

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.}

August 27, 2009

The Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 75 held a **regular meeting at Mt. Ararat High School on Thursday, August 27, 2009.**

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

Not present were Claudia Beckwith, Robert W. Hill, David A. Johnson, Jane Meisenbach, and Rebekah Stimpson.

Also 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

Agenda adjustments were noted, as follows:

Table action on minutes of August 17th Board meeting

{add 4.1} To appoint **Beth Pinkham** to a one-year probationary contract as 0.5 FTE Special Education/0.5 FTE Title I at Bowdoinham Community School, at Master's, Step 8, for the 2009-2010 contract year

{delete 68} Executive session

{add new 6.8} To convert a Technology Ed Tech III position to a Technology Ed Tech I position for one year

3.1 RECOGNITIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ✓ **Lisa Hogan, Technology Integrator** – making the evening with John Palfrey, author of **Born Digital**, possible

Appreciation from all was extended to Ms. Hogan for her efforts and hard work.

Mrs. Gardner was impressed with the students serving on the i-team and noted they had handled themselves well.

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4. To take action relative to accepting as printed the minutes of the August 17, 2009, regular meeting of the Board of Directors

The minutes had been tabled.

4.1 To appoint **Beth Pinkham to a one-year probationary contract as 0.5 FTE Special Education/0.5 FTE Title I at Bowdoinham Community School, at Master's, Step 8, for the 2009-2010 contract year**

*It was moved by Mr. Tufts, seconded by Mrs. Gardner, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to appoint **Beth Pinkham** to a one-year probationary contract as 0.5 FTE Special Education/0.5 FTE Title I at Bowdoinham Community School, at Master's, Step 8, for the 2009-2010 contract year.*

5. OLD BUSINESS:

5.1 To continue discussion of Study Circles

Assistant Superintendent Sally Loughlin and Dawn Prindall had returned to the Board to continue the discussion of Study Circles.

Mrs. Loughlin distributed copies of the Portsmouth, New Hampshire, "master plan" for implementation of Study Circles; and Mrs. Prindall distributed copies of an overview of Study Circles.

Superintendent Wilhelm suggested the possibility of a pilot of this project, perhaps one group to look at 21st Learning and Digital Citizenship.

Ms. Thomas asked for an example of what Study Circles might discuss, and Mrs. Loughlin suggested digital citizenship. She said that Study Circles would prevent the problem of "shout downs" (advocacy for "sides").

*While Ms. Thomas feels that discussing technology doesn't have a lot to do with democracy, Mrs. Loughlin said that employment of Study Circles would be **practicing** it instead of **learning** about it.*

Mrs. Scease feels there should be adults involved and asked how topics are chosen. Mrs. Loughlin responded by saying it had been considered appropriate to start with students and technology.

When Mrs. Scease asked about the time frame of Circles, Mrs. Loughlin indicated that the Steering Committee could decide this, stating that the groups would not be comprised solely of youth, but would start with them.

Mr. Tufts asked if other subjects would be allowed, and Mrs. Loughlin said "yes" and indicated this would be the facilitator's responsibility to make this decision.

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Mrs. Carrier asked why this particular discussion could not fall under the Board's Technology Committee and questioned the need to begin another avenue of discussion. Mrs. Loughlin reminded the Board that she and Mrs. Prindall are present to hear members' ideas.

Ms. Lapointe wondered why Board members are not supporting this. She feels it's important for students to have a forum for discussion and reminded the Board that while she has a "voice," she is only one of 900 students. She stated that not many students get the opportunity to speak and advance their views and speak to the whole community. She states she supports the concept 100%.

Mr. McKernan sought clarification on why this is being proposed, asking if it's a "tool." Mrs. Loughlin feels this is an opportunity for sustained deliberate dialogue which will benefit all viewpoints and enrich our work.

Mrs. Reinhart suggested emailing Mrs. Prindall any suggestions Board members have.

Mrs. Rogers feels there's an insinuation that participants will want something to come from the discussions. Mrs. Loughlin sees this as an opportunity to expand the notion of how the Board and administration can serve the communities.

Board members expressing an interest in discussing this further on a smaller scale were Mrs. Carrier, Mrs. Scease, Mrs. Reinhart, Ms. Thomas, Mrs. Gardner and Hayley Lapointe.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 To hear a report from **Josh Ottow** on his recent trip to China

*The Board heard a report from Assistant Principal **Josh Ottow** and Mt. Ararat High School senior **Dan Van Note** on their recent separate trips to China.*

6.2 To hear a report on the District's MEA results for 2009

Assistant Superintendent Sally Loughlin presented a comprehensive review of the District's 2009 MEA results.

