

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MINUTES WILL NOT BE FINAL UNTIL THE BOARD HAS APPROVED THEM AT ITS NEXT MEETING.

{Printed copies are duplex printed on both sides of the paper.}

September 10, 2009

The Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 75 held a **regular** meeting at **Bowdoin Central School on Thursday, September 10, 2009.**

The following Directors were present: Joanne Reinhart, Chairman; Claudia Beckwith; Dorothy "Dee" Carrier; Dorothy Gardner; Robert W. Hill; David A. Johnson; Scott McKernan; Jane Meisenbach; Joanne M. Rogers; Jane Scease; Rebekah Stimpson; Gwen Thomas; Kim Totten; and Roland Tufts.

Not present was Hayley Lapointe, student representative to the Board of Directors. The second representative's seat remains vacant.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reinhart at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by those present.

3. To consider action relative to additions or adjustments to the agenda and to ask for comments from the audience

There were no comments from the audience.

Agenda adjustments were noted, as follows:

4. Table minutes

{adjust wording of original motion}

6.1 To appoint **Steven A. Dyer** to a one-year contract as Business Manager, retroactive to September 8, 2009

{add}

6.3 To officially change the name of M.S.A.D. No. 75 to RSU 75 in the Maine Vocational Region Ten Cooperative Agreement

{add}

6.4 To transfer **Deborah Patterson** to a .5 FTE Speech and Language position at Woodside Elementary School, effective September 11, 2009

{add}

6.5 To appoint **Katie Anderson** to a .5 FTE Special Education position at Woodside Elementary School, effective September 11, 2009

3.1 RECOGNITIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

✓ **Welcome to Bowdoin Central School from Principal George Jenkins**

- ✓ **Gifts to support Challenge Day**
 - ✓ **Androscoggin Bank**
 - ✓ **Savings Bank of Maine**
 - ✓ **Border Trust**
 - ✓ **McTeague, Higbee, Case, Cohen, Whitney & Toker, P.A.**
 - ✓ **Jim Howard**
 - ✓ **Masons**
 - ✓ **Norway Savings**
 - ✓ **Parkview Adventist Medical Center**
- ✓ **Congratulations to Facilities crew for summer cleaning in a shortened summer**
- ✓ **Congratulations to all staff on an excellent opening of school**
- 4. To take action relative to accepting as printed the minutes of the August 17, 2009 and August 27, 2009 regular meetings of the Board of Directors**

Board members received drafts of the two sets of minutes. They will be presented to the Board in final form at the next Board meeting. Action on the two sets of minutes was tabled.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

5.1 To hear a report on planning for the flu season and to discuss policy implications

Superintendent Wilhelm presented this report. With the State's assistance, the District will provide an opportunity for students to receive a vaccination for the seasonal flu. Clinics have been scheduled in each school. One shot will be administered to students nine years of age and over, and two must be given to students younger than eight years of age.

Vaccinations for the H1N1 (swine flu) won't be scheduled until there's a better understanding of when they will become available (estimating October). Two shots will be necessary. Clinics for employees who are covered by Anthem will be scheduled to enable them to have the seasonal flu vaccination. Every employee will be able to receive the H1N1 vaccination when it becomes available.

Mrs. Carrier asked whether Board members will be eligible to receive the vaccinations. This question will be pursued by administration.

Dr. Wilhelm indicated that a student who presents as ill will be isolated and arrangements made for the student to be taken home.

He continued by stressing the importance of washing one's hands, especially before eating. Most of the State's systems are looking for ways to enable all students to wash their hands before lunch. In looking at the possibility of using alcohol-based gels, it was determined that while a student might bring his own and use it, it would not be prudent to have large quantities of the gel (which due to the alcohol content is flammable) in schools. Chris Shaw was able to obtain a waterless soap without alcohol, which meets our needs. Kiosks with dispensers will be available near school cafeterias, and students can avail themselves of them.

Understanding that bacteria breeds on hard surfaces and that germs cannot survive on clean surfaces, the District needs to provide teachers the opportunity to wash their desks, tables, etc. and will provide the antibacterial solution and paper towels to do so (at an approximate cost of \$8,500). Combined with the estimated cost of \$11,500 to provide students with waterless soap, Dr. Wilhelm is asking the Board to make a motion to expend approximately \$20,000 from contingency to cover these expenses. The District will seek reimbursement from the CDC or stimulus money (which is being used to provide the vaccine).

