

Our Mission is to prepare and support all students within a culture of excellence to do their best and to be their best, so that each can be a successful contributing citizen, able to adapt to change and to successfully respond to the future.

RSU 16

Mechanic Falls * Minot * Poland

the 7th Regular School Board Meeting
for 2021-2022 was held
Monday, January 11, 2021
6:30 p.m.

>>>>> VIA REMOTE <<<<<<

MINUTES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: Mary Martin, Chair Pledge of Allegiance & Mission Statement

Pursuant to subsection 403-A of 1 MRSA (Maine Revised Statutes Annotated), we will now confirm that each member of the Regional School Unit 16 School board can both hear and be heard. We will do this by calling the roll, members present are asked to say Yeah. We ask all other members to listen and report any audio difficulties when the roll call is complete.

Poland	Minot	Mechanic Falls	Student Rep
Ed Rabasco	James Crouse	Amber Lyman absent	Amy Fryda absent
Joe Parent	Laura Hemond	Arleena Stotts	Anna Brettler
Melanie Harvey	Mike Downing	Kelsey Earle	
Norm Beuparlant	Mike Lacasse absent	Mary Martin	
Norm Davis	Steve Holbrook	Travis Ritchie	

To join the School Board meeting via Zoom Webinar, the link is listed below.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/99602087197?pwd=RzFIWFN4UmNQWFp3UmZ6YjVkJkQ3MzUT09>

Passcode: 230975

Webinar ID: 996 0208 7197

FOR ALL VOTES

Pursuant to subsection 403-A of 1 MRSA, item D. –“All votes taken during the public proceeding are taken by roll call vote”. To the question before the board, I will call the roll, those in favor of passage are asked to say yea, those opposed say nay; members wishing to abstain may do so by stating abstain.

Poland	Minot	Mechanic Falls	Student Rep

Ed Rabasco	James Crouse	Amber Lyman absent	Amy Fryda absent
Joe Parent	Laura Hemond	Arleena Stotts	Anna Brettler
Melanie Harvey	Mike Downing	Kelsey Earle	
Norm Beuparlant	Mike Lacasse absent	Mary Martin	
Norm Davis	Steve Holbrook	Travis Ritchie	

2.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: (10 minutes)

No requests for public participation

3.0 RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (5 minutes)

Congratulations December Optimist Student of the Month – *Boden Jones*, 6th Grade, Poland Community School.

Congratulations to Jill Mathieu who participated in the Maine Moose Project.

Thank You Tri-Town Optimist Club for the Elm Street School donations and support.

Congratulations to Amy Fryda for placing first in Program Oral Interpretation in her last two speech tournaments.

Thanks to D'Arcy Robinson, Amy Hediger, and Linda Chaisson for their support in making it possible for the Poland

Players to do a virtual production on January 15th, at 7:00 p.m. titled How to Survive a Shakespeare Play.

Appreciation to Ken and Amy for frequent staff and community updates.

Before holiday break, the School Board shared a message with staff, which Mary shared again at the meeting.

4.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

5.0 PRESENTATIONS: (20 minutes)

None

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA INTRODUCTION: (5 minutes)

Approve 12-14-20, 6th Regular Meeting Minutes

Notification of Support Staff New Hire:

Notification of new Coaches:

- Kristin Ross, Head Coach Indoor Track – PRHS
- Laurie Gaudreau, Head Coach Outdoor Track & Field – PRHS

Notification of Retirement:

Notification of Resignation:

- Rich Rzycki, Custodian - MCS

Sub Committee's December Minutes – No meetings held

- Operations
- Personnel & Finance
- Educational Policy Committee

Friends of RSU 16 Agenda – no meeting scheduled

Motion: by Norm Beuparlant to approve Consent Agenda

Seconded: by Mike Downing.

Vote: Unanimous

Correction needs to be made for 12-14-20 minutes - name should be Tracy Francis.

7.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL SUMMARIES: Stacie Field (10 minutes)

Only section below 50% is Board of Directors due to the audit being complete and paid in full. Other areas that were below 50% have been discussed before. Adult Ed looks in red, but there is plenty in fund balance and the 16-20 transfer. In food service, outstanding subsidiary to be received is \$53,342.26. The \$75,000 transfer to food service was done after the town budget meeting. We have to estimate the loss, which isn't known until June. Norm Davis recommends looking at this every year, as we had a large deficit in the past. Stacie stated we recommend an amount for the district budget meeting, but don't have the final figures at that time. Mary notes as we work on the budget for next year, we will look.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept the Financial Summaries

Seconded: by Norm Beuparlant

Vote: Unanimous

8.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (10 minutes)

Updated 2020-2021 School Calendar

The current enrollment of Regional School Unit 16 as of January 11, 2021 is:

Elm Street School (230 – no change)

Minot Consolidated School (225 - no change)

Poland Community School (427 – up 4)

Bruce M. Whittier Middle School (271 – down 1)

Poland Regional High School (470 – down 3)

Total Enrollment 1623- no change from 12/14/20

VL5 (169 0 down 2) from 12/14/20

School calendar with Cohort days has been sent out for remainder of the year. This does not mean we will not go full time, if the conditions support that. We just didn't want to keep sending out calendars periodically.

