

Kerri Sands (?) provided an overview of the work Good Group Decisions has guided the board on with the Strategic Plan. A more in-depth two-hour work session will take place on March 4th at 6:30 PM with the school board.

The online surveys had 350 community responses and 130 staff. Student input was collected in Roundtable; that was sent as an addendum via email.

Three community meetings were held, one in each town. The Public Relations subcommittee and principals attended. They had table discussions, then a broader group discussion.

They met with teacher team leaders in each school and town officials from each town to collect input.

Mike Wilhelm asked Kerri from her experience if this was a typical response collection. Kerri said it is more than they would typically get. She felt that our community was well prepared and ready to respond to surveys and provide input and feedback.

Craig wanted to pose two questions to the board to consider for the next work session.

1. Based on input and findings, what are your ideas for key strategies to include in the new strategic plan?
2. What most needs to be done to improve board governance?

The consensus of the board was that they would meet on March 4th for the workshop at 6:30 PM.

6.0 **ACT ON MINUTES:** Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of 01/14/13

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the minutes of the 01/14/13 meeting

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

7.0 **ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** Approve Financial Statement of Jan2013

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the Financial Statement for January 2013

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

Mike explained that we are about 58% through the fiscal year and revenues are right on track with money remaining in the budget at 46%, which says our vigilance about discretionary spending, is working.

He reviewed the preliminary findings from the state for GPA for local schools. We will receive a gain of \$387,307 because valuations have gone down and student count has gone up.

Jack asked if the PreK population was part of the increased student count and Mike responded absolutely yes.

8.0 **OLD BUSINESS:**

9.0 **NEW BUSINESS:**

9.1 Gran Turismo of colleges in New Hampshire and Vermont – Patrick Flynn

These are the trips we provide so that students have support looking at post-secondary education.

Patrick Flynn provided a handout regarding the 10th Annual Gran Turismo college visit trip. 44 students and 4 chaperones will be going. It fills very quickly.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the out-of-state Gran Turismo college visit trip from March 20th to March 22, 2013

Seconded: by Sue Callahan

Vote: Unanimous

9.2 To consider the use of Athletic participation fees to be used to pay off the lights - Cari Medd

Cari reviewed the participation fees collected since the 2010-2011 year with a proposal for how it will be spent.

Motion: by Scott Sawyer to use student activity funds to pay off field lights

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Scott Sawyer to authorize them to go to bid for the gym sound system and move \$5,000 into the athletic budget extra-curricular from the fees

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

9.3 To hear a request to change the graduation requirements - Cari Medd

Cari submitted a Proposal to change the current Integrated (PE/Health) Wellness course requirement to the more traditional two semesters of PE and one of Health beginning with the Class of 2017. It is difficult to schedule students in the current format. This would award ½ credit of Health and 1 credit of PE.

Motion: by Scott Sawyer to allow the graduation requirement change as requested

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

9.4 To hear a report from Tina Meserve on the RSU #16 NECAP scores for grades 3-8.

Tina provided a handout and overview of the NECAP Scores from each school. The district is above state average in all areas. 3% gain in Reading, 5% gain in Math and 4% gain in Writing.

9.5 To consider the Maine Department of Transportation's offer of \$4,500 for the taking of .21 acres of land for the repaving of Route 26. The DOT is asking for this narrow strip of land along Route 26 for its reconstitution of Route 26.

Mike explained the maps/charts for the .21 acres needed for the repaving.

Motion: by Scott Sawyer to accept the DOT proposal of \$4,500 for the .21 acres

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

9.6 Delayed start proposal.

Mike explained that there is not enough staff development time in the calendar to get the work done that needs to be done. He is proposing a one-hour delay one morning a week and get rid of early release days. He explained how this would be a cost-effective way to acknowledge the demands placed on teachers both internal and those outside the system.

Questions:

Tina Love – If we have a delayed start of one hour once a week, how would the students gain the time back? A: If we get rid of early release days, they would lose a small amount of time overall.

Jack Wiseman – Would teachers come in a half hour early on the one-hour delay day? Mike explained they would add 30 minutes of faculty meeting time on that morning to give you 90 minutes of professional development time on those mornings.

More discussion to follow at the April 8th school board meeting.

9.7 To consider a request by Paige Nixon for an unpaid leave of absence.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve an unpaid leave of absence for the first semester of the 2013-2014 school year for Paige Nixon

Seconded: by Jack Wiseman

Vote: Unanimous

9.8 To acknowledge the intended retirement of Suzanne Madden, MCS teacher effective August 31, 2013. She is a fabulous teacher.

10.0 **POLICIES:** To undertake a first reading of the following policies:

- BBBAB – Student Representative to the School Board
- CBD – Superintendent's Contract
- CHD – Administration in the Absence of Policy
- ECB-E1 – Pest Management Notification (Registry)
- ECB-E2 – Notice of Planned Pesticide Application
- GBN – Family & Medical Leave
- GBN-R1 – Family & Medical Leave Administrative Procedure
- GBN-R2 – Maine Family Medical Leave Administrative Procedure
- IHBAK – Life Sustaining Emergency Care
- IHBEA – Program for Limited English Proficient Students

- IL – Evaluation of Instructional Programs
- ILB – Testing Programs
- JICK – Bullying
- KE – Public Concerns & Complaints

Discussion:

Mary asked about bullying policy, Mike explained it is a brand new policy from the state.

11.0 **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION – REPORTS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

A Team Reports were provided in the packet.

Mary asked about the NEASC Summaries. Cari explained that they are prepared by the high school staff and the process they go through in creating them.

Mary thanked the principals for their reports, they are very helpful.

12.0 **REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:**

Sub-Committees:

- 12.1 Budget Committee - The 1/29/13 meeting minutes are in the packet. - Next meeting is 2/26/13 and every Tuesday night at 6:30 PM.
- 12.2 Curriculum Committee - N.A.
- 12.3 Facilities Committee - Meeting 6:30 PM this Thursday
- 12.4 Negotiations Committee – N.A.
- 12.5 Policy Committee – (above)
- 12.6 Public Relations Committee – See Strategic Plan update
- 12.7 Stipend Committee – Mike – stipend information has all been gathered. We will have an update next meeting.
- 12.8 Superintendent Search Committee – The minutes from the last two search committee meetings are in the packet.

Report of the Superintendent

- 12.9 Safety Works visit – Mike will provide a report at the next meeting; a lot of the issues were just cultural, nothing major.
- 12.10 Letter to the board – Shannon Shanning – Maine’s Teacher of the Year sent a letter to the board about the high-quality education provided at WMS.
- 12.11 Support Staff New Hire:
 - ✓ Mike O’Leary – Asst. Football Coach, PRHS
 - ✓ Kaitlyn Moreau – JV Softball, PRHS

13.0 **COMMUNICATIONS:** Communications to the School Board

14.0 **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

15.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wilhelm