



## WOOLWICH DEBT REFUNDING

Financial Advisor Richard Ranaghan reported that RSU 1 currently has \$16 million in bonds with interested rates ranging from 3.5% to 5.5%. Mr. Ranaghan spoke in support of refinancing the callable portion of the 2011 bonds in order to save the district and the state of Maine some money. The bonds were issued with a ten-year call provision that allows RSU 1 to refinance the callable bonds if it proves to be economically feasible. Right now the rates are so low that the district would see a savings of around \$36,000 and the state would save approximately \$900,000. Any incidental costs would be included in the refinancing and does not change the term or duration of the bond.

Board member Ritch-Smith arrived to the meeting.

**MOTION:** August

**SECOND:** Perkins

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

**TO:** Move that the Resolution entitled, "Resolution to Authorize Issuance of Refunding Bonds in Principal Account of Up to \$8,010,000 to Refund 2011 General Obligation Bonds," be approved in form presented to this meeting; that an attested copy of said Resolution be included with the minutes of this meeting; and that the Notice of Resolution presented in the meeting be approved.

## STEAM REPORT

BRCTC Engineering instructor and STEAM Coordinator Ruthanne Harrison was present to update the Board on the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) program as part of the Board goals. STEAM is a combination of all five disciplines and currently has eleven students enrolled in the program. Ms. Harrison explained the application process, the STEAM Learning Plan, and timeline. Part of the STEAM Program includes community involvement which includes job shadowing and working with a mentor in the discipline the student is working towards. Ms. Harrison stated that she oversees the student's progress but the mentors have the professional expertise to help the student with their project. An advantage of going through the program is that colleges see this as proof that the student can follow through to complete a 3 year-long project which is very much like doing a college thesis. STEAM is also tied to the engineering program at BRCTC and students have the option to take some of their electives through the engineering program. We started a Robotics Club at Morse this year which will allow students to go to the competitions next year and count it as part of their STEAM experience. Ms. Harrison put together an Advisory Board to help support her and help her find mentors for the students.

## PROFICIENCY-BASED LEARNING UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Judy Harvey reported that the representatives of the middle level humanities group met for two full days to work on aligning their curriculum with assessments and standards. The middle level staff has decided to put off implementing the proficiency-based report card for another year in order to make sure it is done well. Ms. Harvey, Great Schools Partnership coach Katie Thompson, and Morse Principal Jay Pinkerton met with the science and math department last week to see where they are in the process and what support they need from now through the summer. They will be meeting with the English and social studies departments next to make sure that they are on track. The Morse High School staff is also working with Matt Frey-Davis on the reporting system in Infinite Campus in order to be ready for report cards and reporting to parents next year. The policy presented at the last Board meeting regarding graduation requirements has been pulled apart to have one policy for students up to the class of 2021 and the other for students in the graduating class of 2021 and beyond. The policy is still being worked on and will come back to the Board for a second reading once it is ready.

Morse Principal Jay Pinkerton was present at a meeting for the incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents and informed them of the changes in the graduation requirements. Mr. Pinkerton also told

them that grades and credits will be tracked as they normally are as well as students' progress with the standards.

Chairperson Harkins asked that as we move towards proficiency-based report cards that the Board has an opportunity to review the report card before it goes out to the community. We want to do this right and communicate it well to the parents as we make these changes. Mr. Harkins also stated that he wants parents to be able to continue to utilize Infinite Campus as a tool to track their student's progress.

## **MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE**

Superintendent Manuel reported that the committees will meet every Thursday from now until May 4<sup>th</sup>. The committees are working on the interior design of the building and are compiling a list of those things the committees feel are important in our school that are not state funded. A tentative date for the straw poll has been set for April 11<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Manuel is meeting with the Department of Education tomorrow and will need to get approval before the vote can take place. In May we would go to the State Board of Education for the approval of the site. Our goal is to have a public meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup> on the design of the building. During the summer we would go to the State Board for the final approval of the project and have the referendum in September. If this schedule doesn't work, the goal would be to go to referendum in November.

## **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Board member Ensel reported that the Communications Committee met to begin looking at how the district communicates with the parents and community at the school and district level. The committee will be evaluating how the district works with social media, the website, and newsletters and which way of communication is the most effective. The committee will bring their recommendation on how to improve communication and community-wide relationships to the Board.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Vice Chairperson August reported that the Finance Committee met twice this month with the administrators to talk about their budget recommendations. Mr. August thanked Superintendent Manuel and the administrative team for their time spent putting together the budget and the committee members for attending the meetings.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- Dr. Manuel congratulated Laura Devin for being recognized as the 2018 Maine Art Education Association Elementary/Middle Level Art Educator of the year.
- During the Odyssey of the Mind regional competition, RSU 1 had four teams qualify to advance to the state competition which will be held in a few weeks. Woolwich has one team going to the state competition and Fisher-Mitchell School had three teams qualify to compete.
- Bath Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders performed at the State House in Augusta last week and were recognized by the legislature for their work that led to the middle school receiving the 2016 Environmental Education School of the Year award.
- BRCTC students competed in the SkillsUSA State Competition on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Bangor. The students represented BRCTC well with one student earning a gold medal in Courtesy Corps and one won a silver medal in Advertising Design.
- Morse and BRCTC collaborated to host a Career and College Fair for our students on March 9<sup>th</sup> with over 40 businesses and colleges attending the event.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with the Financial Report for the month ending February 28, 2017. Currently \$16 million out of the \$28 million budget has been spent which is in-line

with last year. The Business Office has been working on refinancing the Woolwich bond, going out to bid on property and casualty insurance, and fuel for next year. Mrs. Clark reported that five companies submitted a fuel bid with the lowest one coming in at \$1.743 for next year which is a significant savings. The district has received 66% of the projected revenues which is close to the 68% that was received last year at this time.

## REVIEW OF 2016-2017 BOARD GOALS

None

## SECOND READING OF POLICY JLCD – ADMINISTERING MEDICATION TO STUDENTS

**MOTION:** Perkins

**SECOND:** Walton

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

**TO:** Approve the second reading of Policy JLCD – Administering Medication to Students as written.

## FIRST READING OF FY 2018 BUDGET

Superintendent Manuel reviewed the process that is used to create the proposed school budget each year. Dr. Manuel acknowledged the administrative team for their ability to work well together as a team and see the big picture when it comes to district priorities. The budget was presented to the Finance Committee in March by the administrators. The committee felt that the increase in the budget was too high and requested that the administrators cut \$450,000 from the original budget. The budget came in with a 2.92% increase overall which equates to a 4.53% increase in local contribution. The projected increase for each community is as follows:

- Arrowsic - 7.6%
- Bath - 4.4%
- Phippsburg - 3.8%
- Woolwich – 4.9%

The overall increase of \$825,969 is driven by salary and benefits and includes 4 new special education educational technicians and a study hall monitor at Morse High School. Tuition and out-of-district special education placements, food service, MaineCare Seed, and the transportation contract all show increases in the budget. On a positive note, RSU 1 received \$74,000 in additional subsidy this year and locked into an oil contract for next year at a lower cost. Debt service is down \$375,000 due to a retired debt at BRCTC and other adjustments.

Business Manager Debra Clark reported that the district has a special purpose fund that can be used to work towards achieving a negative balance in the Food Service program which currently has a deficit of \$279,000.

Chairperson Harkins requested that the Board receive a list of the items that were cut from the budget and information as to where RSU 1 stands state-wide with cost per pupil.

## WEST BATH DISCUSSION

Chairperson Harkins reported that the Board spoke with the attorney during executive session about the implications with this request. Mr. Harkins participated in the negotiations with West Bath from February 2014 through November 2014. There were discussion about what the separation would look like and what the agreement would look like during these meetings. In June 2014 there was some discussion about siblings; however, RSU 1 felt that we would not have siblings be part of the agreement.

Business Manager Debra Clark reviewed the financial implications for the district. We started out with 36 students attending West Bath School that were credited against the tuition bill. Next year we will have 12 students attending West Bath under this agreement. If the family lives in a town that is a non-



## MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIMESTER DISCUSSION

Assistant Superintendent Harvey reported that last year the district switched to trimesters in grades K-5. The change created a problem for Woolwich Central School. Woolwich Principal Jason Libby and Bath Middle School Principal Brandon Ward have sent out a query to ask parents for their feedback and whether they felt it would create any problems. The principals did not receive any feedback from their parents. The teachers and administrators support this proposal.

The Board asked for a one-page report that lists the pros and cons of making this change in order to get a sense of why the district moved from quarterly reporting to trimesters.

Vice Chairperson August asked whether the district will be implementing a later start time. Dr. Manuel felt that it would be worth having that discussion as some districts have decided to try it.

## PERSONNEL ITEM

Superintendent Manuel announced the resignation of Assistant Superintendent Judy Harvey effective at the end of this school year. Dr. Manuel recognized Ms. Harvey for all that she has done for RSU 1 over the past five years and wished her well in her new position as part-time Superintendent in Northport, Maine.

Chairperson Harkins also thanked Ms. Harvey for the professional work she has done as she continued to take more and more on her plate and was so diligent and detail oriented about getting her work done.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Another parent (unable to hear her name) addressed the Board with her concerns regarding the request to allow siblings to attend West Bath School. Chairperson Harkins addressed her concerns by stating that the agreement that was signed by RSU 1 and West Bath only included the students that were currently attending West Bath School and did not include siblings. Initially the agreement was only going to be for one year but through discussions with West Bath we decided that we would allow those students to remain there through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students in the RSU do have choice within the RSU; however, school choice transportation had to be cut from the budget so parents need to transport their kids to school. Mr. Harkins stated that if this is allowed we have to recognize that this decision will financially impact another family in the district or we would need to go to the community and ask if they are willing to pay the costs.

## NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

- Public Forum; Monday, April 3, 2017 at Bath Middle School – 6:00 pm
- Next regular Board meeting; April 24, 2017 at Bath Middle School at 6:00 pm

## ADJOURN

**MOTION:** August

**SECOND:** Perkins

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

**TO:** Adjourn at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Manuel  
Secretary