

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #37

August 30, 2023

A regular meeting of the MSAD #37 Board of Directors was held at 7:00 p.m. on August 30, 2023 at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School to consider and act on the following business:

Board Members Present: Leann Beal, Chris Chartrand, Steve Dunham, Shelby Greene, Dan Kane, Grace Kennedy, Ronald Kennedy, Debra Murphy, David Perham, Tiffany Strout, and Mark Wright

Board Members Absent: Beth Hartford,

Other persons present: Ken Johnson, Eric Brooks, Carol Ann Lisee, Denise Vose, Lorna Greene, Todd Emerson, Marla Bagley, Jonathan MacLeod, Lucille Willey, Kandi Robertson, Chris & Candy Tucker, Courtney Williams, Anita McGray, Elmer & Annie Morris, Suzen Polk-Hoffses, Donna Grant, Amanda Kowalsky, Anna Emerson, Amity Chipman, Dawn Fickett, and other citizens

MINUTES

A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Debra Murphy.
2. **RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 26, 2023 REGULAR MEETING**
ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Mark Wright, and voted (852-yes, 52-abstentions) to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2023 meeting as printed. (Dunham abstained as he was absent from that meeting.)
3. **RE: REPORT—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Including Legislative Updates)**
INFORMATION: Supt. Johnson noted that in May the board had approved transferring money (up to 5% allowed by law) between cost centers for fiscal year end, if necessary. It was necessary and the transfers have been made. He reviewed the transfers of approximately \$78,000 and noted that overages in System Administration, Transportation, and Maintenance cost centers resulted from things such as advertising, legal services, the superintendent search, budget validation referendum costs, insurance, plowing, heating oil, repairs, maintenance, fuel, and the bus purchase.

Supt. Johnson reported that an issue has come up with the CTE renovations. We did receive the permit for the sprinkler system; however, we do not have a construction permit. He, Chairman Murphy, and Vice-Chair Wright spoke with the Fire Marshal's Office, Nickerson & O'Day, and Haley Ward on Friday. The wall where the two sections of the building abut (separating the old section from the new renovation) does not meet code. New code regulations require that a wall be there that will remain standing even if the building burns flat. Our two choices re to extend the sprinkler system just installed into the old section of the building where our current CTE programs are or to build a fire-challenge wall.

The extension of the sprinkler system will require additional piping but not another tank or water system as the new one is adequate to hold the required water. The cost for this is estimated at \$175,000-\$225,000. The challenge wall would be an estimated \$210,000-\$245,000. Supt. Johnson noted that a decision does not need to be made tonight. We are still going to be able to occupy the building for the start of the school year and will have a couple of years to complete that work, whichever we choose.

He also noted that they spoke with our attorneys about the architect's liability since it was their misunderstanding of the code that caused the problem. Our attorneys noted that their contract limits them to the amount of the contract, which is \$85,000.

Supt. Johnson noted that he leans to extending the sprinkler system as it gives the most flexibility for future use of the building and also sprinkles the current area where we have higher-risk programs such as welding, diesel, and automotive. Although a formal vote is not on the agenda, it would be helpful to know what the board feels, how aggressive you would like him to get with the architects and pursuit of any legal action, and a sense of which option you want him to pursue. There was discussion about the options and consensus was to have the superintendent seek firm numbers on sprinkling the old building both with and without the attic area included, as well as having him talk with the architects about the board's feeling that they were let down in the contract to see if the architects are willing to do anything about it. Superintendent Johnson was also asked to provide an update to the board on where we are with the total cost of the renovation project and funding.

4. RE: REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INFORMATION: Supt. Johnson noted that it is early in the year and things are fine financially.

5. RE: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

INFORMATION: Eric Brooks reported an estimated enrollment for Harrington Elementary of 129. They had four new students enroll on Tuesday. The building looks incredible, especially the gym. The custodians did a great job getting the building cleaned and ready. The staff had a good workshop today.

Lorna Greene noted that DW Merritt enrolled seven new students yesterday and is expecting about 100 students next week. Her custodians have done a great job on the building. The roof is complete with only two minor things to be corrected. The ceiling tiles have all been replaced and it looks good. Staff are ready to go! **PD**—Teachers, Ed Techs, and Administrators held workshops in each building today. The Leadership Team also met today, and things are off to a great start. **ESEA**—The application has been submitted and we are awaiting approval on that. **G/T**—The committee will hold its first meeting of the year on September 11th.

Carol Ann Lisee reported one new registration yesterday with four more planning to register next week, giving them an estimated enrollment of 120 at Milbridge Elementary. The Blueberry Harvest School finished up on the 18th and custodians have been busy cleaning up. Harrington custodians came over to help, which was greatly appreciated. The staff is excited for the new year.

Todd Emreson noted that Narraguagus should have a similar enrollment to last year of about 320. The custodians are finishing up and have done a great job this summer. The workshop today went well. Most positions will be filled if the board approves hires tonight. Fall sports are already underway.

6. RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Athletics/Student Activities—Mark Wright reported that this committee met earlier in the evening to talk with three new coaches and the board will vote on this later on the agenda.

b. Curriculum & Instruction-none

c. Negotiations & Grievance-none

d. Policy & By-laws-none

e. Facilities, Maintenance, Safety & Transportation-none

There was discussion about some policies that some board members would like to see brought up, such as bullying, equity, naming buildings, etc., as well as other committees that could be convened to discuss pertinent issues.

7. RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

INFORMATION: Annie and Abner Morris noted they don't feel anything has been done to make their son feel safe coming back to school after the bullying/racial comments from last year. They had hoped some policy changes might have been made by now.