Recognizing the importance of getting children outside for fresh air; motor breaks will be continued; and each school will be provided the opportunity to open windows and air out rooms.

He recapped the important aspects of the prevention program – vaccinations, cleaning hard surfaces, handwashing, airing out rooms, providing students with fresh air, and the educational piece (proper way to cover sneezing and coughing).

A policy question which the Board may want to address sooner than later is the exclusion of sick individuals. While school personnel are authorized by State statute to exclude students who present as ill, that same right to exclude adults is not provided. Maine School Management has informed the Superintendent that DHS has the right to exclude adults and the Department will in turn notify the Superintendent that it has done that. Dr. Wilhelm stated that the District has to have the right to say to a teacher (for example) that it appears the teacher is ill and needs to go home. Between this meeting and the next, the Superintendent will craft language which meets the District's need. The Board's Policy Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. on September 24, 2009 at Bowdoinham Community School (prior to the regular Board meeting).

*It was moved by Mrs. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Tufts, and **VOTED (unanimously)** that up to \$20,000 be expended from the contingency account to provide sanitary conditions in school (as above).*

... **Mrs. Meisenbach arrived at 6:50 p.m.**

5.2 *To hear a report on the Adequate Yearly Progress of RSU 75 schools*

Assistant Superintendent Sally Loughlin presented a report on the RSU 75 schools' Adequate Yearly Progress. The NCLB requires that students in Grades 3-8 and 11 be tested annually in reading, math and science. AYP is determined by the reading and math tests results.

There are sanctions which can be imposed upon Title I funds-receiving schools which fail to make AYP.

Mrs. Loughlin presented data on participation and achievement in each of the schools, as well as results in reading and math.

Her report ended in the presentation of target scores for the schools to meet in future years.

- 5.3** *To hear a report on the status of the shared Special Education program with Brunswick Public Schools*

Patrick Moore presented this report. Brunswick and RSU 75 are collaborating on a shared special education program. Renovations to the space are 90% complete, with a targeted occupancy date of around Columbus Day.

Dr. Moore stated that while there have been “bumps” in the planning which have been appropriately addressed, he feels it is certainly a worthwhile effort.

- 5.4** **Comments from Ryan Holmes**

Mt. Ararat High School teacher Ryan Holmes had supervised Brent Kramer’s Eagle Scout project to construct a storage unit on the track. Superintendent Wilhelm asked Mr. Holmes to explain to the Board how the project that was completed is different from what had been presented to the Board for its approval.

Mr. Holmes stated that the project had been delayed until after graduation in June, so that the construction materials would not be visible. Then, the very rainy month of June created challenges and delays in the pouring of the pad for the structure. Reminding the Board that the project had to be completed before the student’s 18th birth day on July 24, the plan had to be revised so that it would involve primarily overseeing the pouring of the pad. Construction plans were changed to eliminate the second floor and knee wall.

Mr. Holmes informed the Board that Topsham’s Codes Enforcement Officer has approved the structure.

Mrs. Totten expressed her disappointment at the turn of events. While she is glad that the student attained his Eagle Scout status, she feels that both Mr. Holmes and the student should have returned to the Board to update it when the plans were changed.

She fears that future Eagle Scout candidates will come to the Board and perhaps be judged too harshly.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- 6.1** *{adjusted wording} To appoint **Steven A. Dyer** to a one-year contract as Business Manager, retroactive to September 8, 2009*

Superintendent Wilhelm indicated that the Selection Committee had taken its time in the search for a candidate with attention to fiscal detail and public sector experience, with ability to communicate clearly.

*It was moved by Mrs. Carrier, seconded by Mrs. Gardner, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to appoint **Steven A. Dyer** to a one-year contract as Business Manager, retroactive to September 8, 2009.*

- 6.2** *To elect a Board delegate to the Delegate Assembly of the Maine School Boards Association*

Mr. McKernan served as the Board’s delegate last year and expressed interest in doing so again this year.

Ms. Thomas stated her willingness to serve as the alternate.

