

**KIDS REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #2  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023**

**PLACE: RSU 2 CENTRAL OFFICE**

**TIME: 6:00 PM REGULAR MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Donna Seppy; Vice-Chair Chris Myers Asch, Directors Jeff Bickford, Jean Blais, William Burgess, Leanne Burnham, Aimee Campbell O'Connor, Deb Large, Hillary Roberts Johnson and student representatives Reilly McCabe and Julia Nott.

**MEMBERS ATTENDING REMOTELY** (in accordance with 1 MRSA §403-B): None

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent Richard Amero Jr. and Asst. Superintendent Kristie Clark; Principal Gabrielle LaPerriere, Finance Director Kelleen Longfellow, IT Director Mariah Kelley and IT Assistant Director Takuji Kobayashi, Principals Doug Bourget (virtual) and Sara Derosby (virtual).

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM PRESENT**

The Board Chair declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2, 2023,** Director Jeff Bickford **motioned** to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 2, 2023, Director Bill Burgess **seconded** the motion, **voted 9 yes 0 no.**

**3.0 ADJUSTMENT(S) TO AGENDA**

- Add item 6.6, 6:7
- Add to 8.0, 10.2, 10.3, 10.6

**4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 4.1 Public Comment
- 4.2 DES Principal Gabrielle LaPerriere's report to the Board (below)

**5.0 OLD BUSINESS**

**5.1 Approval of Policies**

Director Leanne Burnham **motioned** to approve the Policy Committee's recommendation of the following policies.

- ACAA-R - Student Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures
- ACAB-R - Employee Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

Director Hilary Roberts Johnson **seconded** the motion, **voted 9 yes 0 no.**

## 6.0 NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1 Approval of Nominated Personnel as New Hires  
Leanne Burnham **motioned** to approve nominated personnel as new hires. Aimee Campbell O'Connor **seconded** the motion, **voted 9 yes 0 no.**
- 6.2 Approval of Overnight, Out of State and Out-of-Country Trips - none submitted.
- 6.3 Community Board Forums - update
- 6.4 Kennebec Neighbors - Adult Education - update
- 6.5 CATC - update
- 6.6 Approval of Bid for Copiers  
Director Leanne Burnham **motioned** that the Board approve the proposed tax-exempt lease with M.S.T. Government Leasing, LLC, for the purpose of refinancing, and funding photocopy equipment leases including consulting fees, and related costs of issuances of such leases in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$216,527.50) and an interest rate of 5.24% per year through August 1, 2028. Director Jeff Bickford **seconded** the motion, **voted 9 yes 0 no.**
- Director Bill Burgess **motioned** that the Board authorizes the Superintendent to execute and deliver the tax-exempt lease with M.S.T. Government Leasing, LLC on such terms and conditions discussed and provided to the Board and to execute and deliver any such documents required to execute the contract with Specialized Purchasing Consultants, Inc. Director Jean Blais **seconded** the motion, **voted 9 yes 0 no.**
- 6.7 Negotiations Committee appointments: Chris Myers Asch, Donna Seppy & Jean Blais.

## 7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 7.1 Budget and Operations Committee  
November 9, 2023, 5:30 p.m.  
RSU 2 Central Office

**Committee Members present:** Chair Jeff Bickford, Leanne Burnham, Chris Myers Asch, Deb Large,

**Committee Members Absent:** None

**Other Board Members Present:** Jean Blais

**Others Present:** Superintendent Richard Amero Jr., Finance Director, Kelleen Longfellow; Buildings and Grounds Director, Randy Parenteau, Director of Special Services Deb Murphy, Principal Sarah Derosby

Budget Committee Chair Jeff Bickford - Call to order 5:35 p.m.

Minutes:

1. Reviewed and discussed draft of the district Capital Improvement Plan
2. Randy Parenteau provided an update on the many projects the buildings and grounds department has successfully completed since July 1, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Amero, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools

7.2 Policy Committee  
November 16, 2023, 5:30 p.m.  
RSU 2 Central Office

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Aimee Campbell-O'Conner; Bill Burgess; Jean Blais, Hilary Roberts-Johnson

**Committee Members Absent:** None

**Other Board Members Present:** Donna Seppy, Superintendent Richard Amero Jr.

**Others Present:** Director of Special Services Deb Murphy, Principal Sarah Derosby  
Policy Committee Chair A. Campbell-O'Connor - Call to order 5:36 p.m.

Adjustments to the Agenda:

1. Moved review of policy IHBEA - LAU Plan to next committee meeting
2. Reviewed policies BGA; BGB; and BCB-R procedure on adopting policy to assist in this evening's agenda.

Minutes:

1. Discussed and clarified that policies AC - Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action; ACAA - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students; and ACAB - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees do not require a 2nd vote by the Board of Directors according to policy BGA. The revision of these policies are in accordance with Maine statute.
2. Discussed and clarified that that ACAA-R – Student Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures and ACAB-R - Employee Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures require a 2nd vote by the Board of Directors to according to policy BGA. These two policies will be placed on the December 7 Board agenda.
3. Rick provided an update that the MSMA review of RSU 2 policies should be completed by December.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Amero, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools

## 8.0 FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Income and Expense Report (Report below)

## 9.0 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

## 10.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### 10.1 Newly Hired, Newly Appointed Personnel

- Kadeem Edge, SEL Teacher at DES
- Maureen Hopkins, Special Ed Tech II at HDES
- David Falker, Custodian at HDHS
- Samuel Grady, Custodian at HDHS
- Raymond Collins, Custodian at MA
- Joline LaPerriere, Special Education/Central Office Administrative Assistant

Coaches:

- Trever Browne, HDMS 'B' Girls Basketball
- Justin Lawrence, HDHS Boys JV Basketball
- Teagan Newhall, MMS Cheering Coach

- Joe Fletcher, MMS 'B' Boys Basketball
  - Nykki Stevens, MA Varsity Cheering Coach
  - Dylan Lajoie, MA JV Boys Basketball
- Co-Curricular Appointments:
- HDHS Day of Caring Advisor - Robert Sinclair
  - MA Student Council Co Advisor - Elizabeth Ross
- Other:
- MA MELMAC Grant Advisor: Lisa Wells

10.2 Resignation(s) / Retirement(s)

- Amiko Klaft, Custodian at HDMS (retirement)
- Beatrix Sidelinger, School Nutrition Worker at HDHS
- Brenda Lawrence, Administrative Assistant at DES

10.3 Open Positions in the RSU

- Van Driver at HDMS/HS
- Special Ed Techs: DES 1.5, HDES 3, HDMS 2, HDHS 2, MMS 4, MA 1
- Title One Ed Tech III at DES
- Part-time Library Tech III at DES
- Administrative Assistant at DES
- IT Tech in HD schools
- School Nutrition Worker at HDHS
- Japanese World Language at DES, HDES, MMS
- Special Ed Teacher at MMS

10.4 Upcoming Board Events and Committee Meetings (subject to change)

- Board Public Forum for Monmouth - 12/6/23
- Budget and Operations Committee Meeting - 12/14/23
- Policy Committee Meeting - 12/21/23
- Regular Board Meeting - 1/4/24

10.5 Upcoming Evening Events at Schools

- DES PTF meeting - 12/13/23
- DES Frosty Fair - 12/16/23
- HDMS Winter Concert - 12/6/23
- HDHS Jazz/Taiko Concert - 12/9/23
- HDHS Holiday Concert - 12/14/23
- MMS 6-8th grade Dance - 12/1/23
- MMS - PTO Meeting - 12/5/23
- MA Winter Concert - 12/5/23

Other:

- Early Release Day - 12/13/23
- School Vacation - 12/22/23 - 1/1/24
- Christmas Day - [schools and offices closed]
- New Year's Day - 1/1/24 [schools and offices closed]

10.6 School Field Trips [In-state / School Day]

- DES Grades 3-4-5 trip to Portland Symphony Orchestra - 5/13/24
- HDHS Forensics Class trip to Maine Crime Lab - 12/7/23
- HDHS 10th grade ELA Classes trip to Maine Veterans Home -12/5/23 & 12/6/23
- MMS Kindergarten trip to Great Falls Credit Union - 12/12/23
- MA Music trip to D3 Honors Festival at Cony High School - 1/26/24 & 1/27/24
- MA Guidance trip to Central Maine Community College Career Fair - 1/4/24

**11.0 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- CATC meeting follow up (from canceled meeting due to the 12/4 snow day)
- Start time changes for high schools
- School calendar change due to comp day change after the school year started

**12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION [1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A)]: Personnel Matters** Director Jeff Bickford **motioned** to enter Executive Session at 7:55p.m. Director Bill Burgess **seconded** the motion, **voted 9-0**. The Board exited the Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. Action taken: None taken.

**13.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION [1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A)]: Personnel Matters** Director Jean Blais **motioned** to enter Executive Session at 8:34 p.m. Director Aimee Campbell-O'Connor **seconded** the motion, **voted 9-0**. The Board exited the Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. Action taken: None taken.

**14.0 ADJOURNMENT**  
Director Bill Burgess **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. Director Jeff Bickford **seconded** the motion, **voted 9-0**.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Amero, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools

KC/mb



### DES Principal's Report

PK	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
10	14	13	8	13	9	9

#### Title 1/Reading Support

Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting 11 students in small group capacities, utilizing Heggerty to deepen phonemic awareness, letter and sound recognition, and phoneme-grapheme awareness.</li> </ul>
1st Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting 4 students in small group and 1:1 capacities, utilizing the SIPPS curriculum to deepen phonemic awareness, improve oral reading fluency, and establish essential decoding skills.</li> </ul>
2nd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting 5 students in small group capacities, utilizing the SIPPS curriculum to deepen phonemic awareness, improve oral reading fluency, improve understanding of more complex phonics patterns, syllabic principals, etc..</li> </ul>
3rd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting 3 students in a small group structure on skills and strategies that improve oral reading fluency, comprehension, and complex decoding strategies.</li> </ul>
4th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting 3 students in a small group structure on skills and strategies that improve oral reading fluency, comprehension, and complex decoding strategies.</li> </ul>
5th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting 2 students in a small group structure on skills and strategies that improve oral reading fluency, comprehension, and complex decoding strategies.</li> </ul>

