

Regional School Unit 24



Regional School Unit 24 Board of Directors Meeting

November 1, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

District Service Facility

ADA Notice

This school district will accommodate members of the public with special needs to participate fully in this meeting. Please contact Administrative Assistant Jennifer Fountaine (422-2017) if you have such needs.

Public Participation

The public is invited to comment on any agenda item as it is being considered by the Board. The chair may place time and other restrictions on such participation. The public is asked to contact Superintendent Michael Eastman (422-2017) for consideration of issues not on this agenda.

<https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/81975411351>

Meeting Minutes

Superintendent Michael Eastman

meastman@rsu24.org

Board Members

Present					
Yes	No	TOWN	NAME	VOTES	% of Votes
x		Eastbrook	Jennifer Des Jardin	424	5.6%
x		Franklin	Roy Gott	1567	20.7%
6:34		Gouldsboro	Susan Dickson-Smith	1703	22.5%
	x	Mariaville	Julia Sheehan	472	6.2%
x		Sorrento	Janet Wilpan	279	3.7%
x		Steuben	Keith Goldfarb	1129	14.9%
x		Sullivan	Vern Campbell	1219	16.1%
x		Waltham	Mercy Hardison	332	4.4%
x		Winter Harbor	Jeffrey Alley	461	6.1%
		Student Rep.	Tori Webber		
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				7,586	100.00%

A. Call to Order at 6:30

B. Adjustments to the Agenda

Add #6 - Educational Programming Update

C. Approval of the October 4th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the October 4th, 2022 meeting minutes was made by Member Jeffrey Alley and seconded by Member Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 7114 Opposed: 0 Absent: 472 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

Member Susan Dickson-Smith arrived at 6:34.

D. Report from the Board Chair

Roy attended the MSBA Fall conference in Augusta last week. He mentioned that he will try and gather all of the digital information from the conference to make it accessible for people to view if they choose. One of the main items was information about electrification (electric school buses). Delegate assembly was the prior weekend - all the resolutions passed except for public comment. We have our new student rep (Torrie Webber).

E. Report from the Superintendent

Mr. Eastman talked about the threat that had occurred at MDI High School today. Mr. Eastman offered our support (guidance counselors, etc.) to them if needed. Our October enrollment certification has been done and it is up by 22. Mr. Eastman has visited all of our elementary schools this week and all is going well. The high school/middle school is going well.

A meeting with the Sullivan code enforcement officer was held this morning with several attendees - the goal was to talk about winter athletics and using our gym at the high school for practices. The CEO used the period as a question and answer period and we have hopes that we will have answers by tomorrow about athletics and there is hope that there will be open gym.

F. Business

1. Personnel Committee Update

Met today at 5:30 - Member Jeffrey Alley was elected as chair and Member Mercy Hardison was elected as vice chair. Agenda items included health benefits for food service employees beginning in the 2023-2024 year, including a full dental and health single subscriber plan. Currently they have the opportunity to opt out, next year it will be the "total package" to bring those employees in line with support staff with which we have collective bargaining agreements.

A motion to authorize that change for food service staff as presented was made by Member Jeff Alley and seconded by Member Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 7114 Opposed: 0 Absent: 472 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

Second item on their agenda was to change the work schedule in the job description for the food service staff to add summer programming.

A motion to adjust the food summer program job description was made by Member Jeff Alley and seconded by Member Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 7114 Opposed: 0 Absent: 472 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

They also discussed the rounding of time within the timekeeping system. Whereas previously clock-in/out times had been rounded to the nearest quarter-hour, now the exact time for clocking in and out will be used to calculate hours.

A hiring update was distributed which showed a number of positions having been filled but with several positions remaining with no or few applicants.

2. Authorization to open an activity account for the Sumner Middle School using funds transferred from the elementary schools

Mr. Eastman explained that Sumner Principal JT Green needs to open a discretionary account for the middle school like those in our other schools and that this requires a Board vote. There will be about \$2000 that will be transferred.

A motion to approve the authorization to open an activity account for the Sumner Middle School using funds transferred from the elementary schools was made by Member Keith Goldfarb and seconded by Member Vern Campbell.

Votes in Favor: 7114 Opposed: 0 Absent: 472 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

3. Policy Committee Update

Board Chair Roy Gott explained the Policy Committee met on 10/25 where he was voted chair and Member Susan Dickson-Smith was voted vice-chair. Roy explained that the policies below added wording that comes from statute, expanding the definition of discrimination based on race to include hair texture and styles.