6.3 To elect a Finance Committee of the M.S.A.D. No. 75 Board of Directors for the 2009-2010 year

Roland Tufts, as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors, will serve as Topsham's representative and Chair of the Finance Committee.

Other representatives brought forward were Gwen Thomas (Bowdoin); Rebekah Stimpson (Bowdoinham); Joanne Rogers (Harpowell); and Dorothy “Dee” Carrier (at-large).

*It was moved by Mrs. Carrier, seconded by Mrs. Gardner, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to move the slate, therefore electing the 2009-2010 Finance Committee as follows:*

Roland Tufts, Chair of Finance Committee {representing Topsham}

Gwen Thomas {representing Bowdoin}

Rebekah Stimpson {representing Bowdoinham}

Joanne M. Rogers {representing Harpswell}

Dorothy “Dee” Carrier {serving as the at-large representative}

- 6.7** *To approve the administration (with parent consent and youth assent) the Screening Questionnaire from the TeenScreen Program with Mt. Ararat High School’s Health Education mental health unit {taken out of order}*

Lori Brodsky, Nurse Practitioner at the School-Based Health Center, distributed information to Board members and answered questions.

Health teacher Jeanne Billings spoke in support of this.

*It was moved by Mrs. Carrier, seconded by Mrs. Gardner, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to approve the administration (with parent consent and youth assent) the Screening Questionnaire from the TeenScreen Program with Mt. Ararat High School’s Health Education mental health unit.*

Superintendent Wilhelm asked Health Education Coordinator Mary Booth to update the Board on H1N1 vaccinations. Mrs. Booth indicated that the area does support vaccinations in schools and distributed an informational sheet to Board members. She assured Board members that any legal questions will be worked out. Vaccinations will be given only with parent approval.

- 6.4** *To establish Board committees for 2009-2010*

Board members were reminded to notify Becky Brilliant in the District Office of their wishes regarding their committee memberships.

It was suggested that the Comprehensive Strategic Planning Committee for 2009-2010 consist of: Mrs. Totten (Bowdoin); Ms. Stimpson (Bowdoinham); Mrs. Carrier (Harpwell); Mr. McKernan (Topsham); with Mrs. Reinhart by virtue of her office as Chairman of the Board serving on the CSPC.

*It was moved by Mrs. Carrier, seconded by Mr. Tufts, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to move the slate, thereby elected the above-named as members of the CSPC for 2009-2010.*

A meeting of the CSPC will be held during the second week of school, and members will be notified of the date.

- 6.5** *To establish a Board meeting schedule for the 2009-2010 school year*

No modifications to the list were made, so this stands as the schedule of Board meetings for 2009-2010.

- 6.6** *To accept as tuition students to M.S.A.D. No. 75 for 2009-2010 the following:*

***Emma Cota** (8th grade) from Georgetown*

***Kaitlyn Goodspeed** (8th grade) from Georgetown*

***Hilary Warner-Evans** (10th grade) from West Bath*

***Morgana Warner-Evans** (10th grade) from West Bath*

*It was moved by Mrs. Gardner, seconded by Mrs. Scease, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to accept as tuition students to M.S.A.D. No. 75 for 2009-2010 the above-listed students.*

- 6.8** *To enter executive session to consider the readmission of a student pursuant to Title 20-A, 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (B) ~~{had been deleted from agenda}~~*

- {new} 6.8** *To convert a Technology Ed Tech III position to a Technology Ed Tech I position for one year*

This proposal has the endorsement of the Merrymeeting Employees Association, for one year. This gives administration greater flexibility in hiring.

*It was moved by Mrs. Gardner, seconded by Mrs. Rogers, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to convert a Technology Ed Tech III position to a Technology Ed Tech I position for one year.*

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 7.1** *MVR 10*

This report was postponed until the next Board meeting.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

8.1 *Financial report for July 2009*

The Financial Report for July 2009 was presented by Superintendent Wilhelm.

With the Board’s request for an expedited completion of the audit, that process is almost completed. This is necessary in order to continue looking at cost savings of closing West Harpswell School. The audit report should be completed by the third week of September.

8.2 *Route 201 ramp*

Superintendent Wilhelm reported there is some interest in Topsham to continue petitioning the State to keep the ramp open. He will attend a meeting to determine whether the issue is worth pursuing. Those who want it remain open want the Board of Directors to participate in the petition drive.

8.3 *CSPC meeting date – This date will be announced.*

8.4 *Wellness Pilot update – Superintendent Wilhelm stated that the initial response has been sustained and that 60% of those eligible are participating.*

9. ADJOURNMENT

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