

# MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT No. 52

Greene, Leeds, and Turner, Maine

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## Minutes of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors for 2013-2014

January 23, 2014    6:00 P.M.    Greene Central School

Members present: Elizabeth Bullard; Peter Ricker; Robert Allen; Diana Morgan (6:00 p.m.); JoAnn Nickerson; Richard Gross; Jon Woodard; Yuri Kowalski; Eric Milliken

Members absent: None

Others Present: Henry Aliberti, Superintendent of Schools; Becky Foley, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Deborah Alden, Special Education Director; Deborah Roberts, Business Manager; Eben Shaw, Leavitt Area High School Principal; Gail Marine, Tripp Middle School Principal; Cynthia Alexander, Turner Elementary School Principal; Danielle Harris, Leeds Central School Principal; Glen Reynolds, Facilities/ Transportation Director; Karen Potvin, Technology Coordinator; District Citizens; District Employees

1. Chairperson Elizabeth Bullard called the meeting to order at 5:59 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Peter Ricker.
2. The Ninth Regular Meeting Minutes, January 9, 2014 were accepted under general consent with the correction of Business Manager Deborah Roberts being present at the meeting.
3. Communications:
  - 3.1 Superintendent Aliberti reported the resignation of Pamela Lanyon as District Wide Van Driver, effective January 24, 2014.
  - 3.2 Superintendent Aliberti reported the resignation of Rachel Wildrick as District Wide School Psychologist, effective January 31, 2014.
4. Adjustments to Agenda:
8. Consent Agenda – Items to be acted upon collectively unless a Board member asks that a specific item be acted upon individually.
  - 8.1 Non-Instructional Appointments
    - 8.1.2 Turner Primary School Special Education Ed Tech III
    - 8.1.3 Other
9. New Business
  - 9.3 Removal of Agenda Item (Per Policy CHCAA: School Handbooks [agenda item 9.11] handbooks do not need to be approved by the Board)

## 5. Committee Reports:

- 5.1 Finance Committee: Jon Woodard reported the committee had not met since the last Board meeting; however, later this evening the approval of financials will need Board action.
- 5.2 Plant/Transportation/Building Committee: Peter Ricker reported the committee has not met.
- 5.3 Curriculum/Policy Committee: JoAnn Nickerson reported the committee met. The committee has been reviewing policies. Curriculum updates include Consultant Kellie Smith working with Title One next week. Some Turner Elementary School staff went for a visit to North Yarmouth Memorial School to see the reading workshop in action. Narrative writing has all been scored. Middle/high school math teachers have met. We are expecting that approximately 47 students will enter high school next year needing Algebra II.
- 5.4 Negotiations Committee (TTEA): Jon Woodard reported that the committee has met twice since the last Board meeting. There will be an Executive Session later this evening to go over the updates that have occurred since the January 9, 2014 Board meeting.
- 5.5 Student Representative's Report – None.
- 5.6 Administrator's Report: Technology Education Coordinator Karen Potvin, reported out on the technology being utilized throughout the District. Apple TV helps to project information onto the screen. Teachers, who have received more training, are now utilizing more technology. Technology is impacting instruction. Laptops, iPads, document cameras, and projectors all assist in changing instruction across the curriculum. Document cameras help to share books, student work, and make lessons more interactive. We are now starting to replace some equipment that is 8-10 years old. We are providing other tools such as on-line resources (Everyday Math Deluxe Suite) and training with in-house experts. Desktops are being replaced and they are much faster and up to date. In the libraries, laptops are being utilized for research and instruction. In Leeds, students are working with the Historical Society on a project. Technology is allowing them to customize their learning more. At Leeds, saltwater tanks enhance the science instruction. Technology allows for quick self-evaluations in areas such as after a music concert. At the middle school, students can take the iPad anywhere, even to do standardized testing. Three students, Eli Christman, Noah Keneborus and Liam Wallace from Tripp Middle School gave a presentation on how they feel iPads have impacted their learning at Tripp Middle School.
- 5.7 Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Aliberti reported out on the budget process. The administrators have been building their budgets. They often collaborate with the Technology Education Coordinator or the Facilities/Transportation Director when needed. Business Manager Deb Roberts has entered the budgets. Each budget is reviewed with Superintendent Aliberti, Business Manager Deb Roberts, and Assistant Superintendent Becky