- AC - Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
- ACAA-R - Student Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complain Procedures
- ACAB - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees
- ACAB-R - Employee Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures
- ACAA - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
- GCFB - Recruiting and Hiring of Administrative Staff

A motion to approve the current policies as revised was made by Member Roy Gott and seconded by Member Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 7114 Opposed: 0 Absent: 472 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

Sorrento community member Elizabeth Morriarty questioned policy ACAB and questioned where the protection for our students would be since boys are allowed in the girls bathroom and there are “porno books” in the library. It was explained to her that Policy ACAB was specific to school employees and that Policy ACAA was specific to students. Mr. Eastman informed her that she could speak with Principal Green to obtain that policy and express any concerns she may have.

- JJIA - Grades 6-12 Co-Curricular Activities Participation

A motion to adopt JJIA - Grades 6-12 Co-Curricular Activities Participation as amended was made by Member Roy Gott and seconded by Member Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 7114 Opposed: 0 Absent: 472 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

Member Jeff Alley expressed concern that revisiting eligibility every two weeks as stated in the policy could cause turmoil for students who participate in athletics. He explained it’s difficult for coaches who won’t know who will be at practices from one week to the next, and it causes frustration and problems for students who miss practices and game time.

JT spoke saying that because it is a tiered system, it’s not as simple as a student being on and off the team based on academic issues. JT explained that it could take 6-8 weeks before a student is removed from a co-curricular activity if there is no improvement in academic standing during the tiered system. JT explained

that there are chances (for example a student is suspended) where a student could be removed from the co-curricular program automatically.

- **BEDH- Public Participation at Board Meetings**

This policy was reviewed as it was found during a summer training that there was a discrepancy with current law. Wording was changed so that the policy was current with the legislature. There is a sign up sheet that was developed by Board Chair Roy Gott in regards to speaking during a committee meeting

A motion to adopt policy BEDH - Public Participation at Board Meetings was made by Member Roy Gott and seconded by Member Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 7114 Opposed: 0 Absent: 472 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

Policies for First Read

- **CBI - Evaluation Of The Superintendent**

This was a template by MSMA. Member Keith Goldfarb had suggested some wording edits that were accepted by the Policy Committee. For transparency and flexibility, the committee decided to have the policy worded so that the summary evaluation of the superintendent would be developed by the chair and/or vice-chair.

A motion to approve policy CBI - Evaluation of the Superintendent for first read was made by Member Roy Gott and seconded by Member Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 7114 Opposed: 0 Absent: 472 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

- **JICHA - Breathalyzer Test**

This policy had been brought forth by Sumner Principal JT Green. The Policy Committee had concerns as to the training for staff to be able to administer those tests and the Goulsboro Police Department was approached and is able to provide that training.

A motion to approve policy JICHA - Breathalyzer Test for first read was made by Member Roy Gott and seconded by Member Keith Goldfarb.

Member Jeff Alley spoke explaining he is uncomfortable with administering a breathalyzer test by our staff. He felt that it would be better suited to have a law enforcement officer administer this test and to pursue that course of action instead of putting this responsibility on the administration.

Member Vern Campbell agrees with what Jeff Alley had said - he feels it could potentially put the district in trouble.

Principal JT Green spoke about how schools are addressing underage drinking. He explained this policy came from Bucksport High School and brought it to Superintendent Eastman explaining its something perhaps our district should look into. He believes it's something that's very concerning, and gave an example that at a recent dance, a student had been reported to be intoxicated at that dance. JT explained that the response time from local PD has been slow (up to an hour) so it's tough to predict what's going to happen in regards to calling the police however JT is not opposed to calling the police if that's the route that would be preferred.

Vern questioned what would happen if a breathalyzer was given to a student who

was underage and was found to be intoxicated, would the administration just deal with it in house instead of notifying law enforcement? JT said it's really dependent on the situation and for it to be a judgment call as we don't have a resource officer available like some of the other schools in our district.

Member Jeff Alley explained he understands the situation administration is in. He mentioned detaining students until law enforcement arrives - the student may decide to leave since restraining a student is against the law.

Vern questioned what would happen if a student refused to take the breathalyzer test - what disciplinary actions would happen? JT stated it would be a level 3 infraction.

Susan questioned if anyone had gotten in contact with out districts in the state or the district's legal team to see if this was something that occurred with other schools. Mr. Eastman is going to check with Drummond Woodsum as well as Corey Bageley (law enforcement contact). Mr. Eastman will find out for the next Policy Committee meeting.

Community member Elizabeth Morriarty questioned what a school resource officer was. Mr. Eastman explained the concept and stated that Ellsworth had one. Elizabeth asked why Sumner didn't have one? The board explained that it was considered before but because it's very costly (in the area of \$80,000) we did not get one. While the board had previously expected an SRO could serve all of our schools, Principal Green stated that in his experience, a resource officer is based in the secondary level. Roy asked JT at what school functions a breathalyzer would be used for. JT explained it would be for events such as dances and homecoming. Roy asked how many of those events would a breathalyzer be needed? JT said less than 10. Roy asked if there was a cost to have law enforcement present at such events - JT stated they have reached out to the police to show up at basketball games and they charge upwards of \$400 per game.

