

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 4th Regular School Board Meeting for 2022 - 2023 was held
Monday, November 14th @ 6:30 p.m.
>>>> PRHS LIBRARY <<<<<**

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Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87038027522?pwd=Z0lzSVY4UEY3QndaRGVxL0pTR2FIZz09>
Passcode: 194909

Present: Mary Martin, Patrick Irish, Amber Lyman, Sarah Robinson, Christine Downs, Elizabeth Martin, Mike Downing, Melanie Harvey, Andrea Winn, Angela Swenson, Jessica Smith, Steve Holbrook, Ed Rabasco and Emily Rinchich
Absent: Joe Parent
Student Reps: Joe Elliot, Kadence Peters

MINUTES

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
Pledge of Allegiance & Mission Statement
Moment of silence for Sheryl Walters and Sarah McKinley
- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: (15 minutes)**
- Matt Garside, Town Manager of Poland, asked the Board not to approve the change to an April referendum, citing and elaborating on the administrative burden this would place on town staff.
 - Vic Hodgkins, Mechanic Falls Town Manager, asked the board not to change to the March/April budget schedule and return to the May/June schedule, explaining the negative impact to the towns.
 - Whitney King-Buker of Minot advocated for parent voice in our schools.
- 3.0 RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (5 minutes)**
Congratulations to October's Optimist Student of the month *Jason Letourneau*, Grade 6, Poland Community School.
Congratulations to
- District II Honors Chorus from Whittier - *Bella Hartman, Scarlett Quimi* and *Olivia Snowman*
 - District II Honors Chorus from PRHS - *Alex Picard, Rylee Smith, Nolan Garey, Audrey Fryda, Sophia Dolloff, Kayla Massey, Cheyenne Toth, Emma Moreau* and *Emma Daigneault*
 - Kayla Massey for placing in the Maine State Jazz Choir
- Thank You** to our **Fire Departments** for their support during "Fire Safety Week".
Mary acknowledged Whittier 5K efforts and announced that 8th grader *Dylan Cobb* placed first.
She also presented Board member, *Steve Holbrook*, with a certificate in recognition of 27 years of dedicated service to education in Maine from MSMA.
- 4.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:**
5.0 PRESENTATION: (20 minutes)
None.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA INTRODUCTION: (5 minutes)

Approve 3rd Regular Meeting Minutes of 10/3/22

Approve 1st Special Meeting Minutes of 10/12/22

Notification of Teacher & Support Staff New Hires:

Deanna Lilly - Nurse, PCS

Hunter Dufault - Theater Tech Director, PRHS

Rebecca Bear-Mann, Secretary - PCS

Notification of Retirement:

Notification of Resignations:

Jennifer Bartlett, Ed Tech - PCS

Sub Committee October Minutes

Operations

Personnel & Finance

Educational Policy

Educational Policy - **September Minutes**

Superintendent Search Committee

October 5, 2022 Minutes

October 25, 2022 Minutes

Friends of RSU 16 – October Minutes

Next meeting at ESS on 12/9/22 @ 9:00 a.m.

Motion by Steve Holbrook to approve the Consent Agenda

Seconded by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

7.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL SUMMARIES: (10 minutes)

Stacie will report out at the December meeting.

8.0 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: (10 minutes)

Ken Healey shared current enrollment numbers at each of the schools and reported on his attendance at several recent trainings, meetings and events, including National Threat Assessment Training. He provided an update on the boiler issue at Minot Consolidated School, and outside consultant, Tom Seekins - President of EMC, was present with a boiler expert to share further information on what was done and what is still needed. A long-term plan will be needed to improve boilers in all elementary schools and will be proposed this budget cycle.

9.0 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: (10 minutes)

Amy Hediger referenced the 3 overarching goal areas for this year:

- Tier 1 Curriculum work – refreshing the Atlas Platform to make curriculum visible to the public by May 2023. Amy updated the Board on activities that the Curriculum Coordinating Council (CCC) and the District Professional Learning Committee (DPLC) have been doing to assess needs and provide staff with learning and development. She referenced our ‘grow your own’ approach.
- SEL – Social Emotional Learning. Amy reported out on the ESSER-funded, K-6 SEL Dean position and how she is supporting and advocating for Tier 1 classroom management.
- Staff Retention with a focus on Professional Learning Opportunities. Amy reported out on the work of teacher leaders and professional development happening in our schools. We have used the \$5,000 budgeted funds for getting out to conferences and workshops. She shared about the work of the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) team where a 6-hour course was completed with follow-up and exams. RSU 16 has the first team in Maine to be fully trained. Navigate 360 will be next for staff training.

Amy concluded by extending appreciation to the transportation and food service teams for their extraordinary efforts in the midst of staffing shortages.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS: (5 minutes)

Approve 2022-2023 Budget Timeline as recommended by the Personnel & Finance Committee at their 10/24/22 meeting.

