

PROFICIENCY-BASED LEARNING UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Judy Harvey provided the Board with a copy of the Morse High School Grading Guidelines which outlines what the students will need to achieve in order to graduate for the graduating class of 2017 and beyond.

Chairperson Harkins stated that in principle the five concepts listed in the guidelines are good things to aspire to and characteristics we want our students to have; however, he felt that it would be very challenging to implement them and do it fairly among students and make it clear to the parents. Mr. Harkins felt that it is a bit of a judgement call and could create potential conflicts between parents, administrators, and teachers when a student hasn't demonstrated a certain skill in the classroom but the parent reports that he/she does at home. Ms. Harvey felt that as long as the students have evidence to support each of the concepts then it shouldn't be a problem. Ms. Harvey stated that the idea behind the Maine Learning Results was that a student can go from one Maine school district to another and have very similar expectations. The theory had been carried over to the proficiency-based performance system but the state has given us very little guidance which has left each district to come up with their own set of guidelines. This will be challenging for students that move from one district to another in Maine and challenging for principals to determine whether a student has met any of the standards and expectations outlined in the grading guidelines.

Board member Perkins thanked Ms. Harvey for her work and leadership through this process. Ms. Harvey recognized Principal Jay Pinkerton and his staff for their hard work and dedication.

Board member Ritch-Smith arrived to the meeting.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Board member Perkins reported that the Facilities Committee met and reviewed the progress we have made this year in terms of our buildings. Facilities Director David Richards talked about the submission to the state for the possible construction of a couple of elementary schools and reviewed the problem with the floor tiles at Woolwich Central School. The tiles are scheduled to be repaired as well as a tube in the boiler at Phippsburg School that needs to be replaced.

MHS BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Manuel reported that the district received an official letter from the Department of Education that the site of the new high school has been approved by the state. Weekly meetings continue with the Department of Education as well as the local building committee. The focus of the committee is on the interior and exterior design of the building. The committee is also working to prioritize the additional items that would be locally funded.

Chairperson Harkins stated that the committee has been discussing and considering a list of 24 items that would be funded locally. The committee has reduced the number of items to around 12-15. The architect provided a wide range of what each item would cost and, at the request of the committee, came back with more specific numbers based on a formula that is driven by the state. The formula is calculated on a square footage basis at \$400 per square foot. In trying to keep the community's best interest in mind, the committee felt it would be best to keep the local share to between \$6 and \$7 million. Mr. Harkins shared the committee's concern about the state's formula and reported that our architect will take our

comments back to the state to try to negotiate a lower cost. The following items are being considered:

- Theater upgrade
- Additional dining space
- Multipurpose room and alumni space
- Additional nurse space
- IT support space
- Geothermal heating system
- 600,000 for unknowns

The following items have been removed from the list:

- Central Office
- Food pantry
- Adult Education space

Chairperson Harkins reported that the committee discussed how to approach funding a space in the new school that would be equivalent to “the pit.” The group felt it would be better to hand it over to the fundraising community to see if they can generate the funds needed to cover that space. We are also going to vet the geothermal heating system by looking at the payback period, looking at the efficiencies of it, seeing what successes and challenges other communities have faced, and compare it to the financial impact of a traditional heating system to see if it is really worth spending the additional money.

Board member Ritch-Smith asked if we can’t cover the costs through fundraising whether we can take something off the list in order to make it happen.

Chairperson Harkins reported that once we have gone to the public to vote on the bond we can’t swap one for another item. Using the state’s formula, it would cost close to \$3 million to include “the pit” and based on current construction costs it could be approximately \$1.5 - \$2 million if we did it ourselves. The committee questioned whether the state would allow us to participate in the construction process at the same time they are building a school at a figure less than \$400 per square foot. The state is driving the process and it is their money; however, we want to minimize the impact for our taxpayers and minimize the costs.

Student Representative Sarah Gray asked why geothermal was chosen over solar power. Chairperson Harkins responded that the geothermal heating system has a 13 year payback period and is tested technology while solar heating would require a greater investment upfront and couldn’t be the primary system to heat the entire building.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Board member Ensel reported that the Communications Committee continues to meet weekly. Mr. Ensel stated that the committee members have been working hard in gathering information and will report back to the Board next month.

