

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT No. 52

Greene, Leeds, and Turner, Maine

Minutes of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors for 2012-2013

April 4, 2013 6:00 P.M. Greene Central School

Members present: Elizabeth Bullard; Jon Woodard; Eric Milliken; Catherine Carey; Robert Allen; JoAnn Nickerson; Peter Ricker; Diana Morgan; Richard Gross

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; Wendy Harvey, Leavitt Area High School Assistant Principal; Heidi Poulin, Leavitt Area High School Guidance Director; Derek Galway, Leavitt Area High School Dean of Students; Jeff Ramich, Leavitt Area High School Athletic Director; Gail Marine, Tripp Middle School Principal; Susan Pilote, Tripp Middle School Assistant Principal; Cynthia Alexander, Turner Elementary School Principal; Danielle Harris, Leeds Central School Principal; Glen Reynolds, Facilities/Transportation Director; Karen Potvin, Technology Education Coordinator; Razell Ward, Adult Education Director; District Citizens; District Employees

1. Chairperson Elizabeth Bullard called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by JoAnn Nickerson.
2. The Minutes of the First Special Meeting, March 28, 2013 were accepted by general consent with minutes amended to reflect Razell Ward was not in attendance.
3. Communications:
 - 3.1 Superintendent Aliberti reported the retirement of Helