

MOUNT DESERT ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL SYSTEM – AOS #91

BOARD MEETING

Mount Desert Island High School Library

Monday, 14 January 2019

5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The MDIRSS - AOS #91 Board held a regular meeting on Monday, 14 January 2019 with the following voting members present: Heather Jones (MD), Kate Chaplin (MD), Charlie Wray (MD) arrived at 5:40 pm, Kristi Losquadro (BH), Marie Yarborough (BH), Dwayne Bolt (BH), Lilea Simis (BH), Pete Finger (TRNT), Aaron Brown (TRNT), Jennifer Bonilla (TRNT), Ingrid Kachmar (SWH), Dani Piquette-Kelly (SWH), Jim Sawyer (SWH), Amy Rich (TREM), Heidi Lawson (TRMT)

Non-voting members present: John Bench (SWH), Gary Burr (TRENT), Todd Graham (MD)

Others present: Marc Gousse, Julie Meltzer, Selena Dunbar, Jandrea True, Ian Schwartz, Harry Schwartz, Matt Haney, Julie Koblinsky, Mike Zboray, Dick Broom, Melissa Beckwith, Cindy Lambert (arrived late)

- I. **Call to Order** by Chair Heather Jones at 5:30 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Voucher** - the voucher was circulated and signed via DocuSign prior to the meeting.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** [10 December 2018](#)
MOVED by Jennifer Bonilla, seconded by Todd Graham, and unanimously voted to approve the 10 December 2018 minutes as written. Motion passed 15/0/0.
- IV. **Public Comment** - Ian Schwartz voiced concerns and provided information about cameras on busses and in schools.
- V. **Reports and Updates:**
 - **Superintendent**
Enrollment stands at 1515. Friday, Superintendent Gousse will attend the Maine Superintendent's Winter Convocation in Augusta where Acting Commissioner of Education Pender Makin will speak. Tammy Tripler attended a regional Maine School Board Association conference this fall. Board members are welcome to attend future MSBA meetings. The budget timeline has been updated. Bruce Smith from Drummond Woodsum was engaged by Howard Colter to look at ways to find efficiencies while working within the AOS structure. The board can make recommendations for next steps regarding long-range planning and then Bruce Smith can meet with the board about our options moving forward. Thanked board, community members, and staff for participating in long-range planning. Middle level group will meet this Wednesday and transportation group will meet on January 24. Superintendent Gousse and Jim Sawyer met with the director of Downeast Transportation. Superintendent Gousse also met with Tom Crikelair, who has developed many transportation systems, and agreed to informally take a look at some things for us. Todd Graham has been facilitating the food service group and that is moving along well. Charlie Wray has the calendar committee. Usually the board would be presented with a draft calendar this month. We hope to have a draft calendar for next month's meeting. The policy committee is a very active group. At the January 31 policy meeting which begins at 5:30 p.m., the committee will review and consider transgender guidelines, board member vacancies due to absenteeism and unexpired term fulfillment, and a code of ethics for board members. Other policies that still need to be reviewed include facilities use, child abuse and neglect, and political solicitation in schools. Superintendent Gousse continues to meet quarterly with teacher association presidents to keep communication open. Really proud of the initiative our staff is taking with wellness. We have wellness ambassadors at all schools on the mainland. These people have attended a training presented by MEA Benefits

Trust. They are now planning activities for staff - a bowling night, yoga, advancing wellness and healthy choices. Th March professional inservice day will focus on wellness. Superintendent Gousse intends to meet with more community groups, such as the Rotary Club. Many of the jobs we are preparing our kids for don't even exist yet. Some of the skill sets employers are looking for are complex problem solving and creativity. Superintendent Gousse plans to schedule another school security community forum. Our auditor will attend a board meeting to speak about the audit process. Compensation reports for all employees will be distributed.

