

**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 10<sup>th</sup> Regular School Board Meeting for 2022 - 2023 was held  
Monday, May 8<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, Joe Parent, Patrick Irish, Christine Downs, Mike Downing, Elizabeth Martin, Angela Swenson, Jessica Smith, Steve Holbrook, Emily Rinchich, Andrea Winn, Melanie Harvey, Sarah Robinson, Ed Rabasco, Amber Lyman

**Absent:**  
**Student Rep:** Joe Elliot

## **MINUTES**

## **REVISIONS in *Bold Italic* 6.0 & 10.0**

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Martin  
Pledge of Allegiance & Mission Statement  
Mary called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: (15 minutes)**  
**Steve Robinson** - heating contractor presentation was enlightening, curious as to the presentation being made to the whole board.
- 3.0 RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (5 minutes)**  
**Congratulations** to Oratorical Contest winners: ***Megan Gagnon, 1<sup>st</sup> Place*** and ***Lilah-Rose Pittman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place***, both 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Minot Consolidated School.  
**Congratulations** to the Whittier Middle School students who traveled to UMaine Orono for Maine's National History Day competition.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** Group Website: ***Skye Loring-Dymond, Irelyn Smith***; **3<sup>rd</sup> place:** ***Phoebe Paradis***  
Group exhibit: **3<sup>rd</sup> place:** ***Avian Banaitis, Lily McAlister***  
Papers: **3<sup>rd</sup> place:** ***Isaac Lizotte***  
Website: **3<sup>rd</sup> place** ***Brayden D'Auteuil***  
**2<sup>nd</sup> place** Performance: ***Madelyn Mars Mitchell***  
Exhibits: **2<sup>nd</sup> place** ***Alyssa Mason***; **3<sup>rd</sup> place:** ***Leksi Langevin***  
**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places** qualify for Nationals.  
**Congratulations** to ***Nichole Bryant*** who was honored with the RISE (Recognizing Inspiring School Employees) award. This Maine Department of Education honors and promotes the excellence exhibited by classified school employees who provide exemplary service to students in pre-kindergarten through high school.  
**Great Job** to Whittier students: ***Eli Culleton, Kaleb Christner, Cameron Cunningham, and Dylan Cobb*** who participated in the Maine Music Educators District II Honors Jazz Festival at Greeley High School.  
**National Nurses Day, May 6<sup>th</sup> - THANK YOU** to all of our ***Nurses*** here at RSU 16!  
**Educators Appreciation Week** May 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>
- 4.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:**
- 5.0 PRESENTATION: (20 minutes)**

Jenny Rose, Adult Ed Director - discussed the academic program leading to high school graduation, including brushing up on skills and English language learning. Demographics change from year to year, the younger (cohort this year 60%) are in the 16-20 year old age range, some students from beyond RSU 16 communities. Typically accepts 17 and older, can accept students age 16 with superintendent approval. Students demonstrate social emotional concerns including anxiety and depression. Students determine an Independent Learning Plan (ILP) and an attendance plan, utilize a Learning Lab model, students working specifically with what they need to finish. Complete credits toward an RSU 16 Adult Education diploma or HiSET (DOE diploma). Jenny is also the McKinney Vento homeless coordinator.

**6.0 CONSENT AGENDA INTRODUCTION: (5 minutes)**

Approve 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of 4/10/23

**Notification of Teacher & Support Staff New Hire:**

Donna Yates, Secretary - PCS

Darrien Jimmo, Ed Tech II - PRHS

Monique Collins, Ed Tech III - PCS

**Notification of Retirement:**

**Notification of Resignations:**

Noah Collins, Teacher - PRHS

Norm Letourneau, Bus Driver - District

Holly Day, Special Education Director - District

***Jennifer Scales, FLS Teacher - PRHS***

**Sub Committee April Minutes**

Operations

Personnel & Finance

Educational Policy

**Friends of RSU 16 April Minutes**

**Motion by Steve Holbrook**

Next meeting at ESS on May 12, 2023 @ 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) No Report**

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

The current enrollment of Regional School Unit 16 as of May 8, 2023:

Elm Street School (244 - down 1)

Minot Consolidated School 226 - no change)

Poland Community School (444 - down 1)

Bruce M. Whittier Middle School (280 - no change)

Poland Regional High School (498- down 9)

Total Enrollment 1692 (down 11 from 4/10/23)

Attended the annual Superintendent's Conference sponsored by Drummon Woodsum on May 5, 2023.

Participated in the Celebration of Learning at PRHS on April 27 and 28, 2023. I was so impressed with the quality of the presentations. Congratulations to the high school staff and the senior class. National Educator Appreciation Day is May 9, 2023. Thank you to all our hard working educators. Also we celebrated National Administrative Assistants Day on April 26, 2023. Thank you to all our dedicated Administrative specialists. We also celebrated National School Nurses Day on May 6, 2023. Thank you to all our hard working nurses.

