

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT No. 52

Greene, Leeds, and Turner, Maine

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

December 12, 2013 6:30 P.M. Leeds Central School

Members present: Elizabeth Bullard; Peter Ricker; Robert Allen; Diana Morgan; JoAnn Nickerson; Richard Gross; Jon Woodard; Yuri Kowalski

Members absent: Eric Milliken

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; 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 6:34 P.M and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The Seventh Regular Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2013 were accepted under general consent with correction of Yuri Kowalski being present.
3. Communications:
 - 3.1 Superintendent Aliberti reported the resignation of Christine Wilbur as Bus Aide, effective November 27, 2013.
4. Adjustments to Agenda – None.
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 met and had a discussion about recent maintenance projects. One of the few remaining projects to be completed is the boys' bathroom in Leeds. The Alternative Energies Subcommittee has been investigating different energy saving techniques. The work completed with updating lights a couple of years ago has resulted in a \$70,000 savings. There are some other energy saving ideas that could possibly save money in the future; however, there would be some initial costs. The artificial turf project is somewhat stagnant at the moment. The project may need some budgeted funds in the future. There was discussion about the land in Greene that is owned by the District. We will look at possible options for the land. The committee reviewed the Energy Conservation Policy. The long range planning committee will continue to give the Plant/Transportation/Building subcommittee regular updates.

- 5.3 Curriculum/Policy Committee: JoAnn Nickerson reported the committee met and shared with the Board there are some policies to be acted on this evening. There were several curriculum updates including the upcoming scoring of narrative writing, work on the Performance Based Diploma, review of the new science curriculum, creation of the teacher evaluation committee, which will meet in early January, and the submission of the gifted/talented plan to the State.
- 5.4 Negotiations Committee (TTEA): Jon Woodard reported that the committee has met twice with Tri-Town Education Association (TTEA) to establish ground rules and dates. TTEA has provided some areas for initial language changes, not specific wording, but points that they would like addressed.
- 5.5 Student Representative's Report: Ali Woodward reported that Leavitt hosted a blood drive, which resulted in lots of student participation. The Key Club is currently doing a food drive and there is a Steel Drum Concert this evening at the high school. Leavitt High School Football Team won the State Championship!
- 5.6 Administrator's Report: Leeds Central School Principal Danielle Harris reported on their building goals. In reading, teachers are working on increasing reading stamina, matching students to appropriate texts and leveling classroom libraries. Students are reading a minimum of 30 minutes a day and are receiving explicit reading instruction. In math, there is an intervention time every day, in addition to their regular math instruction. The staff is planning some math experiences with families. The writing program is being fully implemented this year. Although Leeds has been identified as a focus school, the staff views this as a great opportunity for improvement. State Consultant Linda Parkin is working with the Leadership Team in improving the school. In addition, there has been several community building events including the Harvest Supper, Crazy Hair Day, Eat Like a Rainbow, Trick or Treating, Ornament Night, and creating Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. Mrs. Harris presented at the PBIS conference on improving bus behavior. She ended her report with a song the students at Leeds created, and was sung by the students in Lynelle Towers' class at Turner Primary School. Principal Harris also reported that all students at Leeds Central receive science and social studies instruction.
- 5.7 Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Aliberti reported that he has no updates on Maine Care. District auditor, Bruce Nadeau, has been rescheduled for the January 9th Board meeting. In January, Superintendent Aliberti would like to have legislators attend a Board meeting to ask questions and share information. In addition, he would like to invite the selectmen to the meeting, so they can also ask questions about town revenue sharing funds, which has an impact, as there is a finite amount of money. Acadia Contractors came in and looked at the water stained ceiling tiles at Leeds Central School to determine if there was mold. On the backside of tiles is a brown pigment; however, there is no mold present and the roof leak has been repaired. Larry Maher, from the State of Maine conducted air quality testing within the building. The results show there are no air quality issues in the building. There are two places in the basement with mold, but it is not the type that is harmful to humans. He recommended cleaning and painting, which will be done. Mr. Holmes, who is the Chair of a committee to withdraw Buckfield schools from RSU 10, has

contacted the District to explore the option of tuitioning students from Buckfield to MSAD #52. This is still being discussed. Students at Turner Elementary School are collecting food donations for the Humane Society. Special Education Director Deb Alden will share a special education plan in January. Assistant Superintendent Becky Foley will give an update on social studies/science. There will also be a Pre-K analysis done in February.

6. Public Comment - None.

7. Old Business:

7.1 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to change hire dates and retroactive pay for three Ed Techs.

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 Sara Taylor, Turner Elementary School Half-time Ed Tech II.
- 8.1.2 Dawn Nash, Leavitt Area High School Office Support Assistant.
- 8.1.3 Nathaniel Vlahakis, Adult Education Academic Instructor.
- 8.1.4 Kristine Wing, Tripp Middle School Ice Hockey Coach (non-stipend).
- 8.1.5 Dave Wing, Tripp Middle School Volunteer Ice Hockey Assistant.
- 8.1.6 Joseph Derocher, Tripp Middle School Volunteer Ice Hockey Assistant.
- 8.1.7 Nathan Melanson, Tripp Middle School Volunteer 7th Grade Boys Basketball Assistant.
- 8.1.8 Bruce Goulette, Leavitt Area High School Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach.
- 8.1.9 Ed Griffin, Leavitt Area High School Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach.