*By a show of hands, the Board of Directors **ELECTED (unanimously)** Scott McKernan as the Board's delegate to the Delegate Assembly of the Maine School Boards Association (October 2009) and Gwen Thomas as the alternate.*

6.3 *To officially change the name of M.S.A.D. No. 75 to RSU 75 in the Maine Vocational Region Ten Cooperative Agreement*

Lettering on buses will need to be changed before the buses can be re-registered. Dr. Wilhelm reports that Transportation Director Bill Donovan thinks he may be able to fund the lettering changes within his current budget.

Dr. Wilhelm states this raises the issue of whether it should be RSU 75 and with or without the "No." as it has appeared in "M.S.A.D. No. 75."

*Mr. Hill feels that the issue of paying for these changes **is** important and laments the fact that in these tough economic times, this Board will be forced to pay for what he considers the State's folly.*

Ms. Thomas feels it is ridiculous to have to pay to make these changes and expressed her sentiment that spending dollars on flu prevention is important, while this (paying for name changes) is not.

*It was moved by Mrs. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Scease, and **VOTED (856 yeas, 144 nays, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent)** to officially change the name of M.S.A.D. No. 75 to RSU 75 in the Maine Vocational Region Ten Cooperative Agreement.*

Voting yea were Mrs. Gardner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Johnson, Mr. McKernan, Mrs. Meisenbach, Mrs. Reinhart, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Scease, Ms. Stimpson, Ms. Thomas, Mrs. Totten, and Mr. Tufts.

Voting nay were Ms. Beckwith and Mrs. Carrier.

Dr. Wilhelm told the Board he will write the State to inquire about assistance with funding the necessary changes. Mrs. Scease said that when the State's actions caused extra expenses such as this, the Board and administration should so inform them.

6.4 *To transfer **Deborah Patterson** to a .5 FTE Speech and Language position at Woodside Elementary School, effective September 11, 2009*

A highly-specialized skill set is necessary to fill the vacancy created by Jan Waite's resignation. Mrs. Patterson possesses those skills, and Patrick Moore recommended that she fill one-half of the vacancy. She will continue half-time in her current position.

*It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Gardner, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to transfer **Deborah Patterson** to a .5 FTE Speech and Language position at Woodside Elementary School, effective September 11, 2009.*

6.5 *To appoint **Katie Anderson** to a .5 FTE Special Education position at Woodside Elementary School, effective September 11, 2009*

Currently in a half-time position, Ms. Anderson is recommended to fill the half-time position vacated by Debbie Patterson.

*It was moved by Mrs. Carrier, seconded by Mrs. Rogers, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to appoint **Katie Anderson** to a .5 FTE Special Education position at Woodside Elementary School, effective September 11, 2009.*

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

7.1 Facilities Committee

Mr. Johnson reported on this evening's Facilities Committee meeting. He conveyed the Committee's consensus not to pursue QSCB (Qualified School Construction Bond) as it was feared that doing so might restrict the Board's application for new high school construction.

Originally the plan had been to install the high school kitchen fire suppression equipment without an electrical trip. The manufacturer would do this only with the Topsham Fire Chief's endorsement and the Board's submission of a written request for a six-year waiver.

Facilities Director Chris Shaw reported that after securing the support of the Topsham Fire Chief and consultation with the Fire Marshall, the Board is being asked to present a written request for a waiver.

*It was moved by Mr. McKernan, seconded by Mrs. Carrier, and **VOTED (unanimously)** that the Board of Directors forward to the Fire Marshall a written request for a six-year waiver of requirements for the high school kitchen fire suppression equipment without an electrical trip.*

Superintendent Wilhelm reported that the resident Chinese language teacher has asked this year to be housed other than with a family. She had resided with a family last year and the host family received assistance through grant funds for food and transportation. Renting an apartment for the teacher was beyond the means of the grant. The teacher is now residing in one of the apartment-type suites over the Lodge.

7.2 CSPC

Mr. McKernan is the new chair of the Comprehensive Strategic Planning Committee, and Ms. Stimpson is a new member.

