

## MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT 52

Greene, Leeds, and Turner, Maine

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Minutes of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors 2017-2018

April 12, 2018      Turner Primary School

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

Members absent: Carlos Gnipp

Others present: Kimberly Brandt, Superintendent of Schools; Michele Coates, Business Manager; Eben Shaw, Leavitt Area High School Principal; Kelly Marston, Turner Elementary School Principal; Mark McDonough, Greene Central School Principal; Danielle Harris, Leeds Central School Principal; Razell Ward, Adult Education Director; Rebekah Drysdale, Director of Special Education; Daniel Labrie, Director of Facilities and Transportation; David Roberts, Food Service Director; Randall Swift, Technology Director; District Citizens; District Employees

1. Chairperson Elizabeth Bullard called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and Yuri Kowalski led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The Minutes of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting, March 29, 2018 were approved by general consent.
3. Communications:
  - 3.1. Superintendent Brandt reported the following retirements:
    - Ann Marie Jordan, Leavitt Area High School Food Service Specialist, effective end of 2017-18 school year.
    - Audrey Hanscom, Tripp Middle School Office Support Assistant, effective August 31, 2018.
    - Jan Fitzsimons, Turner Elementary School/Turner Primary School Office Support Assistant, effective end of 2017-18 school year.
  - 3.2 Superintendent Brandt reported the following resignations:
    - Michelle Chick, Greene Central School Music Teacher, effective end of 2017-18 school year.
4. Budget Work Session

#### 4.1. Work Session on the 2018-19 budget

4.1.1. Update on Budget Information - Superintendent Brandt reviewed the proposed budget. Michele Coates gave the board members updated budget sheets that reflect all adjustments made to date. WA 12 & 13 were not included in the updated printout because no changes have been made. Michele was able to change the order of the columns per Board member request. At this point, before making any additional changes, the impact to the towns is a 3.32% increase.

4.1.2. Review of Revisit List - an updated list was passed out.

A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Jon Woodard and voted 6 Yes (Ricker, Sirois, Allen, Nickerson, Woodard, Gross), and 2 No (Bullard, Kowalski) to add \$10,000 to Warrant Article 11 to pay for a water filtration system, empty the water tank and pressure wash it to remove sediment.

A motion was made by Robert Allen, seconded by Pamela Sirois and voted 6 Yes (Ricker, Sirois, Allen, Bullard, Kowalski, Woodard), and 2 No (Nickerson, Gross) to restructure the half-time Assistant Principal/half-time Athletic Director to a full-time Athletic Director and to reinstate the Dean of Students position at LAHS to support the increased athletic programming and academics.

Superintendent Brandt explained Warrant Article 7, page 5 of 13, professional development related to grants vs. district funding. Peter Ricker stated that anything that can be paid for in a grant, should be paid by the grant. Chairperson Bullard asked for more information about grants to be shared at a future Board meeting.

4.1.3. Discussion of Warrant Article 22 - Additional Subsidy. Chairperson Bullard read the wording of Article 22 as it is currently stated. Typically this has not been an issue over the past 15 or so years. We have more often received less money than the original ED279 stated rather than actually receiving more money. Last year was different because there was more money that was allocated at the State level after our budget was passed. Chairperson Bullard stated that this warrant article only addresses any additional funds that were not already anticipated from the state. Yuri Kowalski stated that he wants to keep it as it is currently worded. Isaiah Davis stated that this is the second year of the state budget, so there probably won't be more money coming to us this year. However, if there is an increase in funding that was meant for education, there is no way to spend any more money if we keep this wording. Our schools do need it. The cuts that the Board has made do make a difference, so it makes sense to consider how to use that money. Peter Ricker stated that he feels very strongly that it should stay

as it is currently written. Robert Allen agreed. Michele Coates shared that the current legislation requires 50% of any additional money to go back to taxpayers. If we do get extra money, however, we could increase expenditures or allocate it into a reserve account. Eben Shaw thanked the Board for having this discussion. He believes that the 50% automatically going back to taxpayers is only for this year because that was specifically written into the law for this past year. Money for capital improvements and capital repairs has been recommended by our own selectmen, so it is important to consider doing that instead of taking bonds for things like the track at the high school, for example. Jamie Juntura spoke in favor of keeping any additional funds and putting them into a capital reserve account. We can do a better job of using that money to save taxpayers money in the long run. JoAnn Nickerson suggested assigning a place for the money to go if any money does come back and if we decide to keep it. Peter Ricker agreed with a lot of what Eben Shaw said, but he still wants it to go directly back to the taxpayers because he doesn't like spending money out of order. All of our expenses should go through the same process to determine how money will be spent. Everything should be addressed together. John Woodard brought up the issue of the wood boiler at LAHS and how expensive it is going to be to replace in a few years. He suggested that unanticipated revenue up to a certain amount should be set aside for large projects like that. Last year, that warrant article came close to not passing and he wondered what we would do if that happened this year at the LAHS budget vote. Chairperson Bullard reminded the audience that there are no anticipated additional funds expected to materialize in the coming school year. The board has elected to fund a capital reserve fund for \$200,000 in the current proposed budget. Jimi Fotter spoke about how much the money would have helped the schools instead of being returned to the taxpayers. Luci Davis talked about retaining our high quality staff. She said that working with less and less all the time creates a sense of being undervalued. Morale and retention could be impacted by not taking as much money from the state as they give to us.

- 4.1.4. A motion was made by Yuri Kowalski, seconded by Robert Allen, and voted unanimously by those present to adopt the final proposed FY19 budget in the amount of \$27,361,984, which represents a budget to budget increase of 4.68% and an average assessment increase to our communities of 4.08%.