Foley. Three year trends are reviewed to see what adjustments are needed. Sometimes money is added or reduced, based on the need. The plan is to give the Board some information at the next Board meeting. Next Tuesday, at the Ad Team meeting, the administrators will work on prioritizing new positions. For example, how do increased social worker services compete with other needs? Facilities requests will also be reviewed by the Plant/Transportation/Building subcommittee. The state valuation will be favorable this year, and our enrollment has increased. Some costs will be repetitive (teacher retirement costs) in the budget. The recommendation is to reduce education by \$9.5 million dollars statewide. Superintendent Aliberti is concerned about the \$40 million dollar reduction to towns. A new program in Special Education is being proposed as a cost savings. Superintendent Aliberti attended a conference last week. One session by the Acting Commissioner of Education Jim Reir talked about the PICUS report, and how educational funding can be improved. Areas discussed that have a positive impact on student achievement were PreK education, teacher professional development, charter schools, and teacher salaries. Acting Commissioner Reir wanted to change his focus to being more supportive to schools. He wants his department to be more team oriented. Superintendent Aliberti ended his report with a celebration: Turner Elementary School has been nominated for a Blue Ribbon Award! Only two schools qualified – Winthrop and Turner Elementary School. We are pleased to receive that nomination. State Legislative Representatives Jeff Timberlake, Garret Mason and Gary Knight are in attendance at this evening's Board meeting to assist us in knowing what is happening at the State level.

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Bullard moved to Agenda Item 9.1.

## 9. New Business:

- 9.1 State Representative Jeff Timberlake handed out some responses to some previous sent questions. Representative Garret Mason and Representative Gary Knight did a lot of work on the responses. As far as the Maine Care Audit, this is still in litigation and the Department of Education does not have any further information. In regards to State subsidy, reduction was due to the curtailment and due to the Oxford Casino over projections. Monies were taken away to reduce other overages in Department of Human Services. Maine Care Seed is seeing decreasing amounts from the federal level. The Board should plan for contingencies in this area. In regards to charter schools, they feel that two disbursements should be done in April and October. They would like charter school funding to come off the top of EPS, instead of it flowing through the various student districts. Representative Mason thinks all of the charter school bills were defeated. They expect teacher retirement costs to stay at the local level. Representative Knight feels this is being moved to the local level due to inflated superintendent salaries. Some places have played games by taking benefit packages (medical and other benefits), and moved those monies to salary, so it augments the level of the salaries, with locals thinking the State will bear the burden. Now this has been pushed back to the local level. Child Development Services (CDS) are trying to make services more efficient. There have been past complaints about these services. Some positive developments are that Head Start is trying to collaborate more with CDS. Jeff Timberlake said that the Department of Education and Department of

Human Services have the two largest budgets. The State is expanding Medicare. We are a generous state that gives a lot away. As far as revenue sharing, districts should plan on zero. Districts should not count on a lot of money coming from Augusta. Representative Knight feels like the State is inefficient. They operate in silos. Appropriations and taxation bring revenue in. Representative Timberlake feels that the two should be working collaboratively. In trying to balance the budget last year, they capped possible deductions which will impact nonprofits. Individuals no longer get as much of a deduction for gifting to non-profits. Our spending at the current level is not sustainable. Chairperson Bullard thanked the selectmen and legislators for attending this evening's meeting. Greene selectman Tony Reny talked about the County Charter, an increase at the county level. Turner Town Manager Scott LaFlamme feels the State funding is getting smaller and smaller and the only way to bridge the gap is through the taxpayers. A continued collective effort and collaboration is needed for all three towns.

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Bullard moved to Agenda Item 9.16

- 9.16 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to enter into Executive Session to conduct a hearing and consider the readmission of a student pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(B).

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:26 P.M.  
The Board returned to Open Session at 7:49 P.M.

- 9.17 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present (Richard Gross absent) to readmit student.

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Bullard returned to Agenda Item 6.

6. Public Comment - None.

7. Old Business- None.

8. Consent Agenda:

- 8.1 Non-Instructional Appointments –A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present (Richard Gross absent) to approve all Non-Instructional appointments.

8.1.1 Faith Hersey, District Wide Bus Aide.

8.1.2 Darlene Rollins, Turner Primary School Special Education Ed Tech III.

- 9.2 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve the FY2013 Audit.

