

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 64
Bradford Corinth Hudson Kenduskeag Stetson

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 24, 2023

The members of the Board of Directors of RSU 64 met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 23, 2023 in response to an agenda dated October 19, 2023. The agenda was distributed to members electronically.

Members Present: Rhonda Williams, James Connolly, Haley Emery, Wanda St. Peter, Steven Ingalls, Sherry Horn, Julie Byers, Anne Kenneson, Emily Henderson, Kelsi McHugh-Speed, Steven Ingalls, Michael Anderson, Amy Bean, Katherine Waite, Jodi Brasslett, Robert Young

Student Representatives Present: Lindsey Stevens

Members Absent: Nicole Kelley, Tonya Wozneak

Members Absent Without Excuse: None

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Rhonda Sperrey, administrators, and members of the public.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rhonda Williams at 7:00 p.m. A roll call and check of attendance found a quorum of 16 members present, and 2 members absent.

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second of Sherry Horn, the Board voted to approve the draft minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting (September 25, 2023), and the Hiring Committee Meeting (September 25, 2023), and to place the minutes on file as part of permanent Board records.

Unanimous

Petitions and Communications

No communications have been received.

Chair Williams called for Public Forum items.

Reports

Superintendent Sperrey introduced James Shink, the new Maintenance Supervisor, and updated members on the following administrative topics:

Ampion Credits

The District was notified October 12, that it should begin to see credits on the next electric bills for its partnership with Ampion Community Solar. The project the District is connected to, located in Bangor, has gone live. The District will continue to receive electric bills from Versant however, the bills will be reduced by the portion of the Community Solar farm in the form of bill credits. These credits will then be billed separately by Ampion at a discounted rate.

CHS HVAC Project

The HVAC renovation project for Central High School is currently out to bid. The pre-bid meeting for prospective bidders will take place at CHS on Tuesday, October 24 on site at 3:30 p.m. Bids will be received through Carpenter Associates, whom the District has contracted with to coordinate this work. Bids will be received and opened on November 2 at 2:00 p.m. at Carpenter Associates.

CCES Water Distribution System

Harriman Associates, the architectural firm that designed the CCES building, are working on the completion of the specifications for an alternate plumbing system for the water at CCES. It is the hope that this work will be completed over the Christmas student break. The redesign will include a new pump that will draw water directly from the underground tank and into the building bypassing the current three pump system that continues to cause problems. The current system operates on one of the three pumps above ground. Mr. Cole has confirmed all three pumps are currently available should the current one being used become compromised again before the redesign is fully implemented.

Homelessness Prevention

Across the region and the State, there has been a significant increase in homelessness among school aged children. In the previous legislative session, a bill was introduced that would allocate \$750 per homeless child (last year's count) to school districts for the purpose of preventing future homelessness. Although the bill did not pass, money has become available through the approved State budget to support a pilot program. This money can be used to support families who we learn may be approaching homelessness. Although all of the logistical details on how this money will be disbursed have not been worked out yet, RSU 64 has been allocated \$4,134.96 for this purpose.

Legislative Update

In the last session, the Legislature worked on over 2000 bills. The Education and Cultural Affairs Committee heard 190 bills and voted unanimously on 85 of them. The Committee takes great pride in two programs in particular: free breakfast and lunch for all public school students, and free Community College for high school graduates. Other significant laws have gone into effect impacting areas such as student rights, special education, labor, employment, retirement, school operations, finance, and Freedom of Access. The Policy Committee will be meeting to revise policy in these areas should it be necessary. A significant piece of legislation that was passed in the last session includes the expansion of Maine's Family Medical Leave Act. The impact of such an expansion is yet to be seen as this additional paid leave is expected to disrupt the learning of Maine public school students tremendously.

Department of Labor Inspection

On Thursday, October 12, the district received a surprise visit from the Department of Labor. The Department indicated they had no record of a previous program inspection. The inspection representative met with the Superintendent, maintenance staff, and interviewed several other staff members while doing building visits. The association leadership for both the teachers and the support staff were included in the opening and closing conferences. At the closing conference, the inspection representative presented the District with handwritten notes of items that may be included in his report. The District is working on correcting training and safety items identified in the notes and expects to have most items addressed before a formal report is received. Once the formal report is received (30-45 days after visit), the District will have 30 days to respond and correct citations.

