

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

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December 10, 2009

The Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 75 held a **regular meeting at Woodside Elementary School on Thursday, December 10, 2009.**

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

Not present were Robert W. Hill, Jane Meisenbach, Gwendolyn Thomas, and Roland Tufts.

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

1. Call to order

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

Mrs. Reinhart asked that those present either silence their cell phones or place them on vibrate mode. In the interest of time, she also asked that comments be limited to two minutes.

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 agenda adjustments.

Mr. Leon Ogrodnik of Harpswell requested that the referendum for closure of West Harpswell School be held either at Harpswell's Town Meeting in March or at June's District Budget Meeting.

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

3.1 RECOGNITIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- **Welcome to Woodside Elementary School from Principal Rick Dedek**
- **High School French teacher Ellyn Ballou and students Kaycie Clark, Grace Hutchinson, Chris McIntire and Jordanne Woodbury – their encounter with a moose when returning from Quebec in 2008 to be part of a Discovery Channel documentary**
- **Brittany Getch, Laura Hill, Don Plumer, Korin Nickerson, Dan Porter, Hailey Bush, Evelyn Dickinson, Jeremy Field, Emelia McGrath, Joey Fournier, Michelle Brann, Brennie Radulski and Dan Van Note – students selected for Concert Band at District III Honors Music Festival January 29th and 30th at Orion Performing Arts Center**

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- **Carolyn Glaude, Nick Burich, and Ben Proctor** - students selected for Soprano-Alto-Tenor-Bass Choir
- **Kayla Chamberlin, Katrina Cornish, Mary Montalvo, Audrey Petteruti, Brooke Smith, Morgana Warner-Evans, Anna Bruning, Anna Rohman, Hilary Warner-Evans, and Maggie Wessel** – students selected for Treble Choir
- **KVAC Honors – All Conference and All Academic:**
 - Field Hockey:** 1st team – Hayley Lapointe
2nd team – Meghan Carr
All-Academic – Hayley LaPointe, Audrey Petterutti
KVAC Coach of the Year – Kelly LaFountain
 - Girls Soccer:** 1st team – Jaymee Wallace, Randi London
2nd team – Haley Michaud
 - Boys Soccer:** 1st team – Tim Bickford
2nd team – Will Bouchard
 - Golf:** 1st team – Henry Fall, Michelle Brann, Linnea Tilberg
All-Academic – Henry Fall
 - CrossCountry:** 1st team – Kate Spies, Emma Wood
All-Academic – Dan Van Note, Ellen Pinnette
KVAC Coach of the Year – Diane Fournier
- **Standard Company of Portland** – donation of furniture to Mt. Ararat High School

4. To take action relative to accepting as printed the minutes of the November 5, 2009 and November 19, 2009 regular meetings of the Board of Directors

*It was moved by Mrs. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Gardner, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to accept as printed the minutes of the November 5, 2009, regular meeting of the Board of Directors.*

*It was moved by Mrs. Carrier, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and **VOTED (567 yeas, 0 nays, 143 abstentions, and 290 absent)** to accept as printed the minutes of the November 19, 2009, regular meeting of the Board of Directors.*

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

There were no nay votes.

Abstaining from voting were Ms. Beckwith and Ms. Stimpson.

Absent were Mr. Hill, Mrs. Meisenbach, Ms. Thomas, and Mr. Tufts.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

5.1 *To consider the scheduling of a referendum in Harpswell to close West Harpswell School*

Superintendent Wilhelm agreed with Mr. Ogradnik's suggestion that the referendum be scheduled at the March Town Meeting, which is a time when as many voters as possible would be participating. He added that it will also cost less to conduct the referendum on the same day as Harpswell's Town Meeting.

Although admitting she preferred the referendum to be scheduled "sooner than later," Mrs. Carrier feels it would be appropriate to conduct it on the same day as Town Meeting.

*It was moved by Mrs. Carrier, seconded by Mrs. Rogers, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to schedule on the same day in early March as Harpswell Town Meeting the referendum in Harpswell to close West Harpswell School. **(It was clarified that voting would be conducted by secret ballot.)***

Mrs. Carrier asked the protocol for holding public hearings prior to the referendum. Superintendent Wilhelm will check on this, feeling that it may not be necessary to hold public hearings.

5.2 *To hear a report on the Laptop project*

Lisa Hogan and Steve Spaeth were present to report on the Laptop project.

Before Mrs. Hogan began the presentation, Mrs. Reinhart again congratulated her on being named Technology Teacher of the Year; and Board members applauded her on this distinction.

Mrs. Hogan indicated that some teachers and students may qualify for free or reduced Internet connection through GWI. She presented data on a survey conducted only 20 days into the roll-out of the devices at the high school. A follow-up survey will be conducted. She emphasized that the data being presented is baseline data.

She noted that when she met with high school teachers in August, many had expressed concerns that students would not bring the devices to class or that the batteries would not last long enough. Both these fears have proved to be unfounded.

Superintendent Wilhelm noted that the District is experiencing difficulty connecting with Comcast (provider of Internet service to the District) in an effort to re-negotiate the District's contract in its attempt to increase bandwidth, to allay the ongoing experience of difficulties with connectivity.

Tyler Washburn related the occasion of an absent student "skyping" into class so as not to fall behind. Hayley LaPointe noted that the Internet connection is slow, but appears to be getting better.

Mr. Johnson asked what the biggest success with the initiative, and Mrs. Hogan indicated that it's that the teachers and students are making a concerted effort to be successful in use of the devices. She admitted that the biggest problem is the lack of bandwidth.

Principal Craig King indicated that the process has gone much better than he had anticipated. Early on, he had asked staff how they could best learn (workshops, seminars, training); and many indicated that asking a colleague for help worked best.

Mrs. Reinhart asked if it were possible for Kerry Gallivan to return to the Board and present on the issue of bandwidth.

5.3 *To hear a report on the visit of educators from Singapore to Mt. Ararat High School on November 17th*

Principal King related a set of circumstances in which Bette Manchester had contacted him (following up on a contact from former Governor Angus King) regarding this opportunity.

While arranging the visit, Dr. King found many factors in the school's statement of philosophy which compared favorably with the purpose of the visit.

Steve Spaeth explained that this group came to Topsham looking for a partnership. The group was impressed with the school's i-teams. Members of the group indicated they had been "all over the world" and that this was the first instance of students being so involved.

Mrs. Reinhart asked if language was a barrier. It is not, as the other school is English-language speaking.

Board members and the Superintendent thanked all involved – Bette Manchester, Lisa Hogan, Craig King, and Steve Spaeth and especially the i-teams.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 *To acknowledge the intended retirement of **Jean Giberson**, West Harpswell School teacher, effective August 31, 2010*

*The intended retirement of **Jean Giberson**, West Harpswell School teacher, effective August 31, 2010, was **DULY ACKNOWLEDGED**.*

6.2 *To hear a proposal to institute a retirement incentive for retirement as of August 31, 2010*

Business Manager Steve Dyer reported that members of the Finance Committee had discussed this at the meeting prior to the Board meeting. Minor reworking of one section will be done.

As policy, this is considered the first of two required readings.

Mr. McKernan asked whether this had been "vetted" by District's counsel, and Superintendent Wilhelm noted that it had been extrapolated from Portland's plan and that it had indeed been vetted there.

This proposal will be voted upon at the January 14th meeting.

- 6.3** *To undertake a first reading of revisions to policies GCSA and GCSA-R regarding employee computer and Internet use and of new policy BEA School Board Use of Electronic Mail*

Language is proposed to be added to GCSA and GCSA-R: “If employees wish to use privately-owned computers at school, they must get prior authorization and comply with this policy and existing rules.”

BEA was suggested by Drummond Woodsum at a presentation attended by Kerry Gallivan. Any “discovery” process would require that Board members provide access to personal email. Superintendent Wilhelm suggested that if Board members used District-provided email accounts, they would not be using their personal accounts for Board-related communications.

Dr. Wilhelm asked whether Board members would be interested in such an arrangement. Mr. McKernan noted that once he became a Board member, he set up an account in gmail, to which all his Board communication is sent.

*Board members agreed that the word “shall” should be employed in Section C (Board member **shall** avoid reference to confidential information about employees, students, etc.....).*

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

7.1 *Finance Committee*

Business Manager Steve Dyer reported that the Finance Committee is reviewing the warrants prior to each Board meeting.

The Finance Committee reviewed and made minor adjustments to the draft of the proposed budget process schedule of meetings.

It has been determined there currently is no funding source for the purchase of energy-efficient automobiles for use by itinerant staff.

7.2 *Guidance Advisory*

Superintendent Wilhelm has been working with guidance counselors and social on how to evaluate the program District-wide, based on data. All agree that the thrust of the program is to support students academically and emotionally and help them prepare for the future (i.e. career preparation). The focus of the November 24th meeting was the same.

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

Dr. Wilhelm reported that he and Brunswick Superintendent Paul Perzanoski have been asked to make a presentation on the work to date of the Task Force – to let the larger community know what the Task Force is “about” and discuss the group’s political action focus. The work of this presentation will be broken down by a committee which has volunteered to plan for the January 15th meeting.

7.4 *Negotiations Committee*

Mrs. Rogers reported that the Committee met on November 23rd and December 7th and will meet again on December 14th.

7.5 *Policy Committee*

The Policy Committee met on November 30th and discussed the need for a policy regarding cell phone use and another on student-staff interaction. Input from middle and high school principals had been deemed necessary, and due to the snowstorm the meeting which was to have been held on December 9th will have to be rescheduled.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

8.1 *Financial Report*

Business Manager Steve Dyer presented this report.

8.2 *H1N1*

Superintendent Wilhelm reported that H1N1 clinics for all students have been held. On Saturday, December 5th, a clinic was held at Mt. Ararat Middle School for younger siblings of students and area homeschoolers, preschool students, as well as those attending private schools.

On Saturday, December 12, 2009, Mid-Coast Hospital will host an H1N1 immunization clinic for individuals in high-risk groups.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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