

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #57
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
WATERBORO, MAINE 04087**

District School Board Meeting MINUTES

March 27, 2024

7:00 PM

MHS East Building

Live Stream: <https://www.youtube.com/@RSU57-Massabesic/streams>

- A. Call to Order @ 7:00pm**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum - 15 Directors Present**

Allard, Joshua	Bacon, Melissa	Bauer, Suzanne	Cartisano, Mark
Day, Elizabeth	Dighello, Nuvia	Ferguson, Anastasia	Garrison, Eric*
Laine, Jodi	Mayo, Jennifer	Morrison, Amie	Phinney, Wes
Tanguay, Adam	Tardif, Angela	Vasalle, Judith	Vermette, Dominic
<i>(Lyman - Vacant)</i>	<i>(Waterboro - Vacant)</i>	**McLaughlin, Marissa - Jr. Class*	**VanBrocklin, Hunter - Sr. Class
		<i>**Student Representative</i>	<i>Absent* Absent Excused*E</i>

D. Adjustments to the Agenda

- Chair Laine motioned to add an Executive Session “To discuss a student matter pursuant to [1 M.R.S.A. § 405\(6\)\(B\)](#). **Action Needed.**” as the second item under section L.

Motion: A. Ferguson

2nd: A. Tanguay

No Discussion

Unanimous

Motion Carried

E. Approval of the Minutes from [March 13, 2024](#).

Motion: A. Ferguson

2nd: A. Tardif

No Discussion

Unanimous

Motion Carried

F. [Public Comment](#)

G. Board Chair Report

1. Recognitions and Celebrations
2. Board Chair Update

- Chair Laine welcomed new Board members Eric Garrison (Newfield) and Joshua Allard (Shapleigh).

H. Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. Marquis shared that the School Board will recognize students who have excelled over the next few meetings including national essay competition winners, Spelling Bee champ Julia Bryant, the MHS Theatre Troupe, and MHS Jazz Band.
- On Friday, April 5 Dr. Marquis will attend the UMaine College of Education Career Fair in Orono.
- On Monday, April 8 there will be a solar eclipse that will be visible throughout Maine and in RSU 57. RSU 57 has purchased solar eclipse glasses which meet rigorous safety standards and are approved by NASA, which will be distributed to all students and staff within the district. As of March 26, no school districts in York County are altering their schedule on April 8; instead providing structured learning opportunities for students.
- Dr. Marquis shared a recommendation to the School Board that, should there be no snow days between March 27 and April 10, the last student day would be June 9 and the last staff day would be June 10. Dr. Marquis explained that this would allow staff to have another professional day and celebrate the end of the year as a district. Additionally, this would allow us to guarantee the Town of Waterboro use of RSU 57 facilities for voting on June 11.
 - J. Mayo asked why the School Board needed to come to a decision about this on April 10 (the next School Board meeting). Chair Laine explained that April 10 is the deadline for making a decision about if the Town of Waterboro can use

district facilities, so that the town can properly notice the election. She also shared that if there is a snow day after April 10, the last student day would be June 10 and the last staff day would be June 11.

1. [Student Representative Report](#)
 - H. VanBrocklin provided an overview of the Student Representative Report.
2. [Staff Report](#)
3. [Enrollment](#)

