

**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 7<sup>th</sup> Regular School Board Meeting for 2022 - 2023 was held  
Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.  
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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, Christine Downs, Mike Downing, Elizabeth Martin, Angela Swenson, Jessica Smith, Steve Holbrook, Emily Rinchich, Andrea Winn, Joe Parent, Emily Rinchich and Sarah Robinson  
**Absent:** Ed Rabasco, Amber Lyman  
**Student Rep:** Joe Elliot, Kadence Peters  
**Melanie Harvey joined via remote around 7:10pm.**

## **6.0 Revisions in *Bold/Italic***

### **MINUTES**

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Martin  
Mary Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.  
Pledge of Allegiance & Mission Statement
- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: (15 minutes)**  
Mary Beth Taylor: Will the public be able to ask questions after the budget presentation? Would like to see lapel microphones in the budget for the board. Would like to see a second nurse at Poland Community School.
- 3.0 RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (5 minutes)**
- Job for Maine Graduates Maine Career Exploration Badge offers Maine high school juniors and seniors an opportunity to participate in 40 hours of meaningful work experience. **Congratulations to *Nick Garey*** for being the first student at PRHS to complete the badge! Nick spent his time at the Norway Veterinary Hospital experiencing what it is like to work as a Veterinarian.
  - **Congratulations** Whittier Spelling Bee winners *Aliyah Morgan - 1st place and Bella Hartman - 2nd place*
  - **Thank You to *Poland Fire & Rescue*** for providing First Aid & CPR training to our school staff.
  - National School Counseling Week - February 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>.
- 4.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:**
- 5.0 PRESENTATION: (20 minutes)**  
Shawn Vincent, WMS Principal  
***Strength at Whittier*** is an outstanding staff doing their best for the students. Challenge continues to be attendance, at around 91-92% (used to be 95% regularly). Upcoming events: Whittier History Day on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Open House that

day is from 8:15-9:15. Hosting Spelling Bee soon. A Writing teacher has been funded through an ESSER grant. Will be requesting this position continue in the district budget. This has given the students an 18% increase in language arts. Second goal is to maintain class sizes that do not exceed 21-22 students per class.

Working on Aspirations and getting students thinking about long term goals through the following:

1. Lewiston Regional Technical Center Mentor Program: students get connected to a high school student to experience the programs. Fifteen 8th graders participated the first semester and 20 the second semester.
2. Mid-Knight Fireslayers: collaboration with Poland Fire and Rescue, includes CPR/first aid and other skills and simulations.
3. Career Fair: collaboration with Central Maine Community College for 7th graders on March 14th.

## 6.0 CONSENT AGENDA INTRODUCTION: (5 minutes)

Approve 6<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of 12/12/22

### Notification of Support Staff New Hires:

- Everett McNally, Food Service - PCS
- Hannah Baldinelli, Ed Tech II - PCS
- Normand Letourneau, Bus Driver - District
- Leya Harvey, Ed Tech I - ESS
- Mitsou McKellick, Ed Tech III - ESS
- **Samantha Halmos, Ed Tech III - PCS**
- **Renee Tufts, Custodian - PCS**
- Tanya Vanasse, IT Technician - District

### Notification of Retirements:

- Tom Chaisson, Teacher - PRHS
- Catherine Rogers, Speech Pathologist - ESS
- Craig Worth, Director of Operations - District

Mary Martin - Appreciate all their work and will have an opportunity to honor them in the spring.

### Notification of Resignations:

- Kim Dunn-Anderson - Ed Tech III, PRHS
- **Rusty Andrews, Custodian - PCS**

### Sub Committee January Minutes

Operations

Personnel & Finance

Educational Policy

### Friends of RSU 16

January meeting canceled due to storm

**December minutes attached**

Next meeting at ESS on February 10, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.

**Motion by Steve Holbrook to approve consent agenda**

**Seconded by Mike Downing**

**Vote: Unanimous**

## 7.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL SUMMARIES: (10 minutes)

Approve Financial Summary as recommended by the Personnel & Finance Subcommittee at their 1/30/23 meeting.

Ken Healey shared that we are on track with about 50% expended. Still monitoring whether we can meet costs of Special Ed as budgeted.

**Motion by Mike Downing to accept the financial report**

**Seconded by Steve Holbrook**

**Vote: Unanimous**

## 8.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (10 minutes)

The current enrollment of Regional School Unit 16 as of February 13, 2023:

Elm Street School (243 - no change)  
Minot Consolidated School (225 - up 1)  
Poland Community School (443 - up 2)  
Bruce M. Whittier Middle School (279 - no change)  
Poland Regional High School (516 - down 9)  
Total Enrollment 1706 (down 6 from 1/9/23)

Have had two town manager breakfast meetings since the last meeting. Todd Sanders was in attendance at the February gathering.

