

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.}

November 19, 2009

The Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 75 held a **regular** meeting at **Williams-Cone School** on **Thursday, November 19, 2009.**

The following Directors were present: Joanne Reinhart, Chairman; Dorothy "Dee" Carrier; Dorothy Gardner; David A. Johnson; Scott McKernan; Jane Meisenbach; Joanne M. Rogers; Jane Sease; Kim Totten; and Roland Tufts.

Not present were Claudia Beckwith, Robert W. Hill, Rebekah Stimpson, and Gwendolyn Thomas.

Also present was Hayley LaPointe, student representative to the Board of Directors. Absent was Tyler Washburn, student representative to the Board of Directors.

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

Agenda adjustments were noted, as follows:

Add to 3.1 Recognitions and Acknowledgements:

- **Mt. Ararat High School – Recipient of Schools that Shine Award**
- **Laura Hill & Ben Grotton, Mt. Ararat High School students – Selected (from their All-State participation) to play in the Macy's Great American Marching Band in the Thanksgiving parade**

4. Table action on the minutes of November 5, 2009, meeting

Add 6.3 – To accept the resignation of Mary Anne Peabody as a part-time counselor/social worker at Bowdoinham Community School, effective January 16, 2010

Add 6.4 – To appoint Kathleen "Katy" Cloutier as a .7 FTE elementary music teacher at Bachelor's, Step 8 {prorated to .7 FTE and 121 work days} retroactive to November 19, 2009

Add executive session – To enter executive session to discuss legal rights and duties with legal counsel pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405 (6) E

3.1 RECOGNITIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **Welcome to Williams-Cone School from Principal Steve Ciembroniewicz**
 - **Mr. & Mrs. Lance Linkel and Mr. & Mrs. David Comey – Generous donations to Woodside Elementary School**
 - **MVR 10 Students of the Quarter:**
 - Maryellen Colson – Health Occupations**
 - Andrew Lamarre – Building Trades**
 - Chris Kilbreth – Metal Fabrication/Welding**
 - Keith Kowalczyk – Outdoor Power**
 - Julie Mockler – Marketing**
 - Travis Shane – General Trades**
 - Jordan Small – English**
 - Robert Donahue – Automotive Technology**
 - **Mt. Ararat High School – Recipient of Schools that Shine award**
 - **Laura Hill & Ben Grotton, Mt. Ararat High School students – Selected (from their All-State participation) to play in the Macy’s Great American Marching Band in the Thanksgiving parade**
- 4. To take action relative to accepting as printed the minutes of the November 5, 2009, regular meeting of the Board of Directors**

The minutes were distributed but tabled, as they had not been approved in time to be mailed to Board members.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

5.1 To hear a report on the Study Circles initiative

Ms. Scease reported on the November 16th and 17th Study Circles meetings. She reported that both groups met this week and that there had been good participation from the students. The questions discussed were “how best can we balance and grow healthy interpersonal relationships and skills in an increasingly digital world?” and “how can we insure that all students are prepared to thrive in a world which will require effective communication skills – both face-to-face and digitally?” Ms. Scease noted that the participants had been very willing to talk and discuss their experiences and that the group will have at least three more meetings and maybe a fifth. The group was quite excited to “pull this off” and hopes to continue after the pilot has been completed.

Mrs. Reinhart commended the students who participated, specifically mentioning Megan Totten and Hayley LaPointe, expressing her sentiment that the students were “remarkable.”

5.2 *To hear a report on the re-submission of the application to close West Harpswell School*

Superintendent Wilhelm reported that the requested additional information on enrollments (school choice, private schools, and homeschooling) has been integrated into the application which was resubmitted to the Commissioner of Education on November 13th. The ten-day period during which the Commissioner will receive comments started on that day. Anticipated savings of closure of West Harpswell School were revised to \$219,030.60.

The Superintendent should know by the third week of December the decision made by the Commissioner. He indicated that, assuming it will be approved, the Board will need to have a discussion about how to schedule the referendum.

