

hear from Mr. Manuel with a reasonable argument to explain the need of this position during these tough economic times.

NEASC FACILITIES REPORT

Superintendent Shuttleworth gave an overview of the report, the citations within the report and asked Facilities Director David Richards to address the next steps for addressing the findings within the report. Mr. Richards went over the spread sheet and spoke to each item. Morse High Principal Peter Kahl indicated that the four central items will be addressed by the November timeline. In the two year report, he addressed each item and spoke to some items we feel are not significant issues. Some of the findings were citing us for non-working equipment which happens to be in the school, but have gone unused for a few years. Mr. Richards provided the Board with information regarding the large number of inspections our buildings go through on a regular basis.

4 X 4 SCHEDULE UPATE

Morse High Principal Peter Kahl and Guidance Counselor Leslie Trundy addressed the topic of the 4 x 4 schedule. There is no data from past years to compare to the current year regarding scheduling issues. Mrs. Trundy said that in her six years as a MHS Guidance Counselor there have been scheduling conflicts each year. Mrs. Trundy described the process of creating a schedule that works for most students. She cited some of the more problematic areas. Mrs. Trundy talked about creative efforts to address the conflicts for most students. Board member Buczkowski asked some questions about the schedule and the importance of continuity for subjects such as world language. Chairperson Harkins asked if previous schedules encountered similar scheduling problems and Mrs. Trundy responded that there have always been problems, but always different problems. Chairperson Harkins asked if there is a group of kids who are affected more than another group of kids. Mrs. Trundy was unsure if any particular group would be affected. Principal Kahl passed out a handout that showed MHS now has 67 fewer sections to offer over a three year period as a result of staffing cuts. There is now a AP free block when Band and Chorus are scheduled, except for one AP course, which is offered alternating days to accommodate schedules We have added six AP classes in the last three years. Mr. Kahl praised Mrs. Trundy and her department for the intensive work, student by student, to create schedules for each student. Chairperson Harkins said we are now looking at the impact of the decisions the Board has made and he wanted to be sure we don't get to the point that we are scrambling for the students.

Vice Chairperson Rice asked questions of how often grade levels are affected and expressed her concern about limiting choices for students, when we had been informed of the many choices this 4x4 schedule will give the students. Mrs. Rice wondered about how this schedule will affect incoming freshmen as they move along at Morse, as more and more classes are seeing difficulty in scheduling. She also expressed her concern about how being unable to take the right courses will affect the student's college acceptance. Mrs. Rice shared her conversations with Math and English teachers in the fall who were concerned about refreshing students for the Spring SAT testing, when students have no English or Math course during the Spring semester.

There was vibrant discussion and give and take about this item.

Chairperson Harkins asked to remove some items from the agenda and the Board agreed to table Items 8.2 Volunteer Program Report and 10.1 Recommendation to increase school lunch.

Bath resident and Morse teacher Johnna Stanton addressed her concerns about the 4 x 4 schedule such as the length of the class and not seeing students for the full year. Mrs. Stanton felt it is not working.

West Bath resident Maria Renaud echoed other's concerns, including Mrs. Rice's concerns, about the 4 x 4 schedule and claimed that she has given up and will get a tutor for her son.

Woolwich resident Peg Duhamel asked that the Board stay focused on looking at this schedule and felt it is the students at the upper level of capacity that are most impacted.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM REPORT

Pre-K teacher Rosalie Perkins handed out data that showed significant student achievement for our pre-K children. She will be happy to give more data and a full report at a later date.

WOOLWICH BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Facilities Director David Richards gave an update on the building project and indicated that it was moving ahead in a timely manner.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

This item was tabled to the July meeting.

MATH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Superintendent Shuttleworth praised the Math Committee and stated that this report will give the district a head start for the work to be done early in the fall. Vice Chairperson Rice asked if the discussion of the committee included examination of the sequence of classes, and it has not been a topic covered yet.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Superintendent Shuttleworth gave an overview of the work of the Wellness Committee and stated that we need more work in the areas of bullying, drugs and alcohol, as well as creating a positive school culture. Mr. Shuttleworth provided the Board with the results of the survey that was distributed to students, staff and the community.

VOTE TO EXTEND BOARD MEETING

MOTION: Rice

SECOND: Walton

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Extent the meeting beyond 8:00 PM.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Shuttleworth gave notice that RSU 1 has been given full program approval in Special Education.

RECOMMENDATION TO INCREASE SCHOOL LUNCH

This item was tabled to the July meeting.

REVIEW OF BOARD GOALS/NWEA DATA

RSU 1 showed a 9.1% gain in reading growth district-wide and a 6.5% gain in math. This shows that progress has been made towards the Board's goal with more progress expected next year.

SECOND READING OF POLICY IHEDA POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

The policy was revised as follows:

- In the second paragraph – remove the word “public.”
- Under the 3rd “A” bullet, revise to read: Attendance must satisfy the instructor's requirements to participate in any post-secondary course work.

MOTION: Rice

SECOND: Varian

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Approve the second reading of Policy IHEDA Post-Secondary Enrollment Options as revised.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Superintendent Shuttleworth announced the hiring of Lorraine Ristano as head cook at Fisher-Mitchell School. He also announced the resignations of Jennifer Bradeen and Amy Loewen and the retirement of Merry Harkins.

MOTION: Rice

SECOND: Harkins

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Accept the Superintendent's nomination of Lawrence Kovacs, Gifted/Talented teacher.

Board member Walton asked if Patrick Manuel was part of the interview process and Superintendent Shuttleworth acknowledged that he was very involved. Board member Buczkowski asked if Mr. Dorr has experience in math, Reading, special education and other curriculum development areas and what the salary is for this position. Chairperson Harkins responded that the salary will be negotiated. Mrs. Buczkowski expressed her concern about Mr. Dorr drawing retirement and receiving a salary at the same time and wondered why we are filling this position with the budget as it is. Ms. Buczkowski suggested that the Board table the nomination. Board member Walton indicated that curriculum was critical next year. Superintendent Shuttleworth commented that the money is in place and it is an essential position for the district. Vice Chairperson Rice noted it actually was a nomination from new Superintendent Manuel. Board member Walton moved the question.

Morse High School teacher David Ingmundson presented the outline, team taught; offered every other day, ½ credit course, taught in the theater. Thirty-two students have signed up for the course. There is no cost to the district. Mr. Ingmundson addressed some questions about the course content and student assignments that will be part of this course, including how it is aligned with the Maine Learning Results.

MOTION: Barber

SECOND: Buczkowski

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Approve the Shakespeare Studies Course as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Morse High School teacher Tom Rackmales spoke about the 4 x 4 schedule and asked what good reasons were given to implement the 4 x 4 schedule.

West Bath resident Maria Renaud thanked the Board for listening to her concerns about the 4 x 4 schedule. Mrs. Renaud presented her theory that the Shakespeare and Drama courses were added not out of student interest but to fill holes in the schedule.

NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

- Next regular Board meeting; Monday, July 25, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the Morse High School cafeteria

ADJOURN

MOTION: Rice

SECOND: Walton

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Adjourn at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



William C. Shuttleworth
Secretary