

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD February 27, 2017 AT 6:00 PM AT BATH MIDDLE SCHOOL. (NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Board. Such action, either to approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the **March 27, 2017** meeting).**

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**Members Present:** Timothy Harkins, Chairperson; Lou Ensel, Alan Walton, Bill Perkins and Jennifer Ritch-Smith; Sarah Gray, Student Representative; Patrick Manuel, Superintendent of Schools

**Members Absent:** Steve August, Megan Fuller and Noa Sreden

**Others Present:** Debra Clark, Judy Harvey, Sandra Foreman and Chorus students

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Harkins called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM CHAIR**

Chairperson Harkins reported that the Board received an email from Superintendent Manuel regarding the EPS numbers and possible changes to the funding formula for the upcoming school year. The Finance Committee will meet with the individual cost centers on March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup> and will have the first reading of the proposed FY 2018 budget during the Board meeting on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. The public forums to discuss the budget will take place on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Harkins expressed his concern over the news from Augusta which includes 48 changes being proposed to the EPS funding formula within the budget. Currently school districts have not received any information that will show what impact that will have on us. Mr. Harkins contacted the state but still no numbers are available which puts the district in a difficult position because the majority of our funding is provided by the State Department of Education. Mr. Harkins stated that he saw this happen approximately 7 or 8 years ago when federal funding was cut and we had to eliminate a number of positions, primarily at the high school. Since then we have been working hard to bring those positions and programs back. Mr. Harkins expressed his concern about what this impact may have on RSU 1.

### **APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2017**

The minutes were revised to fix a typo on Page 3 under Math Courses Proposal.

**MOTION:** Walton

**SECOND:** Perkins

**VOTE:** Board (5-0)  
Students (1-0)

**TO:** Approve the minutes of January 23, 2017 as revised.

### **ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

None

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **STUDENT PRESENTATION**

Superintendent Manuel welcomed the MHS Mixed Choir and Chorus teacher Sandra Foreman and thanked them for coming out to perform this evening. Ms. Foreman announced that the students would be performing "Blue Skies" by Irving Berlin and "I Loved You" by Poet Alexander Pushkin. Jazz night will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> with both the students and music teachers participating. MHS Fine Arts Night will take place on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

## PROFICIENCY-BASED LEARNING UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Judy Harvey reported that the leadership teams have not met due to the number of snow storms we have had recently. Katie Thompson will be working with the middle level humanities teachers for two full days in March. She will also meet with the four core academic departments at the high school to move the process along and get closer to where we need to be for the fall. Ms. Harvey provided the Board with samples of the K-5 report card as requested.

## MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Manuel reported that a couple of full day meetings were cancelled due to the inclement weather this month. The architects met with high school personnel individually to discuss their program needs. Dr. Manuel will be meeting with the Department of Education on Wednesday to discuss programming. The Design, Sustainability, and Building Committees will be meeting every Thursday in the month of March. We continue to make good progress and are moving forward in a positive direction despite the need to cancel the committee meetings. The Arrowsic site presentation is scheduled for this Wednesday at 6:00 pm.

Board member Ritch-Smith reported that the site presentation in Woolwich was very well attended. Community members were excited to hear about the new school and asked the architects good questions. Ms. Ritch-Smith also made sure that the community knew that they could access our website to get further information as we go through this process.

Superintendent Manuel stated that he will discuss the need to determine where the site entrance will be located during his meeting in Augusta on Tuesday. We need the state to be in agreement with us before we can move forward. Dr. Manuel reported that we have one last piece of property to negotiate.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- The third graders at Woolwich had an opportunity to be part of WMTW's weather at your school broadcast this month. The students helped the weatherman give a live forecast from the school and later that morning the weather team presented a weather lesson to our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.
- We had two presentations at Rotary over the past month which included the building project and some initiatives that we have in the district. BRCTC instructor Ruthanne Harrison was present to talk about the STEAM program and Bath Middle School Principal Brandon Ward shared information about the middle school's latest award, as the 2016 MEEA School of the Year. Dr. Manuel thanked Board member Ensel for inviting our staff to be a part of these meetings.
- BRCTC hosted their Student of the Semester breakfast to honor model students from each program. Dr. Manuel commended BRCTC Director Julie Kenny for putting together this event.
- Superintendent Manuel provided a recap of the winter sports season. The girls' basketball team qualified for post-season, the cheerleaders made it to the State Competition for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, and 6 indoor track athletes qualified for states as individuals as well as 6 members of the wrestling team. The wrestling team finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the state which is their best finish in the last 5 years. Both the boys and girls swim teams are KVAC champions with the boys finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the states. Tucker Banger earned individual accolades as a state champion as well as relay state champions. The girls swim team finished as state runner up to Cape Elizabeth High School. Ann Tolan defended her 50 Freestyle state championship title. Freshman Olivia Harper won the 100 Backstroke and broke a state record. The 200 Freestyle relay team also set a state record. Jenny Wilbraham finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state championship for the Nordic ski freestyle competition and 9<sup>th</sup> in the Nordic classic race.
- There will be a hearing this Friday at 10:00 at the State House regarding the Governor's proposed changes to the funding formula used for state subsidy. One of the proposed changes would be to pull out all of the money for system administration and shift it to the local level. This would not only include all of the positions at central office but would also include the technology department and the

Board which includes legal fees for the district. The proposal cuts General Purpose Aid (GPA) by \$9.5 million and adds an additional \$5.5 million to GPA each year which will be deposited in a fund for regional educational service agencies. Teacher retirement costs that were shifted to the districts in 2013 by the state are going up \$7 million for a statewide total of \$45 million and statewide special education costs will be increasing by \$17 million. Districts have been encouraged to look at regional collaboration and we have submitted an application with 4 area districts to create a regional special education program. The program will look at how we could share services with other districts as well as special education transportation costs.

