

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 9th Regular School Board Meeting for 2022 - 2023 was held
Monday, April 10th @ 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, Melanie Harvey, Ed Rabasco, Amber Lyman
Absent: Joe Parent, Sarah Robinson
Student Rep: Joe Elliot, Kadence Peters

REVISION in bold italic: 6.0 Resignation

MINUTES

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Martin
Pledge of Allegiance & Mission Statement
- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: (15 minutes)**
Steve Robinson - Does not support the heating bond due to the cost of the bond and the interest on the bond. He would rather see the bond be a 10 year bond vs a 20 year bond. He would support the project at only Minot at this time.
Gina Doughty - Discuss the bullying policy. She doesn't feel as though the policy is being adhered to. She would like to see more training for staff on the topic.
- 3.0 RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (5 minutes)**
Congratulations to Whittier Principal **Shawn Vincent**, on being named Maine's 2023 NASSP Principal of the Year.
Congratulations to **Hunter Oehme**, Grade 12, PRHS, March's Optimist Student of the Month.
Congratulations to **Nolan Garey** on being named the Sun Journal All-Region Indoor Track Athlete of the Year.
Congratulations to PRHS English teacher, **D'Arcy Robinson**, who has been recognized as the National Speech & Debate Association District Coach of the Year Award for Speech & Debate.
Congratulations to Sophomore **Hunter Gagnon** who earned the National Seal of Biliteracy. Hunter far exceeded the requirements on all skills on the AAPPL Proficiency Exam. The National Seal will be placed on his transcript. Hunter is the first PRHS student to achieve the Seal of Biliteracy.
Congratulations to **PRHS, BMWMS, Julia Edwards** and **Larry Williams** for the Spring Concert Coral & Band outstanding performance.
Congratulations to **Joseph Elliott** on receiving the Maine Principals Association PRHS Principal's Award.
Congratulations to **Parker Demelia, Samuel Tjalsma, Ben Cushman, Joseph Elliott, and Isaac Young** as winners of the 2023 Thomas Cup - each student receives a \$10,000 scholarship to Thomas College.

4.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:
5.0 PRESENTATION: (20 minutes)

National Speech & Debate Team - D'Arcy Robinson

* Approve out-of-state trip to Kentucky - National Speech & Debate Tournament

Motion by Mike Downing to approve the out of state trip to Kentucky - National Speech & Debate Tournament

Seconded by Emily Rinchich

Vote: Unanimous

Boston Aquarium trip for Grades 10th & 11th - Patrick Martin

* Approve out-of-state Boston Aquarium trip

Motion by Mike Downing to approve the out-of-state Boston Aquarium trip

Seconded by Angela Swenson

Vote: Unanimous

2023-2024 Budget Presentation

Mary Martin explained the budget process to the board and shared that the budget was approved by the Budget Committee. The tax impact being presented tonight is less than what the Budget Committee originally approved, due to a change in subsidies, lower cost of insurance and the removal of an originally budgeted for program.

Ken Healey, Stacie Field, and Amy Hediger shared an overview of the budget and the tax impacts for each of the three towns.

Amy Hediger shared the challenges currently facing the district, including aging buildings, teacher shortages, inequitable class sizes across the elementary schools, driver shortages, increasing salaries, Title I services and Title I comparability, and the rising costs of all materials. Amy shared about the brainstorming sessions with staff and the community forum considering these challenges.

Stacie Field shared and explained the revenue sheet. She explained that if the bond doesn't pass in May, then the amount for the bond payment would be removed before the budget goes to the referendum vote. Stacie explained the current fund balance and the amount that is being proposed to be used this year. The fund balance will be at the lowest level it has ever been at if we use this proposed amount. Stacie then reviewed the summary of each cost center with the board. New positions included in this budget are a second school counselor at PCS, social worker at PRHS, additional classroom teacher at PCS, Writing Teacher at BWMS, elevate Dean at ESS to an Assistant Principal, and elevate Dean of Special Ed to an Assistant Special Ed Director.

Board Discussion: Concern about using \$1.5 million of the fund balance this year and where that will put us next year with the budget and future salary increases. There was a discussion about the ESSER funds and how positions are being brought into the proposed budget. There was a question about the professional development line, and it was explained how these funds are used, many of these examples are contractual. There was a question as to if there was any way to make changes to the bond at tonight's meeting.

Public Comment on the 2023-2024 School Budget

Mary Beth Taylor - Would like to see subcategories in order to separate the teachers from deans to see what the teacher and student ratios really are more quickly. She also made suggestions on the bond to address the MCS project first and revisit the others.

