

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 8th Regular School Board Meeting for 2022 - 2023 was held
Monday, March 13th @ 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, Melanie Harvey, Sarah Robinson, Ed Rabasco, Amber Lyman

Absent:

Student Rep: Joe Elliot, Kadence Peters

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: Questions from budget meeting regarding bond - Didn't we just put in a bunch of heat pumps at Elm Street? If there is a new elementary school built in 5-7 years, is the school district going to try and give the bond back to the towns with the school buildings? Will it be a 20-year bond? What are the details about the interest rate?

3.0 RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (5 minutes)

- **Congratulations to *Aliyah Morgan***, runner-up at the Androscoggin County Spelling Bee and will have the opportunity to participate in the Maine State Spelling Bee.
- **Congratulations to *Emma Moreau***, Class of '23 Valedictorian
- **Congratulations to *Nicholas Garey***, Class of '23 Salutatorian
- **Congratulations to January's Optimist Student of the month *Kaiah McGarry***, 8th grader at Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
- **Congratulations to Optimist Oratorical winners: *Megan Gagnon (1st), Lilah Rose Pittman, 2nd and Bella Comeau, 3rd***
- **Congratulations members of the PRHS Track & Field State Meet.....**
 - 55m Dash: ***Nick Garey*** 6.72 (School Record)
 - 55m Hurdles: ***Nolan Garey*** 7.62 (State Record); 3rd in New England Regionals
 - 4 x 200m Relay, 1st Place: 1:35.23 (School Record): ***Nick Garey, Cadyn Langlois, Cohen Demuth, Nolan Garey***
- **Congratulations to the *PRHS Boys Basketball* Program**, winners of the Class B South Sportsmanship Award!
- **Congratulations Re-elected Minot School Board Members:**
Elizabeth Martin, 3 year term; ***Angela Swenson***, 1 year term

- **Congratulations** to **Mike Phillips**, who will play in the Class B Ice Hockey Senior All-Star game, and recently heard that he will also play in the Maine Shriners Lobster Bowl representing PRHS.
- **Congratulations** to **Shane Yorkey and Alyssa Hart** who will play in the Western Maine Conference Senior Basketball All-Star game.
- **Congratulations** to PRHS English teacher, **D'Arcy Robinson** who has been recognized with the National Speech & Debate Association District Coach of the Year Award.

4.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

5.0 PRESENTATION: (20 minutes)

Kristin Ross/Liz Howe - Senior Class Trip

Emma Moreau and Rylee Smith provided details of the rafting/overnight trip.

Parent information meeting will take place at a later time.

Approve Senior Class Trip

Motion by Mike Downing to approve trip

Seconded by Sarah Robinson

Vote: Unanimous

Erik Anderson, PRHS Principal

Erik shared highlights that he has been experiencing at the high school. He referenced letters for teachers who have been nominated as Teacher of the Year and is working with a student who had qualified to compete in Boston. Erik then shared examples of the high quality instruction he has been observing in classrooms in his recent classroom visits.

Conversation is happening amongst faculty about climate and culture and how to take steps to improve. Staff is working toward a State of the School Day. It is Student-led Conferences Week and students are also preparing for the Celebration of Learning.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA INTRODUCTION: (5 minutes)

Approve 7th Regular Meeting Minutes of 2/13/23

Approve 2nd Special Meeting Minutes of 3/2/23

Notification of Support Staff New Hires:

Shane Wilson - Coach, MS Baseball

Notification of Retirements:

Fred Barlow, Transportation Director - District

Laurie Sevigny, Teacher - PRHS

Mike Morrissette, Bus Driver - District

Elizabeth Fox, Bus Driver - District

Bruce Withers, Van Driver - District

Notification of Resignations:

Patrick Flynn - Assistant Principal - PRHS

Caroline Peinado, RTI Coordinator/Instructional Strategist - PRHS

Rebecca Bear-Mann, Secretary - PCS

Tina Laprell, Food Service - PCS

Sub Committee February Minutes

Operations

Personnel & Finance

Educational Policy

Friends of RSU 16

January meeting canceled due to storm

February & March minutes attached

Next meeting at ESS on March 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) - None

8.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (10 minutes)

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

Elm Street School (243 - no change)

Minot Consolidated School 226 - up 1)

Poland Community School (441 - down 2)

Bruce M. Whittier Middle School (279 - no change)

Poland Regional High School (514 - down 2)

Total Enrollment 1703 (down 3 from 2/13/23)

Met with the Town Managers for our monthly breakfast on March 8, 2023. The new superintendent, Todd Sanders, joined the breakfast. Participated in the Annual Education Job Fair on March 6, 2023 held at UMF.

The full budget committee presentation has been rescheduled to Thursday, March 16, 2023, same time and location 9:00 AM @ the Poland Fire Station. As the public budget meetings begin, I would like to make some observations about the proposed budget and why the increases are as significant as they are:

- Out of our control is that our town's valuation is up and the state is looking for the local towns to pay about \$814,000 additional in local revenue to meet the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) matching requirements.
- State subsidy has been reduced by \$47,000 primarily because the multiplier of economically disadvantaged has been reduced, and with free lunch for all we are not getting the free and reduced forms being filled out. This appears to be how the state paid for free lunch for all.
- The community continues to value three separate elementary schools even though some economy of scales could significantly reduce the overall budget. With long term expensive maintenance and facilities needed in all three elementary schools, the expansion of the budget is necessary to keep all three elementary schools open.
- We have heard a lot of community support for increasing our staff's salaries in order to remain competitive, thus allowing us to retain our quality staff and not losing them to a higher bidder. We are still in the middle of negotiations with all of our contracts, so our budget proposal is our best guess at what we think the contractual cost will end up being for next year.

There are many factors that explain the proposed increase and this budget is what it will cost to continue to operate our school at the status quo with minimal improvements.

9.0 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (10 minutes)

Amy shared the work of the Curriculum Coordinating Council, threat assessment policy timeline, and provided a verbal update on the Title I comparability corrective action between MCS and PCS.

Questions:

Emily Rinchich asked if there is classroom space at PCS to add another teacher. Amy Hediger said that there is classroom space available to bring down classroom sizes.

Andrea Swenson asked if local means district or just Minot? Amy said it is the district. Amy explained the relationship between the free and reduced lunch form and Title I.

Andrea asked about the opportunity for the staff member to return to Minot. Amy said that it has worked out that there is a space available for the staff member to return next year.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS: (5 minutes)

Approve Director of Operations Nomination

Ken Healey met with the nominee today. Patrick Irish shared about his experience as part of the interview committee.

Amy Hediger talked about John's skills. John Hawley will start on May 15th.

Motion by Mike Downing to approve the nomination of John Hawley as Director of Operations

Seconded by Joe Parent

Vote: Unanimous

11.0 OLD BUSINESS: (15 minutes)

12.0 POLICY: (10 minutes)

13.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:

Student Representative: **(5 minutes)**

Cadence and Joseph shared about some of the things going on at the high school, including choosing classes, student activities, and preparation for the Celebration of Learning. Joseph also talked about the work being done by the students with the Vision Keepers to change the school dress code.

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

- Budget Committee Update
The budget meeting has been moved to Thursday, March 16th.
- Start of Support Staff Contract Negotiations
The team has held their first meeting. The next meeting is March 15th.
- Attendance

14.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

A Team Reports (sv-mins)

15.0 COMMUNICATIONS:

16.0 HANDOUT:

17.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

18.0 REMINDERS:

19.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Steve Holbrook to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Seconded by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Healey