

PENOBSCOT INDIAN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023 @ 5:00 P.M.

Community Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carole Binette, Chairperson,  
Naomi Neptune, Vice-Chairperson,  
Jo-Ann Lolar, Elisha Sockbeson, David Sapiel, Jr. (Absent)

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Francis, Principal,  
Dr. Reza Namin, Superintendent.

- 1) Chairperson Binette Called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.
- 2) Ms. Lolar made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Neptune, to approve the minutes from June 27, 2023, meeting. Motion passed. Voted 3-0 with one abstaining.
- 3) Presentation of the new Children's Book by Author Minqunasis Sapiel. The author explained her experience and connection to incorporate her mother and family going back to her roots. She plans to meet Principal Lee and discuss the book further. The goal is to have the book purchased for the library and add to the Wabanaki Studies section of the library.
- 4) Consideration of a Research Request by a Graduate Student Jasmine Lamb. Ms. Lamb presented a summary of the research and her request.

Motion by Chairperson Binette, and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Neptune, to support Jasmine Lamb's graduate thesis with the University of Maine for conducting research at the Indian Island Elementary School in collaboration with the Wabanaki tribes of Maine. Motion passed. Voted 4-0.

- 5) Motion by Chairperson Binette, and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Neptune, to approve the 2023-2024 Indian Island Elementary School Student Handbook with the changes and approved revisions. Motion passed. Voted 4-0.
- 6) Motion by Chairperson Binette and seconded by Ms. Sockbeson, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to employ Devin Downing as Cross-Country Coach with an extracurricular contract for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion passed. Voted 4-0.

7) Motion by Chairperson Binette and seconded by Ms. Sockbeson, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to employ Melissa Chaiken as Library Para-Professional III (3/5 hours) for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion passed. Voted 4-0.

8) Reports:

Principal's: (See Exhibit A)

Superintendent's:

Dr. Namin informed the school committee that there is a \$763,800 funding allocated to address air quality and HVAC. He also informed the school committee that the school community grant opportunity will be a five-year grant-funded opportunity to provide more culturally responsive programs to support the student's academic and emotional needs.

9) Community Comments: No Community Comments.

10) Ms. Sockbeson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Lolar seconded the motion at 6:35 P.M., Motion passed. Voted 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Reza Namin, Superintendent of Schools  
Maine Indian Education  
Penobscot Indian School Department