9. New Business:

9.1 Instructional Nominations – A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve all Instructional appointments.

9.1.1 Joseph Gasbarro, District Wide Half-time Gifted and Talented Teacher.

9.2 The Tripp Middle School participates in the State MLTI program, which enables students to utilize laptops and allows them to take them home if they are insured. At one point, the District was self-insuring and replacing and repairing laptops. This was costing the District a lot of money, upwards to \$30,000. We currently have an outside vendor through MSMA offer the insurance plan to parents. The District decided to offer a reduction of insurance fee to students on free and reduced lunch. The District has to return to the State the same number of units you received and have them in working conditions when the term expires. This requires that we have policies that regulate equipment going home, and the rates we are going to charge. We did not have the Board approve the rates. Our current rates for the iPads are \$47 per year for most

students, students on the reduced lunch plan are charged \$25, and students on the free lunch plan are charged \$15. There is a \$50 deductible for all students as well. The students have to use the MLTI iPads at school, but can use their personal computers at home, thus not having to purchase the insurance. Currently, with this system, it is costing the District about \$2,800, rather than \$30,000 when we were self-insuring. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Diana Morgan and voted unanimously by those present to approve the insurance costs for laptops.

- 9.3 The District is utilizing School Messenger this year, which is why there is a different voice on the messages. A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve the 2013-14 School Closing Procedure.
- 9.4 A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve the 2013-14 Comprehensive Emergency Plans.
- 9.5 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to upgrade an Ed Tech II to Ed Tech III at Turner Primary School.
- 9.6 The Board held a discussion regarding Policy JJJ. There has been an extensive revision of the Tripp Middle School section. There was a discussion of whether to have the high school revise their policy to have it read that students should not be failing any subjects in order to play. After weighing the pros and cons, the Board decided to leave it as it currently stands, which allows a student to be failing one subject and still remain eligible. There was a motion by Richard Gross to separate the two schools into two different policies. There was no second for this motion. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Diana Morgan and voted 7 Yes (Bullard, Ricker, Nickerson, Morgan, Woodard, Allen, Kowalski) and 1 No (Gross) to approve First Reading and Acceptance of Policy JJJ: Extra/Co-Curricular Academic Eligibility.
- 9.7 A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve First Reading and Acceptance of Policy IKA: Grading/Assessment Systems.
- 9.8 A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve First and Second Reading and Adoption of Policy EEAEF: Video Cameras on Transportation Vehicles.
- 9.9 A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve First and Second Reading and Adoption of Policy IMG: Animals in Schools.
- 9.10 Business Manager Deb Roberts reported out on two years' worth of data around the management of the buses since the District no longer has a bus garage. In 2009-2010, we spent .329 per mile on busing and we are currently spending .239 in 2012-2013. A big issue that remains is where to wash the buses. We will investigate the costs of having Murray do this. Although we have declining enrollment, we are traveling more miles. The number of vehicles has

increased due to specialized transportation. We also have more out-of-district placements, which require more miles to transport students. CB Kenworth or Murray's does most of the maintenance work on the buses. Ripley & Fletcher does a lot of the warranty work. Deb Roberts also shared the criteria utilized when choosing a vendor. The storage of the buses at the high school can still be an issue when there is a sports event or other well attended event. The buses were inspected in May and it was reported that the fleet is in the best condition it has been in a long time.

9.11 Technology Coordinator Karen Potvin, Tripp Middle School Principal Gail Marine, and Leavitt Area High School Principal Eben Shaw gave a presentation on what is being done in the District to prevent cyber-bullying. We have been very proactive on digital safety. Educating students starts at the elementary school, and continues throughout the grade levels. These cyber lessons are woven into classroom lessons, and policies/rules are included in the school handbooks. In addition, parent nights are held at some levels. Computer teachers teach specific lessons with the younger students. Sixth graders have had presentations by outside people. The filtering systems are more stringent at the elementary level. At the middle school, the guidance counselor meets with students, defining bullying, teaching strategies to reduce bullying, and training staff on cyber-bullying, so it can be discussed with their advisees. Civil Rights Team does presentations, health classes reinforce these lessons, and it is discussed during social studies through current events. At high school, discussions continue about cyber-bullying. During Inclusion Week, posters are displayed to heighten student awareness. During HPT, policies are reviewed. It is also discussed during wellness classes, computer classes, English classes, and social studies classes. There is a focus on harassment, both online and offline. When needed, individual consultations are held in the office with some students, where policies are reviewed, and students sign off that they understand what the policy means.

9.12 A motion was made by Robert Allen, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to enter Executive Session to discuss information in confidential records pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(F).

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:03 P.M.
The Board returned to Open Session at 9:12 P.M.

9.13 No action taken.

9.14 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present to enter Executive Session to discuss Superintendent of Schools evaluation pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D).

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:13 P.M.
The Board returned to Open Session at 9:41 P.M.

9.15 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Richer and vote unanimously by those present to extend the Superintendent's contract for an additional year.

9.16 Robert Allen inquired when the Long Range Planning Committees will be reporting out. Diana Morgan noted that the Sports, Athletic, and Co-curricular committee will be reporting out during the January 9th Board of Directors' meeting. Superintendent Aliberti noted other Long Range Committees will be reporting out as they complete their work.

9.17 Chairperson Bullard read to the Board of Directors the Tri-Town Education Association's decision not to pursue arbitration concerning the recently heard Level III Grievance.

10. Other Business – None.

11. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Aliberti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Henry Aliberti, Secretary