I will be attending the MSSA sponsored Superintendent's Annual Convocation (Conference) via zoom January 14th and 15th.

On January 1st the new Transportation Work Agreement went into effect and I met with all van drivers, bus monitors, and bus drivers today to answer any questions they might have about the new agreement. I feel that the meeting went well and staff appeared pleased. Amy, Craig and Fred were in the meeting, as well.

Thankfully our CFR 2 grant fund deadline has been extended to June 30th. This will ensure that we are able to complete the installation of the remaining individual ventilators, install new mounted projectors in some classrooms, and install the playground equipment at all three elementary schools in better weather. The equipment is in storage until the spring.

It also appears we will be eligible for some additional grant money we are waiting for the DOE to inform us on our allocation. It will not be as big as before.

Central Office will be closed all day on January 15th because the heat and power will be off most of the day to connect the new heating system.

Mary Martin asked, if with the extension of the deadline, do we still need the loan for the cash flow issues? Stacie Field reports we have not had to touch that money yet, as DOE has been efficient with processing invoices. Stacie would like to wait and see how the next process goes. We will not hold onto the money any longer than necessary.

Travis Ritchie asked how the ventilation system installation is going across the district. Ken reported that exit vents in non-classrooms now need to be installed. We are in pretty good shape, but would like to see what else we can complete with the new funding. We did not have the capacity to take on the \$11 million ventilation work, so this is a bridge until the district is in the position to do that.

Kelsey Earle asked if ESS will have improved wheelchair access to the playground. Ken said that we will be working on this in the spring, as maintenance.

9.0 ASST. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (10 minutes)

Amy reviewed re-opening plans. November 15th was when our county went to yellow. All extra-curricular activities are virtual during this day. Students attend cohorts and attend in person and hybrid. For VL5, the middle and high school use Edgenuity and the elementary is considered its own school. Some students attend five days a week based on their programming.

Updates about positive Covid cases have been community and household-based, and not school-based. We have had limited close contacts as our protocols are working, and that keeps our doors open. In Friday's community update, we shared a video from Dr. Shah who reiterated how there is very little spread in schools. Thank you to all our families and students who make good choices. "Good Knights wear masks." While we remain in hybrid, Wednesdays are true half days for planning purposes. Our current busload is 23 students. DOE would need to decrease spacing on buses and while eating, and the county would need to be green at least two weeks before we could move to a five day-a-week plan. We need to be very thoughtful, as there will be impacts on students, staff and families if we switch and then need to switch back. We have had one snow day, and will have three more before we switch to remote days. Thank you to IT for keeping us connected. We doubled our devices, but not our IT staff. Thank you also to our nursing staff who are

keeping us healthy. Thank you to transportation, maintenance and our administrators and staff for being the rock families rely on.

Norm Beuparlant reinforced how much he appreciates getting the information from the district. It shows that staff is staying on top of things and doing the best we can.

Leena asked if there have been any conversations about vaccination of RSU 16 community and staff. Ken shared that we are still working on trying to get a waiver to be a test site. We are not close to having a priority notice on vaccination of staff. As soon as we have that information, we will share it. It may be a month or more before we know priority of schools.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS: (45 minutes)

Formally establish the 2020-2021 Budget Committee

This will start the beginning of March. Ed Rabasco and Norm Beuparlant will represent Poland; Mary Martin and Kelsey Earle will represent Mechanic Falls; Mike Downing can represent Minot and Jim Crouse will as well, if we don't have a second. These will be the Board representatives. Ken does not yet have community representatives. Ken hopes the committee will be able to meet at the Poland Fire Station, but at this current time they are not allowing the community into the building. This could change by March. Motion to have a committee of six board members and three community members.

Motion: by Mike Downing to have a budget committee of 6 board members and 3 community representatives

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

11.0 OLD BUSINESS:

12.0 POLICY:

13.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:

Student Representative: (5 minutes)

Anna Brettler - Hoping for a better new year. Vacation was much needed. Semesters will switch soon and PSATs will be in January. Sophomores are working on Celebration of Learning and Seniors on Senior Celebration. A lot is going on right now.

Report of the School Board Chair: (5 minutes)

Thank you for going to Central Office to sign warrants. Committee meetings will continue to be zoom meetings.

Attendance

- LRP/Board Governance

14.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

A-Team Reports

In A-Team reports it was noted that staffing at the high school is a challenge due to quarantines and A-Team is working to cover.

Pleased to hear about the positive impact on the learning environment due to lighting and the office completion at Minot.

We need substitutes.

Whittier is looking for judges for Whittier History Day—judging will be virtual this year.

15.0 COMMUNICATIONS:

16.0 HANDOUTS:

LRP Publications – December 2020

17.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

18.0 REMINDERS:

19.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 7:15 p.m.

Seconded: by Jim Crouse

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Healey