

students in those grade levels. We advertised the position over the summer but were not able to fill the position. The principal continues to advertise for the position and also may consider bringing in outside groups. Mr. Bingham shared that RSU 1 has a high substance abuse rate and students statewide are struggling with depression and mental health issues. Mr. Bingham stated that we have a lot of kids with a lot of problems and we need to do more to help these kids.

Superintendent Manuel reported that the district has been addressing this need by increasing guidance and social work in the district. We also used a system-wide professional development day to focus on mental health issues. Dr. Manuel works with a community group that includes about 30 people in the area that care because they see adults and students suffer with mental health issues throughout the state and invited Mr. Bingham to join the group. Morse Principal Jay Pinkerton and Guidance Counselor Amber McGowen met with the behavioral specialist at MidCoast Hospital last spring to talk about how we could utilize the hospital to help us and what would be the most beneficial thing we can do for our students with regard to mental health.

MORSE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

Superintendent Manuel reported that we are still working out the site piece and have met with West Bath because they own a piece of the business part of the property and we are working on the paperwork to move forward. The Board received a packet of handouts to distribute to community members in order to encourage people to get involved. Dr. Manuel will be meeting with our public relations person tomorrow and will be putting together a schedule of the public meetings that will be held from now until May.

Vice Chairperson August announced that the Finance Committee will be meeting on Thursday, December 1st at 8:00 am. The focus of the meeting will be on special education. Special Education Director Justin Keleher will be present to answer any questions.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manuel reported on the following:

- The result of a recent Special Education review showed that the district met all the expectations of all of our paperwork requirements. Dr. Manuel recognized Justin Keleher, Vicki Warner, Nancy Riggs and the Special Education staff for all the time they put into this review.
- Dr. Manuel recognized the 23 Morse High School AP scholars that earned AP Scholar Awards and recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP exams. RSU 1 was one of two school districts in the state of Maine recognized for being part of the AP District Honor Roll in the College Board 6th Annual Report.
- Congratulations to Morse senior Ann Tolan for signing her National Letter of Intent to attend Penn State University.
- Morse High School teacher Lindsay Davis participated in a one-week professional development course *Teaching the Genome Generation* at Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor over the summer. Mrs. Davis was one out of 16 educators in the state to participate in the program. Mrs. Davis reported that this was the best professional development experience she has ever participated in.
- We had a good turnout at the FLOW reception held at City Hall this month. Dr. Manuel reported that participation increased this year and the response from the parents and students was positive. The students that didn't participate in the program were out with their teachers, in partnership with KELT, building bridges in our community as part of a community service program.

- We recently had a group of Food Service Directors from across the state and a representative from the state from Food Service come to the district to review our Food Service program. They visited two schools and talked with Business Manager Debra Clark about the financial situation with the program. One of the Board goals for this year is to increase student participation. Our goal is to have 30% participation for breakfast and 60% for lunch. As a result of this review, we surveyed parents and students to ask what they like to eat, fine-tuned our menus, and made slight changes at Morse High School. The biggest change will be how we deliver breakfast to the students at a few of our schools. The advice that we were given was to bring the food to the kids. So not only will the students be able to pick up their breakfast when they first come into the school but a staff member will have a cart and take breakfast to the students. Dr. Manuel stated that we will start offering basic options for breakfast and increase the variety after working through the logistics and then we will go back to serve more options for the students. Principals and teachers have been receptive to the fact that we need to get the food to the students.

Board member Walton shared his concerns and felt that children need a hot breakfast that was not served from a bag. Mr. Walton shared other concerns such as the need for staff to have computer access, the additional preparation time and how it will impact the preparation time needed for lunch, and the need to have more than one offering.

Food Service Director Ellen Beal stated that we offer 4 items and the child needs to have 3 items to make it a reimbursement breakfast. The recommendation from the state is that we serve the grain in a bag with juice and offer a choice of milk and/or a piece of fruit separately. The carts have limited space which makes it hard to have more than one offering while trying to have the kids move quickly through the line. Ms. Beal will provide the Board with feedback over the next few weeks and has asked principals and staff to let her know if they see anything that isn't working.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager Debra Clark presented the financial report for the month ending October 31, 2016. Mrs. Clark reported that we have spent approximately \$8 million so far this year which is higher than last year at this time. Mrs. Clark stated that we are spending a little bit faster this year and will probably end up with a little less carryover than we did last year. Mrs. Clark met with Special Education Director Justin Keleher to look at tuition and staffing, which includes three additional educational technicians this year, and it that looks the \$800,000 listed on the report will be closer to a zero balance. Outside placement and homeless transportation is high this year but we are working with other districts to help with the homeless transportation costs. Mrs. Clark reported that the district is spending around \$17,000 per month on outside placement transportation. Mrs. Clark and Mr. Keleher will provide the Finance Committee with more detailed information during the December 1st committee meeting.