Sub-committee Chair, Christine Downs, shared the committee's reasoning behind recommended changes to the budget timeline. She recognized the burdens to the towns, as well as District concerns for staffing classrooms and being able to hire in a timely manner. Discussions that followed included: volunteering time to help with elections; possibility of assisting with the financial burden to the towns; what other towns have for timelines; the need for an approved budget to address hiring, raising salaries to be more competitive and the ensuing burden to taxpayers.

Motion by Steve Holbrook to have our referendum in June to align with the 3 towns.

Seconded by Andrea Winn

Vote: For 452, Against 459

Does not carry.

Motion: by Mike Downing to go back to the March 21st date for the district budget meeting.

Seconded: by Patrick Irish

Vote: Does not carry.

Motion: by Jess Smith to send all dates back to the Personnel and Finance subcommittee for reconsideration after outreach to towns.

Seconded: by Amber Lyman

Vote: Unanimous

Approve Revised 22-23 School Calendar as recommended by the Educational Policy Committee at their 10/24/22 meeting.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the school calendar

Seconded: by Amber Lyman

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: Ken shared that we can no longer have a remote day on a snow day because we are required to feed students at school.

Approve 2022-2023 RSU 16 Board Goals

Motion: by Ed Rabasco to approve the Board goals

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: 13-1 (S. Holbrook)

Discussion: Mary revisited the activities leading up to the formation of these goals.

11.0 OLD BUSINESS: (15 minutes)

12.0 POLICIES: (10 minutes)

Approve final reading of below listed policies, as recommended with suggested changes by the Educational Policy Committee at their 10/24/22 meeting:

IJJ - Instructional & Library Materials Selection

IJJ-E - Citizen's Challenge Of Educational Media Form

IMBB - Exemption from Required Instruction

IJJ - Instructional & Library Materials Selection

Motion: by Emily Rinchich to amend Policy IJJ to include 2 additional subsections under *criteria for selection*:

K. not contain any visual or visually implied depictions of sexual acts, or simulations of such acts, and L. not contain explicit written descriptions of sexual acts.

Seconded: by Elizabeth Martin

Discussion: questions about sex education, science classes; concerns of book banning, challenges; recommendations from attorneys about language; intent of the motion; ‘subject to interpretation’; adequacy of current process; comparison to movies allowed in classrooms; recognition in the policy of trained professionals; creating a problem that doesn’t exist; leaving concerns up to parents; differences between written and visual; book purchasing process and vetting process; support for teachers through clear boundaries and guidelines; too many boundaries vs none; due diligence; trust in the current system.

Motion to amend: by Emily Rinchich to amend the motion to include: *not including materials with diagrams about anatomy for science or content relating to classical works of art*

Seconded: by Elizabeth Martin

Vote: For 351 Against 560

Motion to amend does not carry.

Vote: For 294, Against 617

Original motion does not carry.

Motion: by Jessica to approve Policy IJJ as recommended by the Ed policy committee.

Seconded: by Ed Rabasco

Vote: For 560, Against 351

Motion carries.

Discussion: Suggestions were made to create a separate policy for elementary schools, as well as to consider a vetting process for teachers bringing materials into their own classrooms. A clarification was made that the Board can revisit this to make adjustments to the policy through the subcommittee. Board members can ask to have it put on the agenda of the policy committee, as a stand-alone policy or an adjustment to this policy.

IJJ-E - Citizen's Challenge Of Educational Media Form

Motion: by Ed to approve as written

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

IMBB - Exemption from Required Instruction

Motion: By Ed to approve as written

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

13.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:

Student Representative: **(5 minutes)**

Joe and Kadence shared updates about winter sports, SRB projects and activities, Senior Celebrations and class fundraisers.

Report of the School Board Chair: **(5 minutes)**

- MSMA Fall Conference Update 10/27 and 10/28 - Mary Martin and Angela Swenson attended and shared highlights of their experience.
- Delegate Assembly - Andrea Winn reported out on policy changes that were addressed that day.
- School Board Goals
- Superintendent Search Committee - Mary updated the Board on the status of the search. The committee hopes to conduct interviews in mid-December with anticipation of a possible candidate being brought to the Board in January.
- Attendance

14.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

A Team Reports

15.0 COMMUNICATIONS:

Town of Poland Letter to the School Board
Town of Mechanic Falls Letter to the School Board

16.0 HANDOUTS: LRP Publication - October & November 2022
District Budget Meeting Survey Results

17.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

To enter into Executive Session regarding labor contract negotiation discussions pursuant under
1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)D

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to enter into Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

Seconded: by Angela Swenson

Vote: Unanimous

Open session reconvened at 8:58 p.m.

18.0 REMINDERS: *POLICIES WERE SIGNED*

19.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 8:59 PM

Seconded by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Healey