Intent to Bargain

The District received notification from the RSU/MSAD No. 64 Teachers Association of their intent to bargain for a 3-year contract to follow the current one in place due to expire August 31, 2024.

Department of Education Facility Inventory

The Department of Education is implementing a pilot software data collection tool that will gather facility information on Maine public schools. The process includes the use of a database to collect data and site

visits. The RSU 64 site visit is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 8:30 am. The purpose of this inventory is to create baseline data on the status of public schools in Maine. It is not intended to inform the Major Capital Improvement Program Rating Cycle process. It is expected however, that a rating cycle process will be implemented in 2024, per statute.

District Enrollment (As of October 1, 2023)

CCES – 495 (+3)
CMS – 224 (-15)
CHS – 308 (-13)
Total = 1027 (-25)

Administrator Reports

Administrative Reports are distributed to Board members prior to the meeting.

CCES Principal Carrie Carr – Mrs. Carr updated the Board relative to the completion of fall parent teacher conferences. CCES used an online scheduler this year to arrange conferences and received very positive feedback overall from teachers and families.

CMS Principal Dr. Sandra Cookson – Dr. Cookson highlighted there have been no suspensions at the middle school in the past month.

CHS Principal Dr. Rad Mayfield – Dr. Mayfield shared comments about the very successful leadership themed week the PBIS Team at CHS facilitated with students last week. The week culminated with a school wide assembly highlighting the theme of leadership. Dr. Mayfield also offered Board members an opportunity to chaperone an Adventure Club field trip coming up on Friday, October 27.

Special Education Director David Nason – Mr. Nason had nothing to add to his report.

Curriculum Coordinator Monica Sabine – Mrs. Sabine highlighted the opportunity she had to give several books to a multilingual student this week. The District has purchased texts written in both English and Portuguese which supports the instructional approach of translanguaging for students learning English. The District currently has four multilingual learners.

Comprehensive Regional Technical High School Update – No meeting has taken place.

New Business

Discussion and Consideration of Versant Power Easement

Upon the motion of James Connolly and second by Wanda St. Peter, members voted to direct the Superintendent of Schools to sign the easement documentation on behalf of RSU 64.

Yea – 15
Nay – 0
Abstention – 1 (Bean)

Consideration of Recommended Student Board Member

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Sherry Horn, members voted to approve Madison Kenneson as the Junior Representative to the Board of Directors for 2023-2024.

Yea – 15
Nay – 0
Abstention – 1 (Kenneson)

Chair Williams appointed member Wanda St. Peter to serve as Miss Kenneson’s mentor.

Discussion and Consideration of Governance Committee Member Appointment

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Sherry Horn, members voted to appoint Courtney Wesley, Educational Specialist for the remainder of the 2022-2024 term vacancy.

Unanimous

Regular Monthly Meeting Dates – November & December

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Sherry Horn, members set the November Regular Monthly Meeting date for Monday, November 13 and agreed to forego a December meeting unless one is warranted.

Unanimous

Given representative member Curtis Chadbourne is not available to attend the upcoming meeting of SPRPCE on November 16, member Anne Kenneson agreed to attend on behalf of RSU 64.

Personnel Nominations and Confirmations

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey’s Support Staff appointment for 2023-2024:

CHS Educational Technician – Sarah Brooks

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey’s Schedule B appointments for 2023-2024:

CMS One Act Plays – Lindsey Peterson
CCES Student Council – Casee Hart
Elementary Science Club – Janelle Goff
Elementary Basketball – Brian Clark

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey’s Special appointments for 2023-2024:

Chemical Hygiene Officers – Liberty Oko & Janelle Goff

Upon the motion of Jodi Brasslett and second by Amy Bean, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by,



Rhonda Sperrey
Secretary