Board member Ritch-Smith stated the public can attend the hearing on Friday or submit a testimony in writing to the committee. Ms. Ritch-Smith recommended that the Board and members of the community reach out to their representatives and senators personally to let them know what they feel is important in education. Ms. Ritch-Smith encouraged the public to listen to the broadcasts of the meetings online and keep informed throughout this process.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with the Financial Report for the month ending January 31, 2017. Currently 49% of the budget has been expended which is in line with last year. Mrs. Clark highlighted a couple of items on the expense side including the Regular Instruction - Tuition line which is the final grandfathered secondary tuition that was a result of our consolidation nine years ago. The district started out with 81 grandfathered tuition students when we consolidated. We anticipate that we will have one more elementary tuition student next year which will be our last tuition student under this agreement. Mrs. Clark received notification that the 3<sup>rd</sup> reduction in our subsidy under MaineCare Seed will be \$46,000 which will take us through August. Mrs. Clark anticipates one more quarter that, if on schedule, will be for September/October/November. Currently \$262,000 will be deducted from our subsidy for MaineCare Seed and we are planning to budget approximately \$400,000 to cover the costs. The school administration line is higher to reflect a retirement that will take place. Fifty-six percent of the revenues have been received which includes tuition, student activities, gate receipts, and miscellaneous grants. The state agency client reimbursement from the state is for two of our students that are attending private placement.

In the future we will be receiving invoices for MaineCare Seed which will make it easier when projecting future payments. Mrs. Clark stated that 99% of the encumbrances are for salary and benefits and any further projects would not be reported as encumbered.

## **REVIEW OF 2016-2017 BOARD GOALS**

Board member Ritch-Smith reviewed the Board goals and how the Board had addressed them during the meeting. The Board continues to monitor the progress with the new high school as stated in Goal #1. Site presentations have been scheduled in each community in order to answer questions and listen to any concerns. Goal #3 was addressed through the monthly Proficiency-based Learning update. The Board continues to foster community-wide relationships by setting up a new communications committee as stated in Goal #1.

Superintendent Manuel reported that the ad hoc Communications Committee will be meeting this Thursday at noon to brainstorm ideas. We received seven applications from community members with a strong interest in helping us and invited each of them to join the committee. Board member Ensel has volunteered to chair this committee which will also include Technology Director Dean Emmerson and Superintendent Manuel.

## **PERSONNEL ITEMS – REPORT**

Superintendent Manuel announced the resignations of Emily Dittmann, Applied Academics instructor at BRCTC and Steve Vachon, Electricity instructor at BRCTC, effective at the end of the school year.

## FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES

- IKF – Graduation Requirements – The Board discussed the need to be very clear in the policy as to what courses are tied to the standards that are required in order to graduate as listed under section C3. It was suggested to add language to clearly state what the students need to achieve in order to meet the standards in each of the core subjects such as English-Language Arts “by taking 4 credits of English.” The Board asked how parents and students will know when a standard has been demonstrated that they have achieved proficiency in the Guiding Principles as stated in C2.

Superintendent Manuel stated that students will still need to meet the course requirements and the staff will determine which standards are most important for those students to show proficiency in to graduate.

Assistant Superintendent Harvey stated that the Guiding Principles will be embedded within the courses so that a student will be able to show that he or she is a creative and practical problem solver within each content area. The high school teachers are working towards identifying the ways in which that will be able to happen. Students will need to meet the credit requirements as well as meet the standards in order to graduate. Ms. Harvey stated that the credit requirements will remain the same as they are now.

Chairperson Harkins felt that policy should clearly state what courses students need to take to achieve the standards in order to graduate. Mr. Harkins asked that the policy reference the original required credits and clarify the fact that the credits do not change after 2021.

Assistant Superintendent Harvey stated that it is possible for a student to pass a course and not meet the standards and, therefore, not graduate. Parents will be able to check on their student's progress through Infinite Campus. The standards document will be available to the public and will be distributed to parents during the 8th grade parent night. The standards document can also be referenced in the Graduation Requirements policy.

- JLCD – Administering Medication to Students – Chairperson Harkins asked that Dr. Hanna review the policy as well and provide her feedback.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

## NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

- Next regular Board meeting; March 27, 2017 at Bath Middle School at 6:00 pm.

## ADJOURN

**MOTION:** Perkins

**SECOND:** Walton

**VOTE:** Board (5-0)  
Students (1-0)

**TO:** Adjourn at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Manuel  
Secretary