5.3 *To hear a report on the Block Schedule work at the high school*

Assistant Principal Don Gray reported that a committee of 18 teachers and students are working on a new schedule for the high school. Four meetings have been held, with an excellent meeting earlier this evening. The Committee is looking at several different models of schedules, one an alternative where classes would meet for 80 minutes. The Committee's goal is to be able to present to the Board in late January, perhaps outlining a couple of models and the pros and cons of each. Mr. Gray reported that the Committee is drawing up a common list of questions to ask (of schools whose schedules are being considered for implementation here) so that everyone is asked the same questions. Some schools may be visited, but some questions may be resolved by a phone call.

Student Matt Pecoraro stated that block scheduling would be of assistance as far as homework is concerned.

Mrs. Totten asked about reaction to the website. Mr. Gray responded that there has been very little. When asked by Mrs. Totten whether students can comment on the website, Principal Craig King indicated that anyone can.

Mr. Gray indicated that "step-up day" would be a good day to demonstrate how a block schedule would work.

Mr. Johnson asked whether students realize that block scheduling is a possible, and Superintendent Wilhelm indicated that Principal King has publicized this initiative via his newsletter.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 *To hear a report from Diana McCain on the fall Merrymeeting Adult Education program*

Ms. McCain provided Board members with a copy of the latest catalog of course offerings and walked them through it, offering statistics in various arenas, such as number of graduates. More classes are being offered at Maine Vocational Region Ten. The Program received a \$30,000 College Connection grant. The number of course offerings is up from 127 in 2007 to 171 at the current time.

Page 4 – Minutes – November 19, 2009 – Board of Directors

She offered data on number of individuals seeking high school diploma completion options, as well as those seeking a GED. She cited some of the reasons students choose to pursue a GED.

In conclusion, Ms. McCain told the Board that consideration is being given to going to a “quarter” system as opposed to “semester.” Students will be surveyed regarding this.

6.2 *To hear a proposal from Patrick Moore on assuming responsibility for the 3-5 years-old age group of children with disabilities*

Dr. Moore had previously approached the Board at its November 5th meeting to gauge Board members’ interest in pursuing the possibility of M.S.A.D. No. 75 providing services to children with disabilities in the 3-5 year old population. While expressing some concern about the possibility of the Law changing, the Board decided there was interest enough to warrant further study.

CDS personnel and local site representatives are meeting, and one proposal is to reduce the number of CDS sites from 16 to 8. If this comes to fruition, M.S.A.D. No. 75 children in this category would attend either a site serving Sagadahoc or Cumberland County. Dr. Moore conceded that, if this were the case, transition into the regular school system would prove more difficult for these children.

Dr. Moore asked the Board if it wanted him to proceed with completing the application, providing budget data, with identification of sources of funding with the intention of returning to the Board for its final approval.

Dr. Moore stated that the District would provide case management and services to these youngsters, and in some instances he would have to contract with providers.

It was moved and seconded to authorize Patrick Moore to complete the application process, as suggested.

Dr. Moore stated that the District would have a contract with CDS and that this proposal only deals with 3-5 year olds with disabilities.

Mrs. Reinhart asked how this would affect the current staff’s work load. Dr. Moore stated that with the Base closure, census numbers are decreasing. He clarified that the services which may have to be “contracted out” would be for Occupational Therapy and audiology services. These services would be reimbursed by the State. Dr. Moore will specifically ascertain whether said reimbursement will occur in the same year.

Mrs. Carrier fears that the State may tell us that we can bear the burden of undertaking this. She is also concerned about impacting the workload of staff.

Mr. Johnson expressed assurance that M.S.A.D. No. 75 can provide the necessary programming but admitted it’s the Legislature of which he’s skeptical.

Mr. McKernan asked whether there were any teacher certification issues which need to be resolved (working with such younger students). Dr. Moore responded that a number of staff members have that special certification already.