REVIEW OF 2016-2017 BOARD GOALS

Board member Ritch-Smith reviewed the goals that were addressed during the meeting. The workshop on proficiency-based education held before the Board meeting met Goal 3a. The handout to inform the public of the upcoming meetings on the Morse High School construction project and how to be involved in the process addresses Goal 1. Chairperson Harkins asked the Board to consider whether or not it would be worthwhile to form a communications committee. The committee could be utilized for the Morse project but would not be exclusive to the project.

SECOND READING OF POLICY JRA – STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS AND INFORMATION

MOTION: August

SECOND: Perkins

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

TO: Approve the second reading of Policy JRA – Student Education Records and Information as written.

CONSIDERATION OF TWO NEW BRCTC PROGRAMS

Superintendent Manuel stated that we are looking for concept approval to offer two new vocational programs when we open the new school in 2020. Our goal would be to offer these programs but at the same time the state would be supporting the rooms for the programs as well.

BRCTC Director Julie Kenny reviewed the state referral process to offer new vocational programs and stated that typically we would have to start the programs within two years of approval; however, RSU 1 has been given a little bit of leeway due to the fact that the state would need to fund the programs in our new school. Mrs. Kenny looked at the job growth for all of the job areas in the state as well as the 10 year projections and looked at whether they matched up to current CTE offerings in the state. Mrs. Kenny also looked at programs that wouldn't pull from our current programs so that we could offer a new field and different job training. The students from our sending schools in grade 8 and 9 were surveyed to determine whether they would be interested in cosmetology, HVAC, criminal justice or business entrepreneurship. Thirty-nine percent of the students would be interested in cosmetology while 39% preferred adding a criminal justice course. Mrs. Kenny is in the process of filling out the state application. The goal by adding these programs is to build for the future and offer really different pathways to careers in order to serve a need that is not being met for our students. These programs will also offer access to dual enrollments for our students at the community colleges.

The Board discussed the need for more information in order to support adding the new programs. Mr. Walton suggested that the Board approve the motion to have Mrs. Kenny move forward with the application.

MOTION: Walton

SECOND: Perkins

VOTE: Board (5-2)
Students (2-0)

TO: Approve moving forward with the application process for the two new programs.

PERSONNEL ITEMS - Report

Superintendent Manuel announced the following retirements and thanked each staff member for their service:

Jay Lemont, Asst. Principal, MHS
Charlene Bartlett, Humanities teacher, BMS
Janice Frey, Elementary teacher, DN
Nancy Cloutier, Elementary teacher, FM

OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

MOTION: Ritch-Smith

SECOND: Perkins

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

TO: Approve an out-of-state overnight field trip request from WCS Grade 8 to visit Washington, D.C in June 2017.

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Ensel

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

TO: Approve an out-of-state overnight field trip request for Gifted/Talented students to participate in the World Finals in Michigan in May 2017.

MOTION: Ensel

SECOND: August

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

TO: Approve an out-of-state overnight field trip request from MHS French students to visit Quebec City, Canada in May 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Woolwich resident Charlie Bingham continued his conversation with the Board about the health program at Woolwich Central School. Mr. Bingham spoke about the importance of the relationship between the students and the teachers that they see every day which is different than having students exposed to a one-day activity such as with SASSM. Mr. Bingham advocated for a health teacher at Woolwich Central School and stated that one day a week is not enough.

Student Representative Sreden felt that offering health at the high school is beneficial but it is too late as students have been exposed to or started unhealthy habits before entering high school. Ms. Sreden spoke in support of focusing on students at a younger age.

Student Representative Gray attended Woolwich Central School and had health one day a week. Once entering Morse High School Ms. Gray stated that she found that the students had a different outlook than she did on many of these topics and were more educated in these areas. Ms. Gray also spoke in support of a health program in the lower grades.

Chairperson Harkins asked that the administrators from BMS and WCS get feedback and report back to the Board during next month’s meeting. We have tried to incorporate health at the middle school level and would like to hear back from administration to find out if their health program is adequate.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

- The Board/Administrators Retreat will take place on Monday, December 19th at 3:00 pm at Bath Middle School
- Next regular RSU 1 Board Meeting; Monday, December 19, 2016 in the Bath Middle School Cafeteria at 5:00 pm.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Perkins

SECOND: Ritch-Smith

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

TO: Adjourn at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Manuel
Secretary