Anita McGray asked why there are subcommittees if they don't meet on a regular basis? Supt. Johnson responded that standing subcommittees meet as needs arise, and it's up to the board and the committees as to how often they meet.

Kandi Robertson asked about the school-based mental health grant the district received and if we would be getting any counselors for students. How will families be able to access the services. Supt. Johnson noted that the grant allows for interns to work in the schools to increase the level of services. Dr. Frankland has been working on that and communication will be forthcoming to students and families on what is available.

8. RE: AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to table this article as there are no adjustments necessary.

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. RE: HIRING CTE AUTOMOTIVE INSTRUCTOR

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to ratify the hiring of Nicholas Alley as CTE Automotive Instructor as recommended by the Superintendent.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. RE: HIRING L/T SUB PRE-K TEACHER AT DW MERRITT

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Tiffany Strout, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to ratify the hiring of Ronalee Robinson as a long-term PreK substitute teacher as recommended by the Superintendent.

2. RE: HIRING GRADE 3 TEACHER AT HARRINGTON

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Dan Kane, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to ratify the hiring of Susan Meserve as Grade 3 Teacher at Harrington as recommended by the Superintendent.

3. RE: HIRING INTERIM SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Grace Kennedy, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to ratify the hiring of Denise Vose as Interim Special Education Director as recommended by the Superintendent.

4. RE: HIRING L/T SUB HEALTH TEACHER AT NJSHS

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to ratify the hiring of Linda Smith as a long-term substitute Health Teacher at NJSHS as recommended by the Superintendent.

5. RE: HIRING ESOL ED TECH III AT MILBRIDGE

ACTION: Motion by Grace Kennedy, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (800-yes, 52-abstentions) to ratify the hiring of Jamie Jordan and Gina Wright as ESOL Ed Tech IIIs at Milbridge as recommended by the Superintendent. (Wright abstained.)

6. RE: HIRING IT ASSISTANT

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Dan Kane, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to ratify the hiring of Blaine Grant as IT Assistant as recommended by the Superintendent.

7. RE: HIRING PART-TIME COOK

ACTION: Motion by Grace Kennedy, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to ratify the hiring of Kathy Haskell as part-time Cook at NJSHS as recommended by the Superintendent.

8. RE: HIRING SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by David Perham, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to approve Ashlee Gupstill, Veronica Potts, and Valerie Trumps as substitute teachers as recommended by the Superintendent.

9. RE: HIRING ELEMENTARY AND JR. HIGH FALLS COACHES

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Chris Chartrand, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to ratify the hiring of the following elementary and junior high fall coaches as recommended by the Athletic Subcommittee and the Superintendent:

Soccer: DW Merritt-Amanda Kowalsky with Jonathan Alley as volunteer assistant; Harrington-Moriah Nichols with Anna Emerson as volunteer assistant; Milbridge-Matthew Walsh

Cross-Country: DW Merritt-Amanda Kowalsky; Harrington-Dara Knapp; Milbridge-Donald and Richard Parker

Jr. High Volleyball: Logan Kelley with Kimberly Thompson as volunteer assistant

10. RE: APPROVAL TO OPT OUT OF THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

ACTION: Motion by Chris Chartrand, second by Mark Wright, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to opt out of the Child and Adult Care Food Program for 2023-2024 as the district does not have an afterschool program open to all students and students that do participate in our EdGE Afterschool Program are already provided with a free snack.

11. RE: ACCEPTANCE OF PROPANE BID FOR 2023-2024

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by David Perham, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to accept the fixed price propane bid from R.H. Foster of \$1.899 per gallon.

12. RE: ELECTION OF LOCAL DELEGATE TO MSBA ANNUAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

ACTION: Motion by Mark Wright, second by Steve Dunham, and voted (unanimously, with no abstentions) to elect David Perham as the local delegate to the MSBA Annual Delegate Assembly.

13. RE: ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion by Tiffany Strout, and voted (unanimously) to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth W. Johnson
Superintendent of Schools

August 30, 2023 MEETING SUMMARY

- A. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS
 - 2. APPROVED minutes of July 26, 2023 regular meeting;
 - 8. TABLED agenda adjustments;
- B. OLD BUSINESS
 - 1. HIRED Nicholas Alley as CTE Automotive Instructor;
- C. NEW BUSINESS
 - 1. HIRED Ronalee Robinson as long-term sub PreK teacher at DW Merritt;
 - 2. HIRED Susan Meserve as grade 3 teacher at Harrington;
 - 3. HIRED Denise Vose as Interim SpEd Director;
 - 4. HIRED Linda Smith as long-term sub Health teacher at NJSHS;
 - 5. HIRED Jamie Jordan and Gina Wright as ESOL Ed Tech IIIs at Milbridge;
 - 6. HIRED Blaine Grant as IT Assistant;
 - 7. HIRED Kathy Haskell as part-time Cook at NJSHS;
 - 8. HIRED Ashlee Gupitill, Veronica Potts, and Valerie Trumps as substitute teachers;
 - 9. HIRED elementary and jr. high fall coaches: **Soccer:** DW Merritt-Amanda Kowalsky with Jonathan Alley as volunteer assistant; Harrington-Moriah Nichols with Anna Emerson as volunteer assistant; Milbridge-Matthew Walsh; **Cross-Country:** DW Merritt-Amanda Kowalsky; Harrington-Dara Knapp; Milbridge-Donald and Richard Parker; **Jr. High Volleyball:** Logan Kelley with Kimberly Thompson as volunteer assistant
 - 10. APPROVED opting out of the CACFP for 2023-2024;
 - 11. ACCEPTED bid from RH Foster for propane;
 - 12. ELECTED David Perham as local delegate to the MSBA Delegate Assembly