

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice Chairperson August reported that the Finance Committee met earlier this month with the district's auditor Hank Farrah to review the audit report. The Board received a copy of the report that was distributed by the auditor during the meeting. The fund balance in 2015-2016 showed a decrease due to the final reconciliation with West Bath following their withdrawal from RSU 1. The last page of the report addressed the deficiency in the school lunch program which is a focus of the Board this year. At this point, the auditor felt that we may have to think about ways to reduce the deficiency. Mr. Farrah spoke highly of Debra Clark and Veda Ferris and reiterated that controls remain a concern due to having a small business office but there were no issues with the report. Mr. August announced that one of the dates of the public forums had changed which has been updated on the RSU 1 website.

PROFICIENCY-BASED LEARNING UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Judy Harvey inquired as to whether any Board members were interested in attending the New England Secondary Schools (NESS) conference. Board member Ensel expressed an interest and will check his schedule.

The high school continues to work within their departments. The standards require a physical science concentration that we currently can't meet due to scheduling conflicts so the science department is trying to figure out how to meet the requirement without taking away any of their electives. The high school is also working on reviewing the data to see if the interventions that Morse offers to support students that are not meeting the standards are working. Ms. Harvey reported that we are in the process of creating a standards-based report card and hopes to have one to pilot next year. The required policies addressing proficiency-based learning will be reviewed by the Policy Committee over the next several months. We want to make sure that we have policies in place that meet our needs while also meeting the requirements set by the state.

Chairperson Harkins asked whether other departments may have the same scheduling issues as they move forward. Morse High School Principal Jay Pinkerton reported that when the science department took their proposal and plugged it into the master schedule we found it would be difficult for students to access art and music. We then looked at it differently and found a way to meet the standards without impacting the electives. Mr. Pinkerton stated that other departments will not feel the same impact when creating their schedule.

Chairperson Harkins told Mr. Pinkerton that the Board is aware of the added pressure that this has put on his staff and will support him in whatever he needs to balance the needs of the students with the needs of the staff.

As requested, Ms. Harvey will bring a sample of the elementary report card to the next Board meeting.

MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Manuel reported we have had two full days of meetings with the Design, Sustainability, and Building committees and will be meeting again later this week. The architects will be bringing an interior model of the school this week to show the staff. The architects continue to meet with the staff and committees in order to determine what is best for kids when it comes to the disciplines and integration between the high school and vocational center. We will meet with the Department of Transportation for a formal meeting this week and they have weighed in on the entrance to the school and the improvements that need to be done on Anchor Road and Wing Farm

Parkway. We have a program meeting this week in Augusta to finalize the actual spaces in the new school that the state will support. We have completed the site presentation in Phippsburg and will continue to make presentations to all RSU 1 communities over the next two weeks. Dr. Manuel complimented Architect Steve Laput for providing thorough committee minutes which are posted on the RSU 1 website. We will be reactivating our Communications Committee for the building project and will ask each member of the committee to pick a group of people in RSU 1, such as area businesses, and start disseminating information as well as getting input from the community.

Chairperson Harkins felt that the meetings have been great and the architects have been very positive and inclusive. For example, during a recent committee meeting there was a great deal of discussion around the placement of the theater, placement of gym and location of the front entrance. The architects have been open to any input and because of the input they received we saw changes in the next design presented due to the group. There is a committee of comprised of the high school staff that are looking at the decisions that are being made and providing their input. Chairperson Harkins, Superintendent Manuel and attorneys for RSU 1 met with representatives from West Bath and the City of Bath to discuss the agreement to sign-off on the Wing Farm Parkway site. West Bath had asked us to cover the penalty that they would have to pay if they chose to opt out of that. We did discuss the option of either receiving a lot in exchange for the money that we would pay or possibly receiving credit towards the purchase of future lots. If West Bath did approve one of these options, it would have to go to a special town meeting to get final approval. After discussing these options with our attorneys, we felt that it wasn't worth further discussions and RSU 1 will pay up to \$30,000; however, if it exceeds that amount we will negotiate in good faith the difference.

Superintendent Manuel stated that community wide meetings will be held at Morse High School once we get the design of the building complete. The straw poll vote will be scheduled soon and will be widely advertised throughout the RSU.

Student Representative Sreden arrived to the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF NEW COURSES AT MORSE HIGH SCHOOL

- Social Studies course proposal
Social Studies Department Head Shawn Guest recommended that the proposed AP World History course be offered to sophomores instead of AP European History next year. Mr. Guest reported that enrollment numbers have been decreasing for the AP Euro course because students are finding it too difficult. Typically this course is offered to seniors due to the amount of memorization required. Mr. Guest hopes to increase the number of sophomores taking AP classes by offering this course. Morse is fortunate to have Carrie Emerson on staff to teach this course which she taught in her previous school.
- Math courses proposal
Math Department Head Sarah McDonald stated that last year we added one Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) course at the high school and next year the math department has proposed adding two more to the curriculum. The two proposed courses will add more options for students that would like to do early college work. Students taking the Introduction to Algebra and College Algebra courses would be able to earn 3 college credits through SMCC. Students that test high enough on the placement test could just take the College Algebra course and still earn the college credits. Teachers are required to have a master's degree to teach these college courses and Morse is fortunate enough to have two on staff. According to the guidance counselors, the college credits are widely transferable within the state as well as out of state.