Close with commendations - The impetus for the solar project was through Drew Rich whose senior exhibition was on solar and his dream has now become a reality. Excited that MDI High School be a leader in producing solar power. Like to recognize Lisa Park, one of our bus drivers, who represented our school and community well. Bunky Dow was one of a very limited core of athletic directors who were recognized nationally. Ingrid Kachmar and Matt Haney recognized him at the basketball game Friday and a scholarship has been set up in his honor. MDI High School teacher Lin Gould was featured in an article for how she created a safe school for LGBTQ youth. Edie Dubois will be presenting workshops information on vaping for community and staff.

- **Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction**

Julie Meltzer presented her [report](#). Report cards will be coming out February 1 and guidelines for grading are available. The state is replacing the district A-F report cards with a different format. She explained how the state will be reporting and how our district is not able to report many of the subcategories since we do not have enough students to report. Progress levels refer to state expectation levels, not meeting standards. All of our schools are doing really well. Some schools had more room to improve. State decided the 16-17 school year would be the base. That happened to be a high performing year for our district, so it's harder to show progress now. The state is currently making final checks on this. It is complicated and doesn't look like what it actually is. If you have 20 kids in a subgroup it's hard to show what is really happening since it's such a small number so the percentage of growth is skewed.

Heidi Lawson asked if the state has provided any guidance on the issue of chronic absenteeism. Julie Meltzer responded that the data they pulled was not accurate. This is the danger when you take research and apply it. Have to know why kids are absent. We have a task force for how we can keep our absentee data consistent and accurate.

Superintendent Gousse added that Kristi Losquadro is facilitating the ed tech long-range planning group.

- **Updates from Subcommittees**

Charlie Wray - calendar committee took the approach of coming up with models that show instructional time as a priority. One draft is radical and one is to do nothing different. The more radical end of the spectrum is what has been shown to work in some other parts of the country, but the committee decided this community is not ready for that. There are two options being considered now, titled option 2 and option 3. The notable change for option 2 would be shifting to a one week break in March with a 4-day weekend in February and another in April. This option provides more instructional flow since there are fewer months with interruptions. Calendar option 3 is a little more challenging. Focuses on more continuous instructional time without time off for students. The school year would start in August at the same time sports practices start. The goal is to complete first semester before the December holiday break. There would be a short term at the beginning of January and another at the end of June for remediation and special programming - arts week, field trips, mini courses in writing,... start earlier and get out earlier. Snow days become a non-factor. Could have internships for high school students. What may emerge is a step-wise shift to possibly try some of these things. No program would be unaffected. It would shift the dependencies. Lilea Simis urged the committee to consider where we live and what our business climate is like. Starting school in the middle of August would be extremely hard.

Charlie Wray stated that this issue is listed as a con. We are looking for the best educational outcomes for our students and realize this is a major issue.

VI. **Discussion Items:** None at this meeting

VII. **Action Items:**

- **Approval of Revisions to Policies:**
 - [ECAF - Security Camera System Policy](#)
 - [JLCA - Physical Examinations of Students](#)

Superintendent Gousse requested that the board consider two readings of the revisions to the security camera policy. The physical examinations policy has minor revisions and he recommends passage of this if the board chooses.

The consideration of the security camera policy came from a principal and is specific to that school. We want a safe learning environment and for people to visit our schools, but we have to keep our staff and students safe. Respect privacy and individual rights, but in the public now there aren't many places you can go where you are not being photographed or recorded. Understands that a camera in a public area would not limit anything that happens in a private area, but it would help in determining what did or did not happen and who was in the area at the time of an incident. Major changes to policy are the addition of cameras in vehicles that transport students, taking away the limit of 4-6 cameras at a school, and adding that they may be located in the interior of a building. Local boards can make that decision but this does not direct them to do so. One board may decide they want a camera in a public place and another may not. Upon approval of the board this should be added to B.1. Passive monitoring is not waiting to find someone doing something wrong, it is an opportunity to determine what actually happened during a specific event. We have had requests by policy for camera footage. Law enforcement and the District Attorney determine how long and for what purpose we keep footage.

Ingrid Kachmar asked if bus drivers have weighed in on this?

Superintendent Gousse and Jim Sawyer met with bus drivers as part of the transportation meeting. Some drivers say it would be great and others would say they don't need it.

