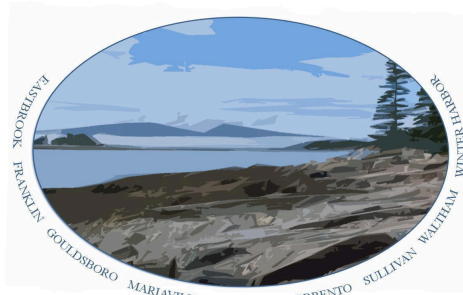


## Regional School Unit 24



### Regional School Unit 24 Board of Directors Meeting

October 4, 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](mailto:meastman@rsu24.org)

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#### **Board Members**

<b>Present</b>					
Yes	No	TOWN	NAME	VOTES	% of Votes
	X	Eastbrook	Jennifer Des Jardin	424	5.6%
x		Franklin	Roy Gott	1567	20.7%
x		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%
				<hr/> 7,586	100.00%

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A. **Call to Order** at 6:30pm

B. **Adjustments to the Agenda**

# 7 - Remove executive session

C. **Approval of the September 6th, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the September 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes as written was made by

**Member Jeffrey Alley and seconded by Member Janet Wilpan.**

**Votes in Favor: 6033 Opposed: 0 Absent: 424 Abstain: 1129**

***This motion passes***

**D. Report from the Board Chair**

Board Chair Roy Gott reminded the Board that he would be going to the MSMA Fall Conference at the end of the month and asked that if any of the Board members hadn't had a chance to review the resolutions that were to be voted on later on at the delegate assembly or had any questions to please let him know.

**E. Report from the Superintendent**

Mr. Eastman passed around the hiring update to the Board members while explaining that the list is smaller than it has been previously, and will continue to look for substitute teachers. Mr. Eastman went on to let the Board know that Markus Ford will be leaving the district at the end of the month. Michael let the Board know that the auditors have started their audit this week, looking at the records and will be at the DSF for the next couple of weeks.

Janet Wilpan questioned about the computer course that Markus would be teaching - Mr. Eastman verified with Lucille Null if that class would be running, and found that it would not be.

**F. Business**

**1. Safe In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**

Mr. Eastman explained that an updated plan needs to be done every six months as required by ESSER III to accept the grant. Mr. Eastman explained that he had gone through the document and made some edits and adjustments. Once the plan is updated, it will be put back onto the district's public website.

**A motion to approve the updated Safe In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan was made by Member Keith Goldfarb and seconded by Member Jeffrey Alley.**

**Votes in Favor: 7162 Opposed: 0 Absent: 424 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

**2. Approval of Donations to the Peninsula School**

Mr. Eastman explained that Principal Heather Dorr had given him a description of the donations that the Peninsula School had received over the past month. The donations totaled \$16,000 and were: \$1,500 donation from the Saint Christopher's by the Sea church for the principal's discretionary fund, a \$5,000 donation by an anonymous donor for the principal's discretionary fund, a \$4,500 donation from the Schoodic Community Fund to purchase flexible seating options for each of our classrooms, and a donation of \$5,000 from an anonymous donor to purchase items and materials to support student regulation and responsive classroom actions. Mr. Eastman let the Board know that during a discussion with Mrs. Dorr, the food backpack program is projected to be \$9,000 over budget due to the number of families doubling this year. Some of the donation money will be used to help fund that program.

**A motion to approve the donations to the Peninsula School totaling \$16,000 was made by Member Keith Goldfarb and seconded by Member Janet Wilpan.**

**Votes in Favor: 7162 Opposed: 0 Absent: 424 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

### **3. Adult Education and Workforce Development Grant Update**

Adult Education Director Ander Thebaud started her presentation by giving credit to and thanking Jean Girmscheid for the design work on the presentation cover. The key takeaways for Adult Education in RSU 24 is the return on investment from local funds and what other local Adult Education programs are offering to their communities. Currently, RSU 24 has five full-time staff members and 1 Ed Tech (part time). The staffing has shrunk over the years however the programs being offered have not. In the past couple of years there has been a significant increase in the certificate classes that are being offered (frequently healthcare related classes) although there are other certification classes offered such as administrative assistant certifications, technology certifications, digital literacy certification for basic skills, as well as IC3 and comp TIAA+ that have been offered by way of grants. It was noted that there has been a 68% increase in enrollment in enrichment classes. There has been an increased number of partnerships and collaborations with outside organizations such as NDEC which offers a number of free classes online. The RSU 24 Adult Education office is an onsite partner for those online classes which means that students can come to the adult education office and utilize the in house laptops and can follow along in the class with district technology. Ander gave a run down on the return on investment stating that last year there were 41 students who were certified with healthcare certificates and are now in the workforce. This fall a substitute teacher workshop was held (3 hr workshop) in which 6 people attended before moving on to meeting with the district's Human Resources Manager Chris Alvarado to discuss opportunities within the district. Last year the Adult Education program was awarded a workforce innovation grant to expand the clinical program by helping to purchase tools and allowed for the ability to offer a hybrid class. The Strengthening Maine's Workforce Grant (\$450,000) was awarded to the district this year to help expand clinical/medical classes and certifications which can be offered both in person as well as online.

