

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

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November 5, 2009

The Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 75 held a **regular** meeting at **West Harpswell School on Thursday, November 5, 2009.**

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

Not present was Joanne Reinhart.

Also absent were Hayley LaPointe and Tyler Washburn, student representatives to the Board of Directors.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Tufts 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

Agenda adjustments were noted, as follows:

{add to 3.1}

Congratulations to Dorothy Gardner – re-election to Board of Directors as Topsham representative

{add}

7.6 Schedule a meeting of the Board's Guidance Advisory Committee

{add}

7.7 3-5-year-old children with disabilities

... Ms. Beckwith arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Making comments were Signe Daniel, who spoke against closure of West Harpswell School. Some of her concerns were major busing issues, affordable housing, and her feeling that Harpswell Islands School will not benefit from closure of West Harpswell School. She feels that closure of West Harpswell School will result in increased costs to providing of town services and that community stability will suffer.

Julia Stevens asked why the Board would close the school with the highest academic standing in the county and District. She expressed concern about increased time students will need to ride school buses. She asked the Board to consider delaying for one year the closure of West Harpswell School, indicating it will cost more to close the school than to keep it open.

3.1 RECOGNITIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

➤ **Welcome to West Harpswell School from Principal Michael Estes**

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- **Hayley LaPointe, Mt. Ararat High School senior** – Awarded the MASSP Principal's Leadership Award
 - **Don Gray, Mt. Ararat High School Assistant Principal** – Nominated and finalist for Maine's Assistant Principal of the Year Award
 - **Amy Viara, Mt. Ararat High School English teacher** – National Council of Teachers of English Affiliate Leadership Development Award
 - **Mary Anne Peabody, Bowdoinham Community School counselor** – Elected President-elect of the Association for Play Therapy
 - **Sean Perkins, Mt. Ararat High School (Class of 2009) graduate** – Fourth place in National Trig-Star contest
 - **Ryan Holmes and Fit at Five students** – featured by Channel 6 news
 - **Mr. and Mrs. Roy Johnson, Woodside parents** – Donation of dollars to Woodside Elementary School for literacy supplies
- 4. To take action relative to accepting as printed the minutes of the October 8, 2009, regular meeting of the Board of Directors**

*It was moved by Mrs. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Carrier, and **VOTED (790 yeas, 0 nays, 67 abstentions, and 210 absent)** to accept as printed the minutes of the October 8, 2009, regular meeting of the Board of Directors.*

Voting yea were Ms. Beckwith, Mrs. Carrier, Mr. Hill, Mr. McKernan, Mrs. Meisenbach, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Scease, Ms. Stimpson, Mrs. Totten and Mr. Tufts.

There were no nay votes.

Abstaining from voting was Mr. Johnson.

Absent were Mrs. Gardner (who had not yet arrived) and Mrs. Reinhart.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

5.1 Resubmission of Application to Close West Harpswell School

Superintendent Wilhelm stated the District had been asked to recalculate transportation costs and to add information about school choice to the enrollment section. Indicating that the application to be resubmitted is almost complete, Dr. Wilhelm noted that the application will be resubmitted to the State and Town of Harpswell for a ten-day comment period.

5.2 To hear an update on the District's efforts regarding H1N1

Statistics on absenteeism were presented to the Board. Dr. Wilhelm said that H1N1 clinics will be scheduled first, then clinics for the seasonal flu will be scheduled.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- 6.5** *(taken out of order) To adopt a revised Teacher Certification Plan that meets the requirements of the revised Chapter 118*

Board members had been provided a copy of the draft Professional Learning Community Support System plan, in addition to a copy of Maine's Initial Teacher Certification Standards.

Doreen Swanholm, Chair of the District's Teacher Certification Council, had prepared and distributed a one-page summary of the changes to the Support System Plan. Mrs. Swanholm reviewed that for Board members. Dr. Wilhelm thanked Mrs. Swanholm for her work on this initiative.

*It was moved by Mrs. Carrier, seconded by Ms. Thomas, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to adopt a revised Teacher Certification Plan that meets the requirements of the revised Chapter 118.*

- 6.1** *To hear a report on the audit of the FY '09 budget*

Kyle Eddy of Macdonald Page distributed a summary of the firm's work on this year's audit.

Mr. Hill thanked all those who helped with the audit. Dr. Wilhelm acknowledged Accountant Shelley Doody's work in the successful audit. Mrs. Carrier asked that a letter be placed in Ms. Doody's file acknowledging her efforts.

- 6.2** *To hear a report on the October 27th Parent Partnership Meeting – This item was delayed until the arrival of Assistant Superintendent Sally Loughlin.*

- 6.3** *To hear a report on the finding of dollars to address the loss of subsidy in the FY '10 budget*

Board members were provided with a listing of sources for potential savings in this year's expenditures.

Business Manager Steven Dyer indicated that while potential savings of \$410,000 were located per the State's estimate, the District has found \$450,000 in potential savings.

Mr. Hill expressed appreciation for the work which has gone into this effort.

Mrs. Carrier sought clarification that The Talon will no longer be printed, and Dr. Wilhelm said that there really has not been a Talon for the past two years.

Dr. Wilhelm pointed out that no personnel have been impacted in locating these savings.