Mike Zboray - our drivers are traveling with close to 60-70 kids in all kinds of weather. There has been an increase in people passing busses when the lights are on. Driver is also trying to keep kids under control while paying attention to the road. Trenton also has 4 year olds on their busses. Just a safety issue. It put the parents at ease knowing the cameras were on the bus. If something did happen, they could see it. Drivers also liked having that protection. Generally for safety of drivers and students.

Superintendent Gousse reminded the board that Trenton and Bar Harbor contract with Cyr for transportation so their drivers are not school district employees.

Charlie Wray made suggestions to clarify wording. Need to clarify who would be considered a "designee". Oversee doesn't say who gets to view these. Need clarity here. Is the administrator just the building administrator? Could it also be the assistant principal? Under placement, 1 and 3 are in conflict - "may" and "shall". Use of video recording - doesn't address parents of minors. Is a parent going to be able to watch the video? If there are multiple students in the video there could be a case of parents and attorneys getting to watch video. Not addressed here.

Superintendent Gousse appreciates the discussion. Wants this to be done thoroughly and thoughtfully. There definitely should be guidelines or administrative procedures that go along with this. Not saying we can prevent malpractice or tragedy. We have to balance climate and culture with safety. Respectfully recommend that we bring this back after further review by policy committee.

Kate Chaplin - the subjects of the video should be able to see themselves.

Dani Piquette-Kelly - saddened to think about putting cameras in our schools, especially supports exterior school bus cameras but does not support cameras in schools.

Heidi Lawson - Tremont has a camera in the school gym because it is the community center and the town installed it. Right now we don't have a policy for what would happen with that camera. It runs 24 hours a day.

Amy Rich added that there are multiple cameras in the Tremont gym. Likes that policy says if you choose to go this route, you can do this at your own local level. Does not feel it is a negative to have a camera on a bus. The person's primary responsibility is to drive the bus but we ask them to handle discipline as well.

Marie Yarborough - make a distinction between exterior and interior. You should have no discernable belief that you have any reasonable expectation of a right to privacy. Board would like policy committee to continue reviewing this policy and make some of the recommended changes.

Superintendent Gousse addressed policy JLCA - Physical Examinations of Students. The board revised this in June 2018. We noticed that we left a gap with middle level students and are just clarifying that language. Recommendation to extend to grades 5 and 7. This is a minimal requirement.

Heidi Lawson - expectation is that show choir and drama could be included. There are some kids in 5th grade that are involved so we added that grade level.

Suggestion to change wording to "physical activity" instead of "athletic activity".

Superintendent Gousse - The expectation is for the student to have a physical every other year. Many places require it annually and some require it for all students. Our committee and staff recommended this.

The purpose of the policy is for parents and students to understand that if the student participates in an extra-curricular activity they are required to have a physical.

Superintendent Gousse reminded the board that most policies come from Maine School Management Association and are drafted by Drummond Woodsum.

Kate Chaplin - we administer flu shots, which is considered an invasive physical event. We don't want to create an atmosphere where you can't give flu shots.

Amy Rich asked why we don't mandate physicals in general. For K-8, students have gym 3 times a week. We have this to cover after school sports but why not for activities during school?

Superintendent Gousse - we can up the expectation since participation on a team is voluntary.

Todd Graham suggested that the policy committee make those clarifications and bring it back.

VIII. Other Business - None

IX. Public Comment - None

X. Future Agenda Items

- 2020-2021 proposed calendar
- Wellness program
- [ECAF - Security Camera System Policy](#)
- [JLCA - Physical Examinations of Students](#)

XI. Next meetings:

MDIRSS - AOS #91 Annual Public Budget Meeting - Weds. 23 January 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

MDIRSS - AOS #91 Regular Meeting - Monday, 11 February 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

XII. Adjournment

MOVED by Heidi Lawson, seconded by Todd Graham, and voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.
The motion passed 15/0/0.

Respectfully submitted:

Selena Dunbar, Recording Secretary