The \$5.1 million bond was defeated on May 2, 2023. Later in the meeting you will be asked to confirm the results of the failed bond. What I'm most interested in is what now? Where does RSU 16 go from here? I will offer a few suggestions short of praying for a mild winter. The board could go forward and engage in a tax exempt lease purchase agreement for all of the Minot project or a portion of the project (boiler only). The board could add \$2 million to the Capital Improvements Project Budget (no interest) and do a \$2 million project each year for the foreseeable future (starting with Minot). The board could pause and let the results of the new RSU 16 Task Force drive future maintenance and facility decisions. The board could do nothing and wait for the State to fund a new school for our elementary students. As you

can see there is no easy answer, in the meantime the administrative team will plan for the worst and hope for the best. An emergency plan is being drafted to minimize the shutdown time when and if the RSU needs to move student's from one building to another one that is heated.

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

Amy shared that it is state testing time for the NWEAs now known as the Maine Through Year assessment and the MEA Science assessment. Thursday, June 1st - the annual tradition of graduating seniors visiting their hometown elementary schools. Twelve teachers graduated from a district-sponsored UMF masters degree cohort. Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week. July 11<sup>th</sup> - Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday - Thursday summer school programs at PRHS, BWMS, and at PCS, ESS through Title I funding. The State has changed the Title I funding formula, all three elementary schools can access funding assigned to districts and need to maintain equity/comparability. Future Task Force contributors will be named by May 12<sup>th</sup> - 25 volunteers. Celebration of Ken's retirement on June 7<sup>th</sup> 3:30 - 4:30 in the auditorium, 4:30 - 5:30 in the cafe. Questions about the masters cohort in the future - looking to '24-25.

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

Approve Probationary Teacher Nominations

*Motion by Steve Holbrook to approve Probationary Teacher Nominations*

*Seconded by Mike Downing*

*Vote: Unanimous*

Approve 2023 - 2024 School Calendar as recommended by the Ed Policy Subcommittee at their 4/24/23 meeting.

*Motion by Ed Rabasco to approve 2023 - 2024 School Calendar*

*Seconded by Mike Downing*

*Vote: Unanimous*

Approve G/T Teacher Nomination, Bronson Stinnett - ESS

*Motion by Mike Downing to approve G/T Teacher Nomination, Bronson Sitnnett - ESS*

*Seconded by Andrea Winn*

*Vote: Unanimous*

Approve Grade 3 Teacher Nomination, Caitlin Mansir - PCS

*Motion by Mike Downing to approve Grade 3 Teacher Nomination, Caitlin Mansir - PCS*

*Seconded by Andrea Winn*

*Vote: Unanimous*

Approve Special Education Director Nomination, Jo St. Peter-Scott - District

*Motion by Mike Downing to approve Special Education Director Nomination, Jo St. Peter-Scott -District*

*Seconded by Amber Lyman*

*Vote: Unanimous*

Approve the Computation and Declaration of votes dated May 2, 2023.

*Motion by Steve Holbrook to approve the Computation and Declaration of votes dated May 2, 2023*

*Seconded by Mike Downing*

*Vote: Unanimous*

The Board signed the Declaration of Votes

Approve Assistant Superintendent's Contract - Amy Hediger

*Motion by Mike Downing to approve Assistant Superintendent's five-year contract - Amy Hediger*

*Seconded by Emily Rinchich*

*Vote: Unanimous*

Certificate of Superintendent

Signed by Board Chair - indicates that Todd Sanders will be the RSU 16 Superintendent for 2023 - 2025.

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

**12.0 POLICIES: (10 minutes)**

Approve 1st & Final Reading of the below listed policies as recommended by the Ed Policy Subcommittee at their 4/24/23 meeting:

- DFA - Revenues From Investments
- GBI - Staff Gifts & Solicitations

- KCD - Public Gifts/Donations to the School  
**Motion by Mike Downing to approve above policies**  
**Seconded by Andrea Winn**  
**Vote: Unanimous**

Emily Rinchich requested the Policy Subcommittee review bullying policies to ensure that policies meet the needs brought forth during public comment at the April board meeting.

### **13.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:**

Student Representative: **(5 minutes)**

Joseph highlighted the Celebration of Learning days and the work of the sophomores and seniors. Prom was last weekend, AP exams are ongoing, Senior Trip is upcoming. Joe Parent recognized Joseph for his service to the board.

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

School Board Retirement Recognition June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. right before our regular school board meeting.

- Tentative Board and Subcommittee Meeting Dates for 2023-2024.
- District Budget Meeting/Vote - May 23, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the PRHS auditorium.
- Attendance
- School Board Stipends

Move the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to June 14<sup>th</sup> to certify the results of the referendum.

No sub-committee meetings in June.

### **14.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:**

A Team Reports (ea-mins)

Mary highlighted the many year-end dates.

### **15.0 COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mary shared the postcard from PRHS teacher Kris Wright from the Japan trip.

### **16.0 HANDOUT: LRP May Publication**

Jessica Smith requested board discussion after the heating bond vote result, inquiring what is next.

Mary highlighted three options: MCS purchase/lease agreement for heat improvements only, heat and ventilation, or await the results of the task force work.

Discussion of options for MCS heating and ventilation systems and options for financing. Brief overview of task force process.

### **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 8:01 p.m.**

**Seconded by Andrea Winn**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Open session convened at 8:10 p.m.**

**Motion by Ed Rabasco to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the RSU16 Board of Directors and RSU16 Education Association Teachers Unit**

**Seconded by Mike Downing**

**Vote: 14 - 1 (Steve Holbrook)**

### **18.0 REMINDERS:**

### **19.0 ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 8:11pm**

**Seconded by Mike Downing**

**Vote: Unanimous**

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Healey