I. Standing Committees

1. Finance/Building and Maintenance Committee
 - D. Vermette shared that the committee unanimously approved the draft of the FY 25 budget.
 - Construction of the new storage building behind the athletic complex at MHS is set to begin on April 1.
 - The committee hosted a review session of the FY 25 budget for the public and it went well. Budget meeting on Monday night for the public - went well
 - The Finance Meeting on April 24 has been CANCELED.
Next Meeting: April 10 at 6pm - East Training Center
2. Curriculum Committee
 - Has Not Met.
 - A. Ferguson reminded the Board that the committee is hosting a Community Forum on April 9 at 7pm in the East Training Center.
Next Meeting: April 9 at 6pm - East Training Center
3. Human Resources Committee
 - Has Not Met.
 - Chair Laine said that the committee is continuing negotiations with Ed Techs.
 - Superintendent Evaluations are due by April 24, 2024.
Next Meeting: May 16 at 6pm - East Training Center
4. Policy Committee
 - Has Not Met.
Next Meeting: April 2 at 6pm - East Training Center
5. Public Relations/Technology Committee
 - S. Bauer shared that the technology department is hiring a data specialist. Dr. Marquis clarified that this is not a new position; the position is being filled following a staff resignation.
 - Phone system migration experienced some delays but was completed in January.
 - Working with Tyler Technologies to implement ransomware; developing an acceptable use handbook for staff and an incident response plan.
 - Registration for PreK and K is open; the process is fully online. Department is putting on finishing touches for all other student registrations.
 - Mr. Keenan shared at the meeting that he would like the PR/Tech committee to work collaboratively with the Curriculum Committee to expand community relations.
Next Meeting: May 21 at 6pm - East Training Center
6. Transportation and Safety Committee
 - J. Mayo shared that the transportation budget may be over the projected amount in salaries and benefits due to increased need for van drivers.
 - Transportation is utilizing dispatchers and mechanics as spare drivers; struggling to fill open bus driver positions.
 - The electric buses have been fully equipped and several staff have begun driving instruction without students. Buses were quoted at being able to achieve 100 miles on a single charge; have not seen that result yet.
 - M. Cartisano led a discussion about policy EEA-R which does not currently allow students to take separate buses on AM/PM runs. The committee discussed this at-length and will continue to do so before bringing it to the full Board.
Next Meeting: April 23 at 6pm - East Training Center

J. Old Business

K. New Business

1. Review of Fiscal 2024-2025 Working Budget.
 - Mr. Colin Walsh presented and reviewed the [2024-2025 Working Budget](#).
 - Mr. Walsh shared that the Finance Committee meets weekly from January-March to develop the budget; the process begins by meeting with administrators to understand

needs throughout the District. FY 25 runs from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. RSU 57 has over 600 employees and has a \$50 million budget.

- Enrollment and valuation are key factors in determining state subsidy; when valuation goes up and enrollment decreases (or remains the same), subsidy decreases which creates more pressure on local tax assessment.
- The Capital Reserve Fund exists to help stabilize the cost of major improvement construction projects. The Finance Committee is recommending that \$1 million be transferred from the General Fund to Capital Reserve Fund; no money has been allocated to this account for the last several years.
- FY 25 working budget represents an increase of 5.56% compared to FY 24. 75% of budget is allocated to costs of labor, including employee benefits and payroll taxes.
- 93% of RSU 57's revenue comes from state subsidy and local tax assessments. Mr. Walsh explained that the tax increase for each town will not mean that each individual's taxes will go up that amount. Mr. Walsh and the Finance Committee feel that the working budget meets the needs of the Strategic Plan while keeping in mind the impact to taxpayers. Dr. Marquis added that it is very expensive to operate small schools because the EPS formula is a floor, not a ceiling. The state of Maine pays 55% of district costs statewide. Since RSU 57 is a high-valuation district with flat enrollment, the EPS formula covers 40% of expenses for RSU 57, which means much of what we do is not covered by the state.
- M. Cartisano noted that he would have liked to receive the information that Mr. Walsh presented with the rest of Board meeting materials prior to tonight. D. Vermette explained that the working budget was only just approved by the Finance Committee at tonight's meeting; the packet provided by Mr. Walsh was presented at the budget review session and was available on the RSU 57 website. Chair Laine said she will make a note to have it linked to the agenda in the future.
- M. Cartisano questioned the "pay to play" section of the historical data, stating he believed that policy was no longer in effect. Mr. Walsh explained that yes, there is no longer a "play to pay" policy, but the data was included in the packet for historical reference purposes.
- M. Cartisano noted that Medicare numbers "dropped in half". Mr. Walsh explained that the district has not been able to collect what has been budgeted over the last year.
- M. Cartisano asked what "other revenue" included. Mr. Walsh explained that it includes items such as increases in interest rates and disposition of sales.

2. Approve Expenditure from Capital Reserve Fund for High School Modular Building. **Action Needed.**

- Mr. Walsh explained that this project was submitted to the state and approved for ESSER III funding. RSU 57 has chosen Modular Genius as the vendor to build a modular building at MHS; the Finance Committee believes that RSU 57 should enter a contract agreement with them. The funding will come out of the Capital Reserve Fund and will have no impact on taxpayers.
- J. Vasalle asked what the modular would be used for. Mr. Walsh explained that it will be a 4350 sq ft building which will house 4 classrooms. J. Vasalle asked what classes will be held in that area and Mr. Walsh shared that they do not know at this point; will be decided by building and upper administration.
- M. Cartisano noted that there is \$45,000 in the budget for change orders and was wondering if that number could increase. Mr. Walsh shared that the number of change orders were unlikely; the district surveyed the build site and there are minimal risks and concerns. Additionally, Modular Genius was selected as a vendor because they have a low history of change orders. Dr. Marquis added that change orders are more common when working on older buildings and structures than new builds.
- M. Cartisano asked what happens if the project comes in under-budget. Mr. Walsh explained that any leftover money will remain in the Capital Reserve Fund for later use.
- J. Mayo asked where on the MHS campus the modular will be located. Mr. Walsh said the build site will be located between the baseball fields and the student parking lot near the woods.
- A. Tardif asked if \$360,000 included the cost of the modular along with required safety measures. Mr. Walsh said yes, this price includes everything needed to build and install the modular building. Mr. Walsh noted that he was anticipating higher-priced bids; Modular Genius offered a more competitive offer because they are looking to build a greater presence in the Northeast. The company is currently based out of New York.

- J. Vasalle asked if the District will need to purchase additional classroom equipment (i.e. desks and chairs). Mr. Walsh said yes.
- Motion to approve up to \$360,000 from capital reserve fund to fund, sign a contract, and install the modular

Motion: J. Mayo motioned to [REDACTED].

2nd: A. Ferguson

No Discussion

Unanimous

Motion Carried

3. Nomination. **Action Needed.**

- a. Jason Homer, Math Teacher – Massabesic High School

- Dr. Marquis explained that this nomination would be for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion: A. Ferguson

2nd: A. Tangay

No Discussion

Unanimous

Motion Carried

L. Executive Session

1. To discuss a student matter pursuant to [1 M.R.S.A. § 405\(6\)\(B\)](#). **Action Needed.**

Motion: A. Ferguson motioned to enter Executive Session.

2nd: E. Day

No Discussion

Unanimous

Motion Carried

The School Board entered Executive Session at 8:09pm.

Motion: A. Ferguson motioned to exit Executive Session.

2nd: J. Mayo

No Discussion

Unanimous

Motion Carried

The School Board exited Executive Session at 8:26pm.

Motion: A. Ferguson motioned to re-admit Student A.

2nd: A. Tanguay

No Discussion

Unanimous

Motion Carried

2. To discuss a student matter pursuant to [1 M.R.S.A. § 405\(6\)\(B\)](#). **Action Needed.**

Motion: A. Ferguson motioned to enter Executive Session.

2nd: S. Bauer

No Discussion

Unanimous

Motion Carried

The School Board entered Executive Session at 8:28pm.

Motion: A. Ferguson motioned to exit Executive Session.

2nd: S. Bauer

No Discussion

Unanimous

Motion Carried

The School Board exited Executive Session at 9:27pm.

Motion: M. Cartisano motioned to expel Student B through the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

2nd: A. Tanguay

No Discussion

Unanimous

Motion Carried

3. Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to [1 MRSA § 405 \(6\)\(A\)](#). **Action Needed.**

Motion: A. Ferguson motioned to enter Executive Session.

2nd: A. Tanguay

No Discussion

Unanimous

Motion Carried

The School Board entered Executive Session at 9:30pm.

Motion: D. Vermette motioned to exit Executive Session.

2nd: A. Ferguson

No Discussion

Unanimous

Motion Carried

The School Board exited Executive Session at 10:01pm.

Motion: M. Cartisano motioned to deny the request for additional paid leave.

2nd: A. Tanguay

	No Discussion	13 In Favor, 2 Opposed	Motion Carried
M.	Calendar/Announcements		
N.	Adjournment - 10:03pm		

Upcoming Meetings

4/2/2024	Policy Committee	6:00pm	MHS East
4/9/2024	Curriculum Committee	6:00pm	MHS East
4/10/2024	Finance Committee	6:00pm	MHS East
4/10/2024	School Board	7:00pm	MHS East
4/23/2024	Transp./Security Committee	6:00pm	MHS East
4/24/2024	Finance Committee	6:00pm	MHS East
4/24/2024	School Board	7:00pm	MHS East