

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 52

Greene, Leeds, and Turner, Maine

Minutes of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors for 2016-2017

January 5, 2017

Leeds Central School

Members present: Elizabeth Bullard, Chairperson; Yuri Kowalski; Robert Allen; Carlos Gnipp; Peter Ricker; Pamela Sirois; JoAnn Nickerson; Richard Gross; Jon Woodard

Members absent: None

Others Present: Kimberly Brandt, Superintendent of School; Thomas Ambrose, Assistant Superintendent; Del Peavey, Director of Special Education; Deborah Roberts, Business Manager, Eben Shaw, Leavitt Area High School Principal; Gail Marine, Tripp Middle School Principal; Kelly Marston, Turner Elementary School Principal; Theresa Gillis, Turner Primary School Principal; Mark McDonough, Greene Central School Principal; Danielle Harris, Leeds Central School Principal; Karen Potvin, Technology Education Coordinator; Razell Ward, Adult Education Director; Kim Long Facilities Director; District Citizens; District Employees

1. Chairperson Elizabeth Bullard called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Peter Ricker.

2. The Minutes for the Eight Regular Meeting, December 8, 2016 were approved under general consent.

3. Communications: None

4. Adjustments to Agenda

Agenda item 9.1 was removed, agenda item 9.2 rescheduled to the next Board meeting and agenda item 9.18 was removed.

5. Committee Reports:

5.1 Finance Committee- Jon Woodard reported the committee has not met.

5.2 Plant/Transportation/Building Committee – Peter Ricker reported the committee has not met.

5.3 Curriculum/Policy Committee – JoAnn Nickerson reported the committee has not met.

5.4 Student Representatives Report – No report.

5.5 Tri-Town Education Association Negotiations (Teacher) – Jon Woodard reported the teams have met to discuss ground rules and will be meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2017.

5.6 Administrators Report – Leavitt Area High School Principal Eben Shaw gave an update on a variety of events at Leavitt Area High School including, but not limited to winter carnival, interventions for students during the February break (in addition to summer intervention), the use of Power School for proficiency-based grading and policies regarding proficiency based diplomas. He also mentioned

the upcoming musical at the auditorium. Mr. Shaw noted how great it has been to have the early childhood education students' work at Turner Primary School.

- 5.7 Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Kimberly Brandt presented an award to Jon Woodard for 12 years of service on the school board. She gave an update on the Patience Norman Award and acknowledged the latest recipient was April Hartford, a teacher at Turner Primary School. Scott Grimshaw is a Science teacher at Leavitt Area High School who was deployed to Africa for military service. He brought a recognition letter to the Central Office. Mrs. Brandt read the letter and acknowledged his service to the country. Mrs. Brandt reported that the first District newsletter was sent out including information about the District and the budget process. Mrs. Bullard and Mrs. Brandt attended the Turner Selectmen's meeting to meet all of the Selectmen last Tuesday. The Selectmen asked if the board would consider holding the budget validation in June to save costs (thus combining two referendums). Mrs. Brandt asked if the board wanted to consider changing the date of the vote. Mrs. Bullard noted that a specific date was not set. Mrs. Roberts noted that moving the vote back could make things difficult for summer work that needs to occur. There was discussion among the board about the timeliness of purchasing busses or beginning projects. Mrs. Bullard asked if the board would like to have more information about pros and cons of moving the vote to June. Mr. Ricker asked about what harm would come with making a change to June and what is the cost of holding a referendum? Mr. Kowalski noted that if people are already voting, would we have a better turn out. Mrs. Brandt reflected that she would research the following questions:

What are the potential impacts of changing the date of the vote? What is the cost of holding a vote? How often would other towns be having June elections?

Mrs. Brandt noted that it is nice to have Del Peavey on board as the new Special Education Director.

Mrs. Brandt gave an update on the budget process and she talked about the MLTI refresh. We sent back our machines to be catalogued and that we received a bill for \$5,668. Mrs. Potvin shared a letter from the state noting that the bill has been reduced to zero.

Mrs. Brandt read a letter from Cindy Duguay thanking the board for the donation to the humane society on behalf of her mother.

Mr. Ambrose gave an update on the January 23rd professional development day. He noted a change in the process for developing professional development days for the district. In the past administration had developed a plan for the day and then shared the plan with teachers for feedback. Mr. Ambrose noted that the process had been flipped. For the upcoming professional development day, a group of teachers was asked to collaborate on plans for the day and then administration reviewed the plans and made suggestions. The plan was then sent back to teachers for review before being sent out to the full staff. Mr. Ambrose noted that there were significant changes based on staff feedback and that the professional development days planning team is looking forward to a wonderful day.

6. Public Comment – None.

7. Old Business

- 7.1 The Board held a continuation of discussion regarding the FY 17-18 budget target. Mrs. Roberts presented the board with a 5-year history of the budget impacts. The board discussed the document and how complicated it is to determine the tax impact to the towns.

Peter noted, “the budget to budget is one component of the process but the impact to the towns is the area that we need to decide”. He said that he feels comfortable with a 3% increased to the communities because we already have a good district. Jon Woodard agreed that we have to be careful when we plan what goes forward to the towns because there may be unforeseen issues with state funding. He said that he feels we should look at budget-to-budget increases and then see how it impacts the communities. Mr. Allen noted that it would be nice to have a target but the only issue is that moving forward with programs or buildings has to happen and may be a part of the strategic plan. Mr. Ricker noted that our current status quo includes annual improvements. Mr. Woodard said that there was a time when the board had asked for a 0% budget one time and it made the process difficult. He noted that he just wants to be careful about having conversations with employees when cuts are not actually going to happen. Mrs. Bullard noted that she would look to the administration to talk about the point at which the budget process is a futile process.

Mrs. Brandt reflected that she heard the board say that we have a great district and at the same time, there is room for improvement and with improvements, there is a cost. Mrs. Bullard noted that the strategic plan will help guide discussion in the future and that acting somewhat conservatively now will help the budget to be adopted. Mr. Kowalski noted that the communities are more concerned with the impact to their pocket than the budget-to-budget numbers.

8. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Ricker asked how much do the stipends cost and what are the purposes of the stipends. Mrs. Brandt clarified that the Clinical Coordinator is a stipend that is associated with the position and Mr. Ambrose explained the role of the Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator. Mr. Ricker asked about the time of the work for stipend positions.

8.1 Non-Instructional Appointments: A motion was made by Yuri Kowalski, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve the following Non-Instructional Nominations.

- 8.1.1 Karen Lacey, Tripp Middle School Special Education Ed Tech I.
- 8.1.2 Luci Davis, Greene Central School Clinical Coordinator Stipend.
- 8.1.3 Sarah Dow, District Wide Visual Performing Arts Coordinator Stipend.
- 8.1.4 Stephen Holt, Leavitt Area High School Competition Cheering Coach.
- 8.1.5 Windy Bolduc, Greene Central School Library Ed Tech III.
- 8.1.6 Sara Thistle, Turner Primary School Ed Tech III.
- 8.1.7 Bonita Kenny, District Wide 4-Hour Van Driver.

9. New Business:

- 9.1 Instructional Nominations – Agenda item was removed.
- 9.2 Presentation of the FY 15-16 audit by Bruce Nadeau with RHR Smith & Company – Agenda item was removed.
- 9.3 Superintendent Brandt reported the completion of probationary employee Justin Chiaravelotti, District Wide Bus Driver on December 9, 2016.

- 9.4 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to approve a donation to Leavitt Area High School's Music Department from the Universalist Church.
- 9.5 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve the 2016-17 Comprehensive Emergency Plans.

Mr. Ricker asked if there had been any changes to the plans. Mrs. Brandt noted that the plans have been updated to reflect current staff.

- 9.6 A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Yuri Kowalski and voted unanimously by those present to approve the November Expenditure and Operating reports.
- 9.7 A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Yuri Kowalski and voted unanimously by those present to approve the Pre-K report card. JoAnn Nickerson noted that the teachers worked hard on the report card and waited a long time for approval due to rescheduled meetings. Mr. Ambrose noted the excellent work on the report card by Mrs. Gillis.
- 9.8 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve the K-12 Computer Science Curriculum. Yuri Kowalski asked if the curriculum covers K-12 and does it change anything at the high school with regard to standards-based work in grades K -12. Mrs. Potvin answered that the plan reflects the courses currently being taught.
- 9.9 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Carlos Gnipp and voted unanimously by those present to approve First and Second Reading and Approval of Policy IKF: Graduation requirements. Mr. Yuri Kowalski asked if this is a district decision or a state decision. Mr. Shaw and Mr. Ambrose said that it is ultimately a district decision based on guidance from the state. Mr. Shaw noted that staff had a balanced reaction to the changes and that there are a lot positives to the changes and to slowing down the process a little. It was noted that the district will continue the implementation of standards based work and that the graduation requirement for algebra two will be a topic of discussion at the state level. Mr. Ambrose noted that he will continue to monitor legislation and stay in contact with the state to update the board as needed.
- 9.10 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present approve First and Second Reading and Approval of Policy IKFA: Awarding of MSAD 52 Diploma.
- 9.11 The Board held a discussion of deletion of Policy Regulations IKFA-R: Awarding of MSAD 52 Diploma. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to approve the deletion of Policy Regulations IKFA-R: Awarding of MSAD 52 Diploma.
- 9.12 Jon Woodard motioned to nominated Robert Allen as Board Vice Chairperson. Peter Ricker seconded the motion. Motions were ceased. A motion was made by Jon Woodard, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted 8 Yes (Bullard, Kowalski, Woodard, Gross, Nickerson, Ricker, Sirois, Gnipp) and 1 Abstain (Robert Allen) to nominate Robert Allen as Vice Chairperson.

9.13 Peter Ricker motioned to nominate Robert Allen to the Finance Committee. Carlos Gnipp seconded the motion. Motions were ceased. A motion was made by Jon Woodard, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted 8 Yes (Bullard, Kowalski, Woodard, Gross, Nickerson, Ricker, Sirois, Gnipp) and 1 Abstain (Robert Allen) to nominate Robert Allen to the Finance Committee.

9.14 A motion was made by Jon Woodard, seconded by Yuri Kowalski and voted unanimously by those present to enter into Executive Session to discuss a request for a leave of absence (August to December 2017) pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A).

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:39 P.M.
The Board returned to Open Session at 7:48 P.M.

9.15 A motion was made by Yuri Kowalski, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to approve a five month, unpaid leave of absence request for Turner Primary/Turner Elementary School 4/5 Technology Teacher Sigrid Rausch.

9.16 A motion was made by Jon Woodard, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Tri-Town Education Association Support Staff (ESP) contract pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D).

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:01 P.M.
The Board returned to Open Session at 8:07 P.M.

9.17 No action taken.

9.18 – 9.19

Request for an Executive Session to discuss information related to negotiations with Tri-Town Education Association (Teachers) pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) – Agenda Item was removed.

9.20 A motion was made by Jon Woodard, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to enter into an Executive Session to discuss legal fees pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F).

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:07 P.M.
The Board returned to Open Session at 8:18 P.M.

9.21 No action taken.

10. Other Business – None.

11. A motion was made by Jon Woodard, seconded by Yuri Kowalski and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly Brandt, Secretary