Elizabeth feels that the school is overstepping and wants to have full control of the children without consulting parents. She said what if we let go of some of our curriculum to pay for that resource officer? Member Jeff Alley spoke up stating that he believes that we would be doing it as a safety measure, not because the school is on a power trip. He explained that a student who is under the influence of alcohol could be a danger to themselves and other students.

The next meeting will be held on 11/15. The Board Organizational Meeting policy will be reviewed as well as other items presented tonight for first read.

Votes in Favor: 7114 Opposed: 0 Absent: 472 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

4. Proposed 2022-2023 School Calendar Revision

Mr. Eastman explained that there have been some changes to our school calendar and asked the board for their approval. There has been a total of 9 days missed, to which Mr. Eastman is asking that the schools make up 4 of those days. High school and middle school teachers will need to make up some time.

A motion to approve the modified 2022-2023 School Calendar as presented was made by Member Keith Goldbarb and seconded by Member Vern Campbell.

Votes in Favor: 7114 Opposed: 0 Absent: 472 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

5. New Building Update

Mr. Green went through some of the items that are being worked on and have been done. He explained there was a great first day - thanked the administrative staff for joining the first day helping everyone out - JT thought it was good and was expecting the day to be a bit bumpy but said it wasn't as bad as he had thought. They are working on getting communication out to stakeholders - he discussed a weekly "tiger telegram" and stated there is a monthly newsletter that goes out to parents and is posted on Facebook. Parent teacher conferences will be occurring next week and hopes that more people will sign up for that. He encouraged people to follow the school on their social media pages and it was found that "throw back Thursdays" was a big hit. The weight room is operational and looks great - Versa Gripps helped outfit that room. Students have access to request a meeting with administrators, nurses, etc. utilizing a Google form. NWEA testing is taking place. Scores are looking good in the high school - hopeful that middle school numbers will go up. In the process of working with BSN Sports for Sumner "swag" and working on the online school store. Home rooms are collecting items for the Thanksgiving food baskets. Guidance office is chairing the committee to bring back the MELMAC grant which is focused on college and/or career exposure. Hopes to bring a proposal to the board next month - potentially requesting an out of state senior trip. JT gave a shout out to Marielle Edgecomb for teaching both HS and MS in math, and Nancy Cramer for doing the same thing for the English side of things. Shout outs to the boys soccer team for winning the preliminary round, girls went on to be champs, as well as the XC team. Volleyball was hoping to be in the school gym for the fall season but it didn't work out. Discussion with the AD has happened in hopes of having a throwback game in the gym in the spring. Bringing a volleyball club to the middle school - a barrier is access to our facility. Ellsworth has graciously opened up their gyms to allow our athletes to play.

6. Educational Programming Committee Update

Janet Wilpan read a letter from Jessica Spaulding to Nikki Chan. The letter discussed the PhD science program and implementing it into our schools. The goal is to pilot this program in the 2022-2023 school year. The teachers had researched this all on their own and put it forth to the ed programming committee for consideration.

A motion to approve piloting PhD science was made by Member Keith Goldfarb and seconded by Member Susan Dickson-Smith.

Votes in Favor: 7114 Opposed: 0 Absent: 472 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

One other item is about trying to figure out what constitutes a PBE experience at Sumner Memorial High School. JT explained that the middle and high school groups discussed with Nikki Chan about internal procedures, formalizing something where a policy is used across the district rather than principal to principal. JT said because the year has been so busy thus far, they haven't had much time to dig into it further. No future meeting set at this time.

G. Public Comment

Committee member Elizabeth Moriarty wanted to discuss the power of what the School Board is able to do. Spoke to how it is within the power of the Board to reject policies and curriculum brought forward by the administration and how important their jobs were and how they needed to be more involved with the communities and those who have elected them.

H. Board Review of Meeting

Susan explained that all the kids are excited to be in school. Vern explained that his grandson is loving being at the new school and he thanked everyone for making it work. Keith asked JT and Rick to express his gratitude to their staff and thanked them for all they have done. Janet welcomed the student rep Tori and explained that we love having student participation. She was so happy to see photos from the first day of school and felt it was wonderful to see the looks on the kids' faces and everyone helping out. Mercy echoed the other Board members and believes we are fortunate to live where we live and to have the support that we have.

I. Future Meetings

November 8, 6:30 p.m, - Finance and Budget Committee @ DSF

November 15, 5:30 p.m, - Facilities and Transportation Committee @ DSF

November 15, 6:30 p.m, - Policy Committee @ DSF

November 22, 6:30 p.m, - Building Committee @ DSF

J. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Keith Goldfarb and seconded by Member Janet Wilpan.

Votes in Favor: 7114 Opposed: 0 Absent: 472 Abstain: 0

This motion passes