Member Keith Goldfarb asked if the grant was split evenly among the two years to which Ander answered "yes." She then went on to explain that it will cover student expenses, transportation, scrubs and sneakers, and tuition. Ander noted that there are also other places that can help with miscellaneous expenses (mileage, etc.) for students enrolled in these classes.

### **4. Finance & Budget Committee Update/New Financial Software from Harris School Solutions FY24**

Member Keith Goldfarb gave an update from the committee explaining that he had been elected as chair and Member Mercy Hardison had been elected as vice chair. Keith continued on saying that most of the meeting had been dedicated to the presentation from Patti Riggs regarding the new financial software to be implemented over the next couple of years as the current software is being phased out. Mr. Eastman applauded Patti for her interest and research in this new software and that Harris School Solution had given the district a contract but after consultation with the attorney, the contract will need to be revised.

### **5. Facilities and Transportation Committee Update**

Chair Roy Gott stated that the Facilities and Transportation Committee had met on 9/20 and discussed snow plowing bids for the Charles M. Sumner Learning Campus. M&T trucking was the only bid and had done the plowing on the property last year for \$17,000 while the bid for this year came in at \$35,000 due to the increased size of the property compared to the old Sumner Memorial High School. The committee accepted the bid. There were four bids given for the financing of two new school buses. The low bid was from Northeast Bank/BB Community Leasing, with the required "opinion of counsel", the amount would be \$212,559.35. The next closest bid was from Gorham Savings Bank at \$214,292.80. Facilities Manager Janet Jordan had explained to the committee that there had been a long standing relationship with Gorham Savings Bank which resulted in the committee agreeing to go with

the Bid from Gorham Savings Bank. The next meeting will be held on October 18th starting at 5:30pm at the DSF.

**6. New Building Update**

Mr. Eastman explained that over the last three months, today had been one of the most positive of the days. The cistern design has been turned over to the architects (CHA) as well as the state fire marshal's office. CHA has turned it over to their engineers and will have an answer for the district within the next few days. Michael has spoken to the town's Code Enforcement Officer who believes we can have students in the building on Tuesday. The Code Enforcement Officer has sent a draft of the temporary certificate of occupancy, so once that has been approved there will be more information on moving forward. There was indication from the Code Enforcement Officer that students may be able to utilize the "C" wing which includes the weight room and music room, as long as a partition is put up to block off the shop and the cafeteria for the immediate future. Mr. Eastman is waiting on the answer of the plans and will pass that information along as soon as he has any additional information or answers.

**G. Public Comment**

Community Member Lucas Leathers from Eastbrook questioned what will be done for food if we can't use the cafeteria? Food will be cooked and distributed to students who will then eat in their classrooms.

**H. Board Review of Meeting**

Member Janet Wilpan said it's good news about the new school and thanked Ander for information about Adult Ed. Member Julia Sheehan echoed what Janet had said. Member Mercy Hardison echoed what had been said. Member Keith Goldfarb asked Ander to pass on a thank you to all her staff and believes what they do is very important and well done. He also thanked all the donors for their donations to the Peninsula School. He thanked Mr. Eastman for all his work. Member Susan Dickson-Smith talked about how great all the work is at Adult Education and how lucky the community is to have them. She thanked Mr. Eastman for all his persistence with his work with the new school. Member Vern Campbell thanked Ander for all her hard work explaining that he believes she has built a great team.

**I. Future Meetings**

October 11, 5:30 p.m., - Educational Programming Committee @ DSF

October 18, 5:30 p.m., - Facilities and Transportation Committee @ DSF

October 27th & 28th - 49th Annual MSMA Fall Conference in Augusta

November 1, 5:30 p.m., - Personnel Committee @ DSF

November 1, 6:30 p.m., - RSUB @ DSF

**J. Adjourn**

**A motion to adjourn at 7:00pm was made by Member Keith Goldfarb and seconded by Member Julia Sheehan.**

**Votes in Favor: 6701 Opposed: 461 Absent: 424 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***