- Life Skills proposal

Life Skills teacher Marie Larson stated that all students are required to have a transition plan and the Life Skills Practicum would give students the opportunity to work more on their transition goals in the community and work with agencies that they may be using once they leave Morse and go into adult life. The students would go out into the community as a group with an ed tech III or a teacher.

Chairperson Harkins inquired as to whether the district would need to purchase textbooks and whether there would be an additional cost to the district associated with the courses. Mr. Guest replied that he would need new textbooks; however, he would not be ordering the AP Euro books so he would be swapping one set for another. Ms. McDonald stated that she would need textbooks and that some funds may be available through some existing funds from Bath Iron Works.

MOTION: August

SECOND: Ensel

VOTE: Board (7-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Approve the new high school course proposals as presented.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- Superintendent Manuel recognized Morse High School students that lead the march across the Sagadahoc Bridge to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Five Morse High School students received recognition and awards for the 2017 Maine Regional Affiliate Scholastic Art Awards Competition.
- The staff at BRCTC is busy working on their Mid Cycle School Review which is scheduled in March. The CTE Department of Education team will be here for three days to review their progress made from the comprehensive review completed six years ago.
- Thanks to Board member Ensel, RSU 1 is scheduled to present at two Rotary meetings in the month of February. BRCTC Director Julie Kenny and MHS Principal Jay Pinkerton will join the Superintendent to talk about the new high school during one meeting. The second presentation will involve members of our administration sharing some of the good things taking place in our district.
- The district has completed lead testing in all our schools and everything came back in a positive way so far. Fisher-Mitchell School had one fountain that tested higher than we would have liked to see so it was removed and will be replaced. Facilities Director David Richards has been working closely with the Bath Water District throughout this process. We are still waiting for the results from Morse High School and will inform you of the results once we receive them.
- Superintendent Manuel asked the Board members to email Veda Ferris if they are interested in scheduling Board walkthroughs again this year.

FUNDRAISERS

The Board was provided with a list of fundraising requests that were not on the original list in September as an information item.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with the Financial Report for the month ending December 31, 2016. Currently 46% of the budget has been expended and 54% has been received in revenue which follows the trend for previous years. The auditor presented the results of the audit this month to the Finance Committee. Mrs. Clark provided the Board with a copy of the report and invited Board members to call her if they had any questions. The tuition rates have been set by the state with an increase of 6.21% in elementary and a 10.47% increase in secondary tuition. MaineCare Seed had a recent quarterly adjustment of \$190,000. Mrs. Clark and Special Education Director Justin

REVIEW BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Board member Fuller spoke in support of maintaining the connection between RSU 1 and the Patten Free Library but was unclear what her role is on their Board. After some discussion it was decided that Vice Chairperson August would set up a meeting with the Director of the Patten Free Library and Mrs. Fuller to talk about what the library's expectation is of her and whether she could arrange a monthly conversation with the director as opposed to attending the monthly Board meetings.

Chairperson Harkins stated that the list will also include the Shariki Exchange ad hoc committee; however, Mr. Harkins will need to contact the chair to find out what the commitment would be for those serving on this committee.

Chairperson Harkins asked the Board whether it would be valuable to establish an ad hoc committee to look at the methods of communication we are using in the district, analyze what is working and what isn't working, and make a recommendation to the Board on how we can improve our method of communicating to our parents and the community.

The Board agreed that this is a good time to establish this committee in order to increase the community support and agreed to have the committee in place only through the end of this school year.

The Board reviewed the list of committee assignments and agreed to the following:

- Policy – Megan Fuller, Jennifer Ritch-Smith
- Finance – Steve August, Bill Perkins, Lou Ensel
- Facilities – Bill Perkins, Alan Walton
- Negotiations – Tim Harkins, Steve August, Jennifer Ritch-Smith

Board Ad Hoc Committees:

- BRCTC Advisory Board – Steve August
- Affirmative Action Advisory Committee – Steve August
- Dropout Prevention – Bill Perkins
- Legislative Contact – Jennifer Ritch-Smith
- Patten Free Library – Megan Fuller
- Communications Committee – Lou Ensel

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: Perkins

VOTE: Board (7-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Establish an ad hoc Communications Committee for six months to evaluate how we communicate among our schools and community, and provide a recommendation on how to improve our methods of communicating.

FIELD TRIP REQUEST

MOTION: August

SECOND: Perkins

VOTE: Board (7-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Approve a field trip request from BRCTC to allow students to attend the SkillsUSA completion in Bangor in March.

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None

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

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

ADJOURN

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Ensel

VOTE: Board (7-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Adjourn at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Manuel
Secretary