TSUGARU EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Chairperson Harkins reported that he has been serving on the committee as a representative of the Board. Mr. Harkins discussed the historical significance of this exchange that has been occurring every year since 1990. The program, which is aligned with the City of Bath, is looking for more involvement with RSU 1. The committee would like to make students more aware of this program during the year by inviting students that have participated in the

program to share their experiences with other students that may be interested in this opportunity. RSU 1 has 8 students traveling to Japan between July 24 and August 8. There are fifteen Japanese visitors scheduled to be here from August 11 through August 19 which includes twelve students. The adult delegation is scheduled to arrive on June 28 and leave on July 5. They have been asked to participate in Heritage Days and invited RSU 1 administrators and Board members to attend a luncheon with them on June 30th. The program is still looking for families to host these students. Chairperson Harkins asked anyone that is interested to please contact him for more information. The committee would like to present the students with a welcome bag containing a small token that represents our schools. The committee is looking for 15 donated items to be included with their gift.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- Congratulations to BRCTC student Tanager Karchenes for being honored by the Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education as one of the 25 CTE students of the year. Tanager was also selected to win a \$1,000 scholarship during the recognition dinner.
- Bath Middle School received a grant to get 20-30 mountain bikes to create a club and be used during the school day to benefit our students.
- Congratulations to Karla Harkins and Monica Wright for being nominated for Sagadahoc County Teacher of the Year.
- BRCTC has many Articulation Agreements and Concurrent Enrollment with partnering institutions. This year 41% of the student body earned college credit through their coursework at BRCTC.
- The Regional Special Education Program is coming together and will be available for students in grades 8-12. We have identified the students that might be a good fit in the program and have advertised for teachers and support staff. The program will be located in Wiscasset and hope to begin in September.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager Debra Clark provided the Board with the Financial Report for the month ending April 31, 2017. With two months left in this fiscal year, we have spent about \$20 million of the budget and received approximately \$23 million in revenues. We have asked the administrators to only purchase materials that are needed to finish out the school year. We are keeping a close eye on the special education tuition and MaineCare Seed expenditures. The closing on the Woolwich School refunding will take place on Thursday and insurance bids were opened today. The Board will be notified who won the bid once it has been decided.

REVIEW OF 2016-2017 BOARD GOALS

Chairperson Harkins stated that the Board should schedule a special workshop in August to begin creating next year's goals with the objective of having them approved in either September or October.

Superintendent Manuel reported that the elementary principals will be present during the June meeting to report on the work they have been doing with RTI and early intervention.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Chairperson Harkins recused himself from voting on this item. The Board agreed to take the nominations as a group. Superintendent Manuel presented the following nominations:

- Eric Varney, Assistant Principal, MHS
- Tim Harkins, Food Services Director
- Shane Hutchings, Physical Education teacher, WCS
- Colby Gail, Special Education teacher, DN
- Steven Shea, Grade 6 teacher, WCS
- Katie Joseph, Assistant Superintendent
- Stacy Chubbuck, Resource Room teacher, MHS
- Larissa Costello, Resource Room teacher, DN

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Ensel

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

TO: Approve the nominations as recommended by the Superintendent.

Vice Chairperson August thanked Mr. Harkins for his steady hand, experience and expertise. Board member Ensel congratulated Mr. Harkins and stated that he will be missed as Chair. Board member Perkins stated that it has been a privilege to work with Mr. Harkins and that no one has lead with more sincerity and integrity.

OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: August

VOTE: Board (7-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Approve the out-of-state field trip request from Fisher-Mitchell 5th grade to visit Boston.

OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

MOTION: Ritch-Smith

SECOND: Walton

VOTE: Board (7-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Approve the out-of-state field trip request from Woolwich 5th grade to visit Boston.

FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES

- JLCB – Immunization Requirements for Students Entering RSU 1 Schools – The Board inquired whether or not it can be difficult to receive this information from the parents. Superintendent Manuel responded that it can be difficult at times; however, we have a process in place to work with parents to obtain this information.
- IKF – Graduation Requirements – Classes of 2017-2020 – Chairperson Harkins thanked the Policy Committee for working to provide a clear and effective policy for parents as we move through the years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

- Next regular Board meeting; June 26, 2017 at Bath Middle School at 6:00 pm

ADJOURN

MOTION: Walton

SECOND: August

VOTE: Board (7-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Adjourn at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Manuel

Secretary