- 6.4** *To approve the expenditure of up to \$11,700 from contingency to purchase tables for the high school physics lab*

*It was moved by Mrs. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to approve the expenditure of up to \$11,700 from contingency to purchase tables for the high school physics lab.*

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Ms. Thomas expressed concern about reducing the amount of the contingency account (referring to Item 6.3).

Mrs. Carrier related that at this evening's Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Dyer had stated that efforts are being made to pursue an insurance claim on the table replacement.

6.6 *To undertake a second reading and adoption of transportation policies EEA and EEAB*

Transportation Director William Donovan was present to answer questions about skateboards. He indicated that they are too large to be handled on buses and that they would become a "missile" in an accident. He reminded Board members that they are not allowed in school.

*It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Rogers, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to accept the second reading of and adopt transportation policies EEA and EEAB.*

6.2 *To hear a report on the October 27th Parent Partnership Meeting*

Assistant Superintendent Sally Loughlin acknowledged the work of guidance counselors in getting out the word on this initiative. Kindergarten parents were informed, and a web link and newsletters were provided to publicize the event.

Mrs. Loughlin provided an overview of the October 27th meeting.

Mrs. Loughlin praised the efforts of high school student member of the National Honor Society and the Interact Club in providing child care for participants of the meeting.

Ms. Thomas reminded Mrs. Loughlin that no high school newsletter is published.

6.7 *To approve the October 30th submission of a grant to the Alfred M. Senter Fund for \$6,700 to support the purchase of a Fox Mdl 222 bassoon and a Selmer oboe for the high school band*

*It was moved by Mr. McKernan, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to approve the October 30th submission of a grant to the Alfred M. Senter Fund for \$6,700 to support the purchase of a Fox Mdl 222 bassoon and a Selmer oboe for the high school band.*

... ***Mrs. Gardner arrived at 7:45 p.m.***

6.8 *To hear Board member reports from the MSBA Conference*

As the Board's representative to the Delegate Assembly at this year's conference, Mr. McKernan recapped the accomplishments of that Assembly.

Mrs. Gardner reported on Career Tech Ed workshops she attended. She expressed her opinion that the M.S.A.D. No.75 Board does well regarding student discipline (expulsions). She complimented the District's leadership in this regard. Mrs. Gardner stated that the District is also very fortunate to have Jobs for Maine Graduates at the high school and would be interested in a presentation from them.

Ms. Thomas attended a workshop on "negotiating with strength."

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- 6.9** *To enter executive session to discuss negotiations with the Merrymeeting Teachers Association pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) (d)*

This item was moved to the end of the agenda.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 7.1** *Transportation Committee*

Mrs. Carrier reported on the October 28th meeting. The Committee worked on numbers associated with the closure of West Harpswell School.

- 7.2** *Study Circles*

Mrs. Scease reported on the October 27th meeting and announced that future meetings of Study Circles will be held on November 16th and 17th and asked Board members to contact Sally Loughlin if they are going to be attending.

Ms. Thomas wants to make sure she is on the list of participants.

- 7.3** *Brunswick/M.S.A.D. No. 75 Task Force*

Superintendent Wilhelm reported that the first meeting of the year was held on October 26th.

- 7.4** *MVR 10 Cooperative Board meeting*

Superintendent Wilhelm noted that at the October 21st meeting the necessary changes were made to the name of the Cooperative Agreement and that an enrollment report had been presented.

- 7.5** *Merrymeeting Adult Education Advisory Committee*

Superintendent Wilhelm will ask Director Diana McCain to appear at the November 19th Board meeting to present a report.

- 7.6** *Schedule a meeting of the Board's Guidance Advisory Committee*

A meeting date of Tuesday, November 24th, was tentatively agreed upon. Ms. Thomas will get back to the Committee on the time of the meeting.

- 7.7** *3-5-year-old children with disabilities*

Dr. Patrick Moore provided Board member with information on the 3-5-year-old children with disabilities, currently being served by Child Development Services (funding through DOE Early Intervention funds and MaineCare Reimbursement).

Dr. Moore suggested that M.S.A.D. No. might consider serving the 3-5-year old population of children with disabilities. He related that he had attended a Brunswick School Board meeting where members decided to investigate serving the population of 3-5 year old children with disabilities. This possibility will be further discussed between Brunswick and CDS. Dr. Moore wants this Board to know about this discussion. Brunswick is asking M.S.A.D. No. 75 to consider also the possibility of the District serving this population.

Ms. Thomas feels this is good in theory but cautioned that she has heard that the law may change, thus putting the burden on local taxpayers. Mrs. Meisenbach agreed with Ms. Thomas' concern.

Dr. Moore conceded this is a reasonable fear. He pointed out that M.S.A.D. No. 75 has the staff and capability to provide these services and noted that a major programmatic advantage would be that these students would enter Kindergarten more seamlessly.

Dr. Moore stated he's looking for an expression of interest in pursuing this. It was determined that there is interest enough to warrant further investigation.

Superintendent Wilhelm noted that if this can be done with Brunswick, the Boards may realize some economies of scale.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

8.1 *Financial report – Business Manager Steven Dyer presented this report.*

6.9 *To enter executive session to discuss negotiations with the Merrymeeting Teachers Association pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) (d)*

*At 8:30 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Carrier, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to enter executive session to discuss negotiations with the Merrymeeting Teachers Association pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) (d).*

The executive session ended at 8:45 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:45 p.m.