

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 successfully respond to the future.

RSU 16
Mechanic Falls * Minot * Poland
The 2nd Regular School Board Meeting for 2022 - 2023 was held
Monday, September 12th @ 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, Emily Rinchich, Patrick Irish, Amber Lyman, Sarah Robinson, Christine Downs, Elizabeth Martin, Mike Downing, Melanie Harvey, Ed Rabasco, Andrea Winn, Angela Swenson, Jessica Smith, Steve Holbrook

Absent: None

Student Rep: Joseph Elliott

MINUTES

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Martin
Pledge of Allegiance & Mission Statement
- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: (15 minutes)** None
- 3.0 RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (5 minutes)**
CONGRATULATIONS to *Alyssa Mason 7th grader, WMS* who broke the state discus record during the USTAF Maine State Youth Championship meet in Augusta!
THANK YOU to *Jamie Karaffa* for being our Staff Speaker on Opening Day!
THANK YOU to *Emma Moreau* for serenading staff on Opening Day!
- 4.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:**
Added Snow Plow bid.
- 5.0 PRESENTATION: (20 minutes)**
 Holly Day presented the state of Special Education in RSU 16. She shared numbers of identified students and staff caseloads, and she elaborated on Special Education programs provided to students throughout the district. Challenges to Special Education were shared, including significant staffing shortages, increased social-emotional needs of students, and a lack of out-of-district placement options.
Discussion:
We are not the only ones facing staffing hardships; it is a state and nationwide issue. Ed Tech wages and boundaries of collective bargaining agreements were discussed. Ways to support staff with large caseloads were addressed. It is typical for a district our size to have only 1 – 1.5 Occupational Therapists. Out-of-district (OOD) placement numbers are the lowest they have been in several years. We have been able to bring many students back. Holly shared that the average cost of an OOD is approximately \$100K per year. We do not have any students placed in residential programming.
- 6.0 CONSENT AGENDA INTRODUCTION: (5 minutes)**
Approve 8-8-22 1st Regular Meeting Minutes

Notification of Teacher & Support Staff New Hires:

Teacher New Hires: Ken worked with Administration, met every candidate, and highly recommends all of them.

Abigail Skelton, School Counselor/Interventionist – ESS/MCS

Sophie Patenaude, Ed Tech II – PCS

Kelley Bisbee, Ed Tech III – PCS

Norman Chagnon, Van Driver – District

Diana Murphy, Food Service – District

Tina Laprell, Food Service – District

Hannah O'Marrow, Ed Tech II – PRHS

Spencer Martinez, Coach Boys' Soccer – WMS

Notification of Retirement:

Notification of Resignations:

Bonnie Robbins, School Counselor - WMS

Logan Landry, Teacher – WMS

Shellie Leger, Ed Tech III – PRHS

Amy Vallee, Secretary – PCS

Penny Frirree, Food Service – PCS

Sub Committee August Minutes

Operations

Personnel & Finance

Educational Policy

Friends of RSU 16 – Next meeting at ESS on 10/14/22 @ 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)

Mary noted that the finance committee performed a full review of the detailed report at the last meeting. Ken Healey provided a summary in the Business Manager's absence. 84.6% remains overall. He highlighted and elaborated on deficit lines.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept the Financial Summary.

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

8.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (10 minutes)

Ken Healey shared current enrollment numbers at each of the schools. He provided a recap of back-to-school preparation and opening activities. He reported that Auditors were here last week and should be able to share their findings at the October or November Board meeting.

Ken attended the DOD Threat Assessment Advisory Committee and the Friends of RSU 16 September meeting. He invited the Board to attend the next 'Friends' meeting on 10/14, and the Tri-Town Optimist Club meeting on 9/22 – both at 9 a.m. in the District Conference Rm at ESS.

Ken shared details on upcoming meetings that he will be participating in and gave a report of donations made to schools. He and Amy will attend the National Threat Assessment Center training in October and there will

be District Level training in Behavioral Threat Assessment, as well. Ken concluded with a notification to the School board that he will not be seeking to renew his contract when the current one expires in June. He thanked everyone for their support over the last 5 years and encouraged the board to immediately form a search and hiring committee.

Motion: by Ed Rabasco to accept the resignation with regret.

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Ed Rabasco to establish a Superintendent's Search Committee

Seconded: by Joe Parent

Vote: Unanimous

Mary Martin and Joe will co-chair the Search Committee. Others who are interested in participating should email Mary.

9.0 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (10 minutes)

Amy Hediger reminded the Board about the 3 goal areas for curriculum this year:

- Tier 1 Curriculum work – includes 'mapping' through the Atlas Platform to make curriculum visible to the public by May 2023.
- SEL – Social Emotional Learning. Amy shared about the newly hired SEL Dean and Behavioral Specialist.
- Staff Retention and Professional Learning Opportunities. Amy reported on the work of teacher leaders and professional development happening in our schools.

Amy elaborated on the Teacher shortage and resulting hardships. She specifically highlighted how the Gifted & Talented program has been impacted as a result. She closed with a discussion about class sizes (handout) and equitable opportunities/experiences for all students in light of staffing challenges. The next steps will be for the Board to discuss growth in RSU 16 and the future of education for our kids.

Discussion:

Questions about class sizes/limits were addressed. How do we get our staff and communities involved in these conversations about the next steps? The Educational Policy Committee can discuss this, and it can also be part of the goals discussion in upcoming board meetings. The new Superintendent should be involved in this early on. The State Emergency (building projects) list was discussed. Ken anticipates more substantial funding to be available next year, and he recommends applying for all 3 elementary schools to be replaced. He believes consolidation will be recommended.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS: (5 minutes)

Approve Fielding Oil Company's #2 Heating Fuel Bid and K-1 Kerosene Bid

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept the bids.

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion:

There is a possibility of building a heated enclosure for the large K1 tank at PCS.

Approve snow plow bid.

Motion: by Patrick Irish to go with Washburn & Sons to plow PRHS, PCS, MCS, & CO for the per storm price and the additional trip price, and accept the bid from Evolve Snow Plowing for ESS.

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion:

'Additional trip' prices were addressed. Last year, we were able to do some cleanup on our own. We also do our own sanding. Why is there no additional trip price for Evolve? Craig suspects it is because they are familiar with ESS after having done it last year. Craig is not sure how much we paid for snow plowing last year, but will get the information.

11.0 OLD BUSINESS: (15 minutes)

12.0 POLICIES: (10 minutes)

Approve 1st and final reading of the below policies as presented by the Educational Policy Subcommittee at their 8-22-22 meeting:

BEC - Executive Sessions

BEDD - Rules of Order

BEDI - Board Relations with the Media

BEDJ - Broadcasting/Taping of Board Meetings

BEDL - Adjournment of Board Meetings

BIA - New School Board Member Orientation

JIC - Student Code of Conduct

Discussion:

Some of the policies hadn't been updated for 10 years, but just needed a review. There was further discussion about BEDD and JIC.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to accept the policies

Motion amended: by Steve Holbrook to accept the policies with the removal of repeated lines.

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion:

Should there be more references to Behavioral Threat Assessment in the JIC policy? It is referenced and it is addressed in student handbooks, as well. Redundancy will be corrected in the Rules of Order Policy (BEDD).

13.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:

Mary recognized the high achievement (AP scores) of Joseph Elliot and JR Tibbetts.

Student Representative: **(5 minutes)**

Joseph shared that sports have started. He invited everyone to attend the football game on Friday at 7 p.m.

SRB starts this week and Homecoming planning will be starting. Glad to have Mr. Anderson here. People are glad things are normal.

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

Mary thanked the new Subcommittee Chairs. She shared her experience with the Opening day kick-off staff meeting and thanked Board members, Angela and Andrea, for attending. She discussed the Board Self-Assessment, which will need to happen prior to the Board Goals Workshop on October 3rd at 5:30 p.m. before the board meeting.

Mary asked for a volunteer to attend the 10/22/22 MSBA Annual Delegate Assembly (Zoom), which is organized by Maine School Board Association. Andrea Winn volunteered and will attend the meeting for delegates on 9/13/, as well.

Motion: by Ed Rabasco to elect Andrea Winn to be the Delegate.

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Patrick Irish to elect Mary Martin as the Alternate Delegate

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

Mary shared that there is also a conference at the end of October, in case anyone is interested.

14.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

A Team Reports

Mary thanked elementary schools for adding “You’re Invited” at the end of their Board report.

Whittier found a grant contest through WinterKids to buy snowshoes. They are in 4th place right now, and are asking everyone to vote.

15.0 COMMUNICATIONS:

16.0 HANDOUT: LRP Publication – September 2022

17.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

CANCELED

To enter into Executive Session regarding personnel issue pursuant under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A)

18.0 REMINDERS: *SIGN POLICIES – Policies were signed with the exception of BEDD, which will be signed at the October school board meeting.*

19.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 7:44 PM

Seconded: by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Healey