The Committee met on September 9th in the District Office. Questions addressed were the purpose of the Committee's work and how it defines strategic planning. Enrollment data was reviewed, and it was determined that the District-wide transportation issues need to be addressed. It determined that most pressing was the need to investigate the middle and high school schedule alignment. The Committee had concluded its meeting by deciding to report to the full Board the recommendation to pursue the schedule issue and to ask the Transportation Committee to address issues evolving from last year's work on consolidation of Harpswell's elementary schools.

The Superintendent will bring a proposal to the next Board meeting for its consideration.

Mrs. Reinhart thanked Mrs. Rogers for her hard work as Chair of the CSPC last year.

The next meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on September 23, 2009, in the District Office.

7.3 MVR 10

Mr. Johnson reported that John Morang has been elected Chair of the Cooperative Board. Mr. Johnson is the new Vice-Chair. Opening day enrollment was 310.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

8.1 Enrollment update

Board members had received an opening day enrollment report. Superintendent Wilhelm reported that the District's total enrollment reflects a decrease of 100 students, although Bowdoin Central and Bowdoinham Community School each experienced an increase in enrollment.

Superintendent Wilhelm reported that one squadron remains on the Base and will be leaving in December 2009.

8.2 Negotiations

Contracts of three bargaining units are up for re-negotiation this year. Superintendent Wilhelm will meet with the President of the Teachers Association next week to discuss support with the H1N1 work and the timeline for negotiations. He stressed the importance of getting the process underway before the budget season begins.

8.3 Facilities move

A segment of the Middle School special education student population needed off-campus space. The Facilities Office (formerly housed in the Lodge) has been moved into the District Office, and those middle school students are now housed in the former Facilities Office.

8.4 Audit update and answer to the financial question from the July report

The Board had asked that the audit be completed as soon as possible, as there is a pressing need to have the audit results in order to begin the process of closing West Harpswell School, so that requisite paperwork can be submitted to the State. Superintendent Wilhelm has had conversations with Harpswell Town Administrator regarding the timing of the referendum.

Mr. Hill wondered if there's any sense now of when the referendum will be held.

Mrs. Rogers asked who sets the date of the closure referendum, and Superintendent Wilhelm stated that the Board does.

Superintendent Wilhelm answered a question raised by Mrs. Carrier at a previous meeting. He indicated that the budget line she questioned was the amount Chris Shaw had drawn down on for capital projects and that it had mistakenly been put into a wrong line. The mistake has been corrected.

8.5 Name change to RSU 75

This had already been discussed.

8.6 *Commissioner's meeting with Superintendents*

At a meeting in early September with Superintendents, the Commissioner of Education reported that the funding situation will continue to be dire over the next two or three years. Superintendent Wilhelm assured the Board that purchases and expenditures will be made as frugally as possible, indicating that it will still be a very difficult situation.

8.7 *Department of Transportation strategic corridor*

Superintendent Wilhelm noted that the Board needs to make an appeal that it wants the strategic corridor to extend up Route 201. Dr. Wilhelm asked that the Board agree that the redevelopment corridor be extended to the ramp just closed.

Asked by Mrs. Scease about data from traffic studies, Superintendent Wilhelm reported that DOT conducted one the last week of school (during exams and when no seniors were driving to/from school) and that another had been conducted during the summer when obviously school was not in session.

The Board is being asked to join the petition effort to pressure DOT and the Redevelopment Council to mitigate the problem in any way possible.

The Town of Topsham has scheduled a follow-up meeting on September 14.

8.8 *President Obama's recent speech was shown in RSU 75 schools, with a positive reception. It is still available for viewing. Superintendent Wilhelm stated that the 12:00 noon broadcast was not ideal, since it coincided with lunch periods. He watched it with a group of eighth graders, who were positively receptive.*

8.9 *Superintendent Wilhelm has had a conversation with Brunswick Superintendent Paul Perzanoski regarding resumption of joint Board meetings. Dr. Wilhelm recommends an initial meeting of just the RSU 75 group without Brunswick participants, after which perhaps a joint meeting can be scheduled for a Monday evening in October.*

8.10 *Mrs. Gardner noted that tomorrow (Friday) is the anniversary of the 911 terrorism attacks. She reminded Board members that we are very fortunate to be sitting here in a comfortable environment and asked that we remember those who lost their lives in the attacks, as well as those serving in Afghanistan.*

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:15 p.m.