Page 5 – Minutes – November 19, 2009 – Board of Directors

Woodside Elementary Principal Rick Dedek noted (in attending IEP meetings) that the number of children needing special services is declining. He feels that early intervention is key to meeting the needs of these children and sees this as an opportunity to starting meeting those needs at an early age. He feels that if the District is able to serve these children at an earlier age (thereby meeting their needs earlier), they can be dismissed from services earlier.

Mrs. Totten feels the State is making this opportunity available now because it will make the transition easier when local districts are required to provide this service.

Dr. Moore noted that Maine is the only state providing services to 3-5 year olds with disabilities in this manner – that in all other states this age group is served in the public schools.

The motion made and seconded to authorize Patrick Moore to complete the application process, as suggested, was **VOTED (644 yeas, 67 nays, 0 abstentions and 289 absent)**.

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

Voting nay was Mrs. Carrier.

There were no abstentions.

Absent were Ms. Beckwith, Mr. Hill, Ms. Stimpson, and Ms. Thomas.

- 6.3** To accept the resignation of **Mary Anne Peabody** as a part-time counselor/social worker at Bowdoinham Community School, effective January 16, 2010

It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Rogers, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to accept the resignation of **Mary Anne Peabody** as a part-time counselor/social worker at Bowdoinham Community School, effective January 16, 2010.

- 6.4** To appoint **Kathleen “Katy” Cloutier** as a .7 FTE elementary music teacher at Bachelor’s, Step 8 {prorated to .7 FTE and 121 work days} retroactive to November 19, 2009

It was moved by Mrs. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Gardner, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to appoint **Kathleen “Katy” Cloutier** as a .7 FTE elementary music teacher at Bachelor’s, Step 8 {prorated to .7 FTE and 121 work days} retroactive to November 19, 2009.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 7.1** Facilities Tour – The annual Facilities Tour was conducted on November 9th, with six Board members participating. The Facilities Committee will meet with Chris Shaw to prioritize the list. Mrs. Carrier cautioned Board members to retain the paperwork presented them on the findings made on the tour.

Page 6 – Minutes – November 19, 2009 – Board of Directors

7.2 *Negotiations – Mrs. Rogers stated that meetings were held on November 11th and 16th and that the groups exchanged proposals. The next meeting is November 23rd.*

7.3 *Finance Committee – Mr. Tufts reported that the Finance Committee met earlier this evening to review warrants. The Business Office is working on the question of how more detail can be added to the descriptions on the warrants.*

He reported that Business Manager Steven Dyer provided some information on buying highly efficient vehicles for travel between schools.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

8.1 *Financial Report – Business Manager Steven Dyer presented an overview, noting that the District expects word on November 20th regarding curtailment of subsidy.*

8.2 *H1N1 update – Superintendent Wilhelm stated that after the H1N1 clinic is held at the high school on November 20th, all of the District’s clinics will have been held.*

A clinic will be held on December 5th for seasonal flu vaccine and for anyone who missed the H1N1 clinic at their school.

Dr. Wilhelm reported that there has been high absenteeism, with the rate above 15% on a couple of occasions.

The District has experienced some difficulty obtaining substitutes. The new automated substitute calling system (AESOP) can provide different kinds of data, and based on some of that, the District has instituted a temporary practice of asking teachers not to take professional leave on Fridays or Mondays, so that there are enough substitutes for ill teachers.

8.3 *Board Policy Committee meeting – There’s a need to schedule a meeting of the Board’s Policy Committee.*

8.4 *Task Force meeting – The Task Force will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 30th at Region Ten.*

8.5 *District Wellness Pilot – Superintendent Wilhelm presented an overview of findings to date on the District Wellness Pilot. He noted that grant funding for this initiative is ending in October 2010 and that attempts are being made to find funding to continue it.*

8.6 *To enter executive session to discuss legal rights and duties with legal counsel pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405 (6) E*

*At 7:55 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Carrier, seconded by Mrs. Gardner, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to enter executive session to discuss legal rights and duties with legal counsel pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405 (6) E.*

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

9. ADJOURNMENT – *The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:45 p.m.*
/bb/minutes111909