5. Adjustment to Agenda – Remove Agenda items 10.9, 10.10, 10.11, and 10.12

6. Committee Reports:

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

- 6.2. Plant/Transportation/Building Committee – Peter Ricker reported that the committee has not met. They are going to start the discussion around proposed bond ideas soon and he wants that on the next agenda.
  - 6.3. Curriculum/Policy Committee –JoAnn Nickerson reported that the committee did not meet tonight but they did meet last week.
  - 6.4. Student Representatives Report –Chloe Veilleux reported that on April 6, Travis Roy came to Leavitt Area High School. He is a quadriplegic who spoke about his story of becoming paralyzed in his first college hockey game. On Tuesday, the juniors took their SATs and then yesterday they did their Science MEAs.
  - 6.5. Tri-Town Education Association Support Staff (ESP) – Peter Ricker reported that this committee will be meeting in about two weeks.
  - 6.6. Non-Teaching Negotiations (AFSCME) – Peter Ricker reported that this committee will be meeting sometime in the next couple of weeks.
  - 6.7. Administrator Reports: None
  - 6.8. Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Brandt agreed that Travis Roy was moving and motivational. On Monday, she had lunch with our three town managers. They plan to meet 3-4 times over the year to keep the lines of communication open. Our annual budget book has been printed by Pettingill Press for many years. This year Pettingill will print our ballots, but the annual budget book will be printed by Sun Press, which will be a substantial cost savings. Thanks to Kelly Marston and Theresa Gillis for doing substitute teacher training classes this year. Chief Deputy Bill Gagne from the Androscoggin County Sheriff’s Office met with the administrative team on Tuesday this week. The administrative team agreed to meet with him every other month for about an hour to discuss school safety. Michele Coates gave an update on the roof projects. IRC will start with the project sometime in May. They will spend 4 weeks at LCS and then 7 weeks at TPS. They hope to keep the distractions to the students at a minimum. Superintendent Brandt shared that she met with a TES student leadership team as part of strategic planning. These students want more STEM, more reading, more math, and they expressed a need for working cameras on the school buses.
7. Public Comment – Mr. Caldwell shared that he is dissatisfied with MSAD 52 because he owns a lot of real estate and his tax bill was \$1,000 a week. He rents houses and he used to brag to his tenants about the Turner Athletic Association and a better than average academic program in our district. Last fall when the scores came out, he read that we were below state averages in some areas. He thanked the Board for what they do, but he does not understand why we are below the State average in academics. He also thanked the teachers for their work and patience. He suggested that we could bring our academics toward where our seniors could get some college credits. He proposed

having our seniors be better prepared for college with a 5 year high school plan. He knows it would cost money, but he is willing to contribute to that. He wants the academics to be a “star” in our county.

Richard Gross shared that a Leavitt Area High School graduate will be the Salutatorian at the University of Maine in Orono graduation in May.

8. Old Business –

8.1. A motion was made by Robert Allen, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present for approval of Professional Staff Substitute rate of pay for FY19. Richard Gross asked about Lewiston and Auburn substitute teacher pay. Michele Coates stated that their information was intentionally left out of the comparison chart. JoAnn Nickerson stated that both of those cities have higher pay than MSAD 52.

8.2. Update on Regional Service Center. - Lewiston School Committee did not vote to approve the regional service center. MSAD 52, Auburn and RSU 16 are continuing with the RSC.

9. Consent Agenda – A motion was made by Robert Allen , seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve the following Non-Instructional appointments:

9.1. Non-Instructional Appointments:

9.1.1. Ryan Adams, Adult Education HiSET Academic Instructor.

10. New Business:

10.1. Superintendent Brandt reported the completion of the probationary period for the following employees:

Felicia Mayo	LCS	Special Education Ed Tech 1	3-26-18
Michelle St. Hillaire	LAHS	Special Education Ed Tech 1	4-11-18

10.2. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Yuri Kowalski, and voted unanimously by those present for approval of the 2018-19 school calendar. Robert Allen asked how many snow days were built in. There are 10.

10.3. A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present for approval of the job description for Transportation Supervisor.

10.4. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present for approval of First Reading and Acceptance of

Policy EBAA: Chemical Hazards. JoAnn Nickerson shared that this is a new policy for us and it is mandatory to have it, but it is not a change in the practices that the District has been following.

- 10.5. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present for approval of First Reading and Acceptance of Policy EBC: Emergency Management Plan. JoAnn Nickerson shared that this is a new policy for us and it is mandatory to have it, but it is not a change in the practices that the District has been following.
  - 10.6. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present for approval of First Reading and Acceptance of Policy JFABD: Admission of Homeless Students. JoAnn Nickerson shared that this is a new policy for us and it is mandatory to have it, but it is not a change in the practices that the District has been following.
  - 10.7. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present for approval of First Reading and Acceptance of Policy GCO: Supervision and Evaluation of Professional Staff. This is updating a policy that has been in existence.
  - 10.8. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously by those present for approval of First Reading and Acceptance of Policy IHBAL: Grievance Procedure for Persons with Disabilities. JoAnn Nickerson shared that this is a new policy for us and it is mandatory to have it, but it is not a change in the practices that we have been following.
  - 10.9. Agenda item was removed.
  - 10.10. Agenda item was removed.
  - 10.11. Agenda item was removed.
  - 10.12. Agenda item was removed.
  - 10.13. Other - Richard Gross shared that he attended a fabulous All Chorus performance on Tuesday evening at LAHS auditorium that included students from our three towns. Superintendent Brandt shared that she attended the District II Honors Music Festival at LAHS the prior week and it was wonderful.
11. Other Business – None.
  12. A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kimberly Brandt*

Kimberly Brandt, Secretary