Adam Bowie - Shared some funding options that he found that could be opportunities for addressing the heating projects instead of the bond. He shared concerns with the increase in the district budget over the past years.

Adopt 2023-2024 School Budget

Motion by Steve Holbrook to cut the proposed budget by \$300,000

There was no second, so the motion failed

Motion by Andrea Winn to adopt the 2023-2024 School Budget as proposed.

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: 12 - 1 (Steve Hollbrook)

Approve 2023-2024 Warrant Articles

Motion by Mike Downing to approve the 2023-2024 Warrant Articles

Seconded by Andrea Winn

Vote: 12 - 1 (Steve Hollbrook)

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA INTRODUCTION: (5 minutes)

Approve 8th Regular Meeting Minutes of 3/13/23

Notification of Teacher & Support Staff New Hire:

Melinda Whittier, Food Service Manager - PCS

Notification of Retirement:

Notification of Resignations:

Darcy Chase, Teacher - PRHS

Sarah Henderson, Teacher - BWMS

Greg Cooper, Custodian - MCS

Kaitlyn Bowie, Ed Tech - PCS

Tammy Swett, Ed Tech - PRHS

Drew Robbins, Teacher - PCS

Sub Committee March Minutes

Operations

Personnel & Finance

Educational Policy

Friends of RSU 16

Next meeting at ESS on April 14, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.

Motion by Mike Downing to approve the Consent Agenda

Seconded by Andrea Winn

Vote: Unanimous

7.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL SUMMARIES: (10 minutes)

Motion by Steve Hollbrook to approve the Financial Summaries

Seconded by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

8.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (10 minutes)

Ken shared the current student enrollment. He reported out on reading to the elementary students across the district. He participated in the staff and community brainstorming to address the needs within the district. He has been participating in staff negotiations. He also participated in the award ceremony for MPA Principal of the Year, Shawn Vincent.

9.0 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (10 minutes)

Amy shared the work she has done with the DPLC and the professional development day that was led by district teacher experts. She shared some NWEA samples with the board so that they could see what students are asked to do for state testing. Amy discussed the costs to keep all 5 school buildings open, and asked if it is still responsible to keep all three elementary buildings open while addressing the needs within the district. She shared themes that came out of staff and community brainstorming sessions. The most feasible option identified included going down to two elementary schools. Amy recommended the board creating a task force to consider future options and bring forth the options to the school board. Amy shared that Kaitlynn Brown has been asked to develop an emergency closure plan, should the bond not pass and if something happens to the building that will not allow MCS to remain open.

Motion by Emily Rinchich to create a task force to look at future options for the buildings

Seconded by Christine Downs

Vote: Unanimous

10.0 NEW BUSINESS: (5 minutes)

Approve PRHS Assistant Principal nomination - Katrina Meader

Motion by Ed Rabasco to approve the PRHS Assistant Principal nomination- Katrina Meader

Seconded by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

Approve Administrator Contracts: Erik Anderson, Shawn Vincent, Jess Madsen, Kaitlynn Brown, Holly Day, Brandi Comeau, Denelle Gendron, Katrina Meader, Don King. (Work agreement to be determined).

Motion by Mike Downing to approve the Administrator Contracts

Seconded by Andrea Winn

Vote: 12 - 1 (Steve Hollbrook)

11.0 OLD BUSINESS: (15 minutes)

12.0 POLICIES: (10 minutes)

Approve 1st & Final Reading of below policies as recommended by the Educational Policy Committee at their 3/27/2023 subcommittee meeting:

JJJ - Co-Curricular Eligibility

JKG - Behavioral Threat Assessment Management

CSTAG (Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines) Flowchart for School Leaders

Motion by Mike Downing to approve Policy JJJ

Seconded by Steve Holbrook

Vote: 12 - 1 (Christine Downs)

Motion by Mike Downing to approve Policy JKG

Seconded by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

13.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:

Student Representative: **(5 minutes)**

Joseph shared that the spring sports season has started. Celebration of Learning is coming up at the end of the month. He also shared about his experience participating in the Thomas Cup.

Cadence shared that AP tests are coming up. Prom is scheduled. Friday is a school-wide Wellness Day for students.

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

- Attendance

14.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

A Team Reports

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 8:21 p.m.

Seconded by Steve Hollbrook

Vote: Unanimous

Open session convened at 8:35 p.m.

18.0 REMINDERS:

19.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Andrea Winn to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

Seconded by Elizabeth Martin

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Healey