

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT No. 52

Greene, Leeds, and Turner, Maine

Minutes of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors for 2013-2014

January 9, 2014 6:30 P.M. Turner Primary School

Members present: Elizabeth Bullard; Peter Ricker; Robert Allen; Diana Morgan; 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; Eben Shaw, Leavitt Area High School Principal; Gail Marine, Tripp Middle School Principal; Cynthia Alexander, Turner Elementary School Principal; Theresa Gillis, Turner Primary School Principal; Pam Doyen, Greene Central 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 6:32 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Richard Gross.
2. The Eighth Regular Meeting Minutes, December 12, 2013 were accepted under general consent.
3. Communications – None.
4. Adjustments to Agenda – None.
5. Committee Reports:
 - 5.1 Finance Committee: Jon Woodard reported the committee had met. There is a request on the agenda for the funding of an additional Special Education Ed Tech position. There was discussion about the Adult Ed enrichment balance and how it should be utilized. This will be a future Board agenda item when Razell Ward can attend. The October and November financials are on track for where they should be.
 - 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. There was a discussion that all future job descriptions will have Essential Functions as part of the job descriptions. The K-3 report card was reviewed, and it will transition into the 4-6 report card well. There will be more policy revisions at the next Board meeting for approval. If the “MSAD 52” is the only change in the policy, we will place it as an update, rather than have the Board vote on this change as it has previously been approved.

- 5.4 Negotiations Committee (TTEA): Jon Woodard reported that the committee has met three times since the last Board meeting. There will be an Executive Session later this evening to go over the updates that have occurred since the December 12, 2013 Board meeting.
 - 5.5 Student Representative's Report: Abby Chase reported that students were excited about the snow days. Hoot time has been going well. The recent blood drive and food drive were successful. The cast of Anything Goes will be performing Friday and Saturday. The Androscoggin Valley Education Collaborative (AVEC) field trips are going well.
 - 5.6 Administrator's Report: Leavitt Area High School Principal Eben Shaw gave a presentation on LD 1422, the statute for the Performance Based Diploma. Next year's ninth grade class will be the first class to graduate with this diploma. There is funding from the State for this initiative. Students must demonstrate proficiency on the Learning Results and Common Core Standards. The biggest changes will occur in the content of how learning is assessed and reported out. There is a need to develop further common assessments. Principal Eben Shaw, Superintendent Henry Aliberti, and Assistant Superintendent Becky Foley attended a conference recently on the topic. In addition, high school staff visited Noble High School, who has been implementing this for a year or two. Eben Shaw feels that Leavitt is on the right track of getting this work accomplished. The next steps include the following: creating a template to report out the standards, sharing information with 8th grade parents, establishing Power/graduation standards before the February break. There are remaining questions such as: Where will the standards be assessed? How to assess the Guiding Principles? What do schools do about the Top Ten students? What does the transcript look like? As we move forward, it will be important for continual communication to parents and staff.
 - 5.7 Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Aliberti reported that before winter break, all of the bad weather had happened while school was not in session. Since the break, we have needed three snow days. School is back in session, and teachers and students have settled into their routines. Business Manager Deb Roberts has been compiling the budgets over the winter break. Superintendent Aliberti, Deb Roberts, and Becky Foley will begin budget reviews with each building administrator in the near future. At the Board meeting on January 23rd, we will have a 6:00 P.M. start time. The District has invited selectmen and legislators to the meeting and will send both selectmen and legislators a list of questions ahead of time. Superintendent Aliberti will resend a previous e-mail outlining some areas that will be discussed.
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 to approve all Non-Instructional appointments.

- 8.1.1 Kerry Brenner, Greene Central School Half-time Ed Tech III.
- 8.1.2 Robert LaChapelle, Tripp Middle School Robotics Volunteer Coach.
- 8.1.3 Christie Grant, Greene Central School Professional Development Representative.

9. New Business:

- 9.1 Auditor Bruce Nadeau presented his review of the 2012-2013 financial audit. He commended the finance department for implementing many of the recommended changes from the previous year's audit. Our overall net worth, including land and buildings is \$17,948,116. The fund balance from the end of the year June, 2013 was \$1,855,029. He noted that this was \$396,275 less than the previous year's fund balance. This was due to the loss of State subsidy. Mr. Nadeau went on to discuss the school lunch program. He noted that for the first time in a couple of years that the school lunch program ended in a negative balance. This was due to the increase cost of food with the new regulations. Healthy Choices was implemented in the District. He said he could not think of a school lunch program in the State that can stay solvent on its own. The lunch program ended the year with a deficit balance of \$39,830. Mr. Nadeau encouraged the Board to develop a capital plan and a fund equity plan. As an example, as debt service projects are reduced or paid off, it would be beneficial to budget these amounts into capital repairs. He offered to work with the Finance Committee to develop these plans. Operational revenue streams should be coming from continued revenue sources, rather than one time revenue sources. Mr. Nadeau noted that MSAD 52 is well-funded and that other Boards would be envious of this District's standing. The Finance Committee was commended for their work.
- 9.2 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve an additional Special Education Ed Tech III at Turner Primary School. This position will be funded through the contingency fund and the Finance subcommittee is in agreement with this recommendation.
- 9.3 A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve First and Second Reading and Adoption of Policy BEC: Executive Session and Regulations of Policy BEC.
- 9.4 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to approve First and Second Reading and Adoption of Policy BEDH: Public Participation at Board Meetings and Regulations of Policy BEDH.
- 9.5 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to approve First and Second Reading and Adoption of Policy EEAFFD: Use of Rental Vehicles.
- 9.6 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Eric Milliken and voted unanimously by those present to approve Second Reading and Adoption of Policy JJJ: Extra/Co-Curricular Academic Eligibility.

- 9.7 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to approve Second Reading and Adoption of Policy IKA: Grading/Assessment Systems.
- 9.8 Policy EEAEFA: Video Cameras on Transportation Vehicles Regulations were distributed to the Board.
- 9.9 The Long Range Planning Committee for Sports/Co-Curricular presented to the Board. This committee began meeting in the fall. The committee discussed participation fees to play or participate in activities. Eben Shaw, chair of the committee, thanked those who served on the committee. Currently, participation is decreasing in both sports and extracurricular at LAHS. Of the surrounding towns surveyed, 82% of schools do not have participation fees; 18% do. Districts that have fees enacted them to prevent cutting programs. Once there are participation fees, schools seem to increase the fees on a regular basis. Many tax payers are then paying twice. There is no data to show that the fees increase participation. In order to make it worthwhile, fees would need to be in the \$75-\$100 range. The sub-committee does not support this idea. The committee compiled a list of items that will need to be budgeted in the near future: bleachers, sports fields, curtains in the auditorium, track surfacing. The committee recommends considering loosening up on the advertising policy to generate additional money. Another consideration would be converting to one booster organization that would raise funds for all organizations. With one booster organization, it would be easier for the athletic director to interact with them. The Board would like the following three items studied more: advertising, capital campaign fundraising, and the idea of one booster organization. It will be important for the group to prioritize the funds needed for the fundraising, and for the group to look at the advertising policy.
- 9.10 Special Education Director Deb Alden presented to the Board. She reviewed the historical data (December 2006 to present) of the December first Child Count Report. Although the number of identified students has gone down in that time frame, the number of needs have gone up. Our number of students identified increased since last year. Mrs. Alden studied area districts. In particular, she examined RSU 4 and she feels they are giving more intensive support through their Pre-K program and through RTI. The number of students identified with speech/language impairment has gone down in MSAD 52. This could be due to the speech clinicians going into the Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms more frequently to give instruction. Mrs. Alden passed out a report on special considerations. For example, ten students with a mild learning disability may need less staff time than three students with more significant needs. Secondly, more State/Federal initiatives are being required. The State would like 65% of identified students to spend 80% or more time in the regular education classroom. The State people are being pressured by staff at the federal level to reduce the amount of time in this category. We think we will be closer to 48% with the current year, an improvement of where we currently stand in this category.

Out-of-District Placements: The District currently has six more out-of-district placements than we expected when the budget was built last year. For next

year, there is an expectation that the number may be reduced due to three of the students graduating, one is returning from an out-of-district placement, and one will be joining the functional life skills program. Mrs. Alden distributed a sheet showing a long range plan per school. This might include building an autism program. If this happens, there would be a need for increased staffing at the coordinator level.

9.11 Assistant Superintendent Becky Foley and the elementary principals Danielle Harris, Theresa Gillis, Pam Doyen, and Cynthia Alexander gave a brief presentation of social studies and science. There is a curriculum for each subject area K-12 on the district website. In addition, each principal spoke about how these subjects are taught at the elementary level. Next steps would be to ensure that teachers know how to assess these skills and report them out to parents.

9.12 A motion was made by Jon Woodard, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present 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 9:51 P.M.
The Board returned to Open Session at 10:30 P.M.

9.13 No action taken.

9.14 Agenda Item postponed until January 23, 2014 meeting.

10. Other Business – None.

11. A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry Aliberti, Secretary