Attended MSSA Convocation in Portland in January. There will be a presentation on Wednesday afternoon for staff on the current status of heating in the elementary schools and what they have faced. There have been heating issues in all three schools this year. Furnace cracked and broke on 10/1/22 at MCS and took until mid November for a solution, which was to rent a steam boiler. This has cost about \$75,000 so far plus additional costs to a total of \$90,000 beyond what was budgeted. Insurance is covering some of the costs, but will most likely result in an increase in our insurance costs. Additionally, if heating problems weren't enough, MCS has dealt with two other disruptions in the form of burst pipes and flooding within classroom spaces, library, and the nurses office this school year.

Please see the update letter to the community from 11/18/22 for additional information and concerns about the heating and ventilation systems in all three elementary schools. If we wait until a regular referendum to get a bond passed, the work won't be able to be done this year. Looking at a 1.8 million bond for Minot for heating and ventilation. Ken feels a decision needs to be made by March. Ken encouraged all Board members and Select People to listen in on Wednesday and hear the concerns. Right now in process with our Consultant to align contractors but if we don't have the funding we will lose those contractors. This needs to be done this summer as it will be disruptive and will take about a month and a half. Experts say the order of priority is Minot, then ESS, then PCS. Overall cost of all three schools is about \$4.8 million. Cost of the new school is likely around \$81 million (updated 2/20/2023). The Community has been clear that they like the neighborhood schools.

#### **9.0 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (10 minutes)**

January Workshop Day: Amy worked with staff at the middle school on standards, and attended an Expert Down the Hall in the elementary school in the afternoon. CPR and First Aid training was provided to 20 people that day, and will be offered again in March. We celebrated our School Counselors last week. Puberty education has started in grades 5 and 6. K-6 Behavior Specialist has provided two training sessions for bus drivers, as the bus is an extension of the classroom. We have a new Expectations for the Bus poster and a new behavior referral form. We have two counselors paid through ESSER funds, one at PRHS and one at PCS. They have important roles, and have provided additional support for students. Andrea Winn is the Board PR person and is doing a great job.

#### **10.0 NEW BUSINESS: (5 minutes)**

Approve the new pick-up truck with plow bid as recommended by the Operations Subcommittee at their 1/30/23 meeting.

Three bids and all equipped with a snowplow. Both Fords are on the lot, which is key. Ripley and Fletcher is the lowest bidder with a F250.

*Motion by Mike Downing to approve the bid*

*Seconded by Andrea Winn*

*Vote 12-1 (Steve Holbrook)*

Approve the EMC recommendations as presented by the Operations Subcommittee at their 1/30/23 meeting.

*Motion by Mike Downing to approve the EMC recommendations*

*Seconded by Steve Holbrook*

**Discussion:**

Joe Parent asked what this binds us to. Ken Healey said it just binds us to recommendations but not money, services, etc. Jess shared that this will bring out-of-date equipment up to standards for the next 30 years.

*Vote: Unanimous*

**11.0 OLD BUSINESS: (15 minutes)**

**12.0 POLICIES: (10 minutes)**

Approve 1<sup>st</sup> and final readings of below listed policies as presented by the Educational Policy Committee at their 1/30/2023 meeting.

- JLCDB - Naloxone “Narcan” Policy
- JLCDB-E - Standing Order for Administration of Naloxone “Narcan”
- JLCDB-R - Collaborative Practice Agreement

*Motion by Joe Parent to approve above 3 policies*

*Seconded by Mike Downing*

*Discussion:*

Policy JLCDB-E typo on #5 should read “if not breathing” not “and not breathing”

Motion amended to reflect that change.

*Vote: Unanimous*

Change was completed

**13.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:**

Student Representative: (5 minutes)

**Spirit Week this week—lots of fun—doing decades. Winter Carnival is this Friday—Seniors are feeling confident with their practice!** Basketball season is over, but it was fun to watch. Boys Hockey game is in the playoffs. NHS is doing a food drive this month and March district-wide. Can donate food or money. Goal is for everyone to donate five items or five dollars.

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

- Invite the three town councils to attend the April 10th school board meeting, at which time the board will approve the proposed budget. March 15th is the first Budget meeting, starting at 9:00, an all day meeting.
- Papers for the school board elections are available in Poland in March and due by April 14th. Two openings in Poland, two openings in Minot and one opening in Mechanic Falls.
- Attendance – Per Mary, just check that attendance is correct

**14.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:**

ATeam Reports (hd-mins): Mary thanked Administrators for keeping the board informed.

**15.0 COMMUNICATIONS:**

**16.0 HANDOUT:**

**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 Mike Downing to enter into executive session at 7:32 p.m.*

*Seconded by Steve Holbrook*

*Vote: Unanimous*

Open session convened at 7:55 p.m.

**18.0 REMINDERS:**

**19.0 ADJOURNMENT:**

*Motion by Mike Downing to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.*

*Seconded by Steve Holbrook*

*Vote: Unanimous*

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Healey