Title I/Math Support

4th & 5th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Supporting 7 students in a small group capacity to build essential mathematical concepts related to place value and foundational multiplication.</li></ul>
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New Staff

SEL Interventionist- Kadeem Edge

- Supporting the development and implementation of the PBIS framework
- Supporting and coordinating behavior intervention plans
- Providing targeted instructional opportunities with the focus on essential SEL skill building and reinforcement
- Support school staff with a consultative and collaborative approach to address student emotional, social, and functional needs

World Language- Darcy Chase

- Providing rich instructional opportunities related to French culture and language

SIG 22/23 and 23/24 Applications:

Our DES leadership team has been engaging in some really thoughtful discourse and reflection related to school improvement efforts and our needs across the building. We work to be intentional in this process, sourcing various data points and reviewing research evidenced and student-centered practices to inform our goal setting and planning. Through the School Improvement Grant we hope to access professional development opportunities related to:

- Explicit instruction in phonemic and phonological awareness
- Administration and analysis of DIBELS- a set of measures that assesses essential early literacy skills
- Explicit SEL instruction through Second Step
  - Growth Mindset/Goal Setting
  - Emotion Management
  - Empathy and Kindness
  - Problem Solving
- Explicit instruction on the delivery of the SPOT curriculum, which will be utilized as an SEL intervention resource
  - Self Management
  - Responsible Decision Making

- Self Awareness
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- MTSS
  - How to refine our process and support improved outcomes for students across a continuum of need
  - Intentional data driven decision making
    - The intersection of academic, emotional, social, and functional supports

DES Updates and Events

<p>Celebration of Mr. Pepper</p>	<p>Mr. Pepper has taken tremendous care of our Dresden students for over 30 years! On Tuesday, November 21st we celebrated Mr. Pepper and all his impact. Our DES staff and students wrote him a farewell card, updated our school signage, and provided him a warm send off. Mr. Pepper, you certainly are missed already!</p>
<p>Spooktacular Fall Festival</p>	<p>The PTF coordinated and hosted the DES Spooktacular Fall Festival on November 17th. We had several families, community members, and DES staff participate in the fun! There was bowling, crafts, a haunted house, tasty treats, costume walk, and delightful memories shared by all! Thank you again to the PTF for your continued dedication, creativity, and thoughtfulness!</p>
<p>PBIS at DES</p>	<p>DES has started a new PBIS initiative- the Dragon Diamond! Classes are recognized for being safe, kind, and responsible with a Dragon Diamond. At the end of the month, diamonds are tallied up and the class with the most diamonds wins! The winning class enjoys a class-wide activity of their choice and is announced on the intercom.</p>



<p>Kenyon Fund</p>	<p>The Kenyon Fund is a source of rich, dynamic, and student centered experiences in the arts. Our staff at DES have been in collaboration with Mary Walsh to coordinate field trips and school based experiences aligned to the arts. We have tentatively confirmed an artist in residency experience for March! We will be joined by two talented local artists:</p> <p><b>Janoah Bailin-</b> A circus performer who will be creating an opportunity for students to explore force and motion through circus skills. They will apply notions of gravity, weight, air resistance, friction, work, fulcrum, axle, etc. as we play with and learn using scarves for juggling and objects for balancing</p>
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	<p><b>Emilia Dahlin-</b> A singer and songwriter who will be creating an opportunity for students to engage in a music workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Practice embodying a beat (pattern recognition)</li> <li>● Movement to music and connection of songs with books.</li> <li>● Group singing (call and response and working with sequential memory)</li> <li>● Sensory play with scarves, movement to music and exploration of emotions through music</li> </ul>
<p>Spirit Week and Hygge</p>	<p>DES students and staff participated in a spirit week during the week of Nov. 27th-Dec. 1st:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monday- Outdoor Adventure Day</li> <li>● Tuesday- Hat Day</li> <li>● Wednesday- Class Color Day</li> <li>● Thursday- Mismatched Day</li> <li>● Friday- Pajama Day</li> </ul> <p>Hygge- A Danish principle that focuses on joy, togetherness, and contentment. Staff and students are participating in a week of Hygge related activities that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An hour a board game play</li> <li>● Mindfulness activity</li> <li>● Calming music</li> <li>● Reading by the virtual "fireplace"</li> <li>● A day to wear cozy clothes and accessories</li> <li>● Creating a compliment chain to express gratitude and</li> </ul>

	care for eachother
Classroom Spotlight	TBD