9.3 Agenda Item removed.

- 9.4 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve the October and November Operating and Expenditure reports.
- 9.5 Superintendent Aliberti reported the completion of probationary period for Ashley Racine, Greene Central School Special Education Ed Tech III on January 21, 2014.
- 9.6 A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve job description for Food Service Director.
- 9.7 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Diana Morgan and voted unanimously by those present to approve job description for Technology Education Coordinator.
- 9.8 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve job description for Data Manager.
- 9.9 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to approve job description for District Network Manager.
- 9.10 A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Diana Morgan and voted unanimously by those present to approve First Reading and Acceptance of Policy BCB: MSAD 52 Board Member Conflict of Interest.
- 9.11 A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Diana Morgan and voted unanimously by those present to approve First Reading and Acceptance of Policy CHCAA: School Handbooks.
- 9.12 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to approve First Reading and Acceptance of Policy DIEA: MSAD 52 Student Activity Accounts (SAA) Guidelines.
- 9.13 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to adopt the K-3 Report Card.
- 9.14 The Board wanted to know about the costs that are being requested for the students. The concern is around consistency across the schools and limiting the undue costs to parents. There is an art lab fee for art class at the high school in the amount of \$10 for the sketch book. At the middle school, parents need to pay for the insurance in order for the students to take the iPads home.
- 9.15 The Long Range Planning Committee for Transportation presented to the Board. Some strategies that the District has utilized: consolidating runs, filling buses to capacity, limiting time spent on buses, community stops, eliminating trips to pick up absent students.

Consolidated Runs: There are some consolidated community stops, but elementary runs are mostly house to house. Further consolidation could save \$8,000 for secondary runs and \$4,800 for the elementary runs.

JV and Varsity Buses Change: In 2010, there were discussions about this issue. Many players ride home with parents; one bus may be enough, and could result in a cost savings of \$2,175. This should be discussed by the Board. Previous discussions concluded with the Board not wanting to do this.

Late Bus Run: no change on this one. Savings would be \$11,000 and would impact forty (40) riders that are mostly from Greene and Leeds. Extra study, detention, co-curriculars would be impacted.

One Run PreK-12: buses run on average higher than 60% capacity; would need more drivers and buses, and would be difficult to keep it to one hour. Recommend no change.

Four Day School Week: very rough savings of approximately \$73,500. This would require a change in state law.

Contracting Out Transportation: districts that are currently doing this, are satisfied. Based on discussions held back in 2011, it would indicate this is not a direction the District wants to take. After discussion, the Board may want to look into this further. Auburn has done this recently. The District may need to do a cost/benefit analysis. Administration would need to look at time frames, put a Request for Proposal (RFP) out, and look at estimated savings.

A motion was made by Robert Allen, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to move forward to look at outsourcing buses with a RFP for the next year of 2014-2015. The District would maintain the bus fleet. A request was made that Superintendent Aliberti give a heads up to the needed stakeholders. There was discussion about whether drivers may take the buses home. There are guidelines allowing some drivers to take their buses home. The drivers should not use the buses to run errands. Administration will reiterate the expectations around this.

Propane Buses: This would require \$7,200 to \$7,500 additional costs for a new bus. Initial cost is a local expense. State reimbursement program does not cover the additional cost. Currently, Ford is the only company to quote prices for propane fueled buses. This could go to the Plant/Transportation/Building subcommittee if there is further interest. Natural gas fuel could be another option.

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Bullard moved to Agenda Item 10.

## 10. Other Business:

- 10.1 Searching on the websites. Can we put the sports on the Events' Calendar? Leavitt Area High School Eben Shaw said if you are searching for building

use calendar, events calendar is on Leavitt page. There is a desire for more uniformity on the website.

- 10.2 Charter schools are not going away. Should the District look at building a charter school? The response was that there is more interest in building a stronger District than what we currently have.
- 10.3 Make sure to publicize our good news about TES being nominated as a Blue Ribbon School.
- 10.4 There was a question about contracting out janitorial services. The District had tried this the summer of 2012.

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Bullard returned to Agenda Item 9.18.

- 9.18 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to enter into Executive Session to discuss information related to negotiations with Tri-Town Education Association (TTEA) pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D).

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:14 P.M.  
The Board returned to Open Session at 10:02 P.M.

- 9.19 No action taken.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to extend the meeting beyond 10:00 P.M.

- 9.20 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to enter into Executive Session to discuss Superintendent of Schools goals pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D).

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:03 P.M.  
The Board returned to Open Session at 10:16 P.M.

- 9.21 No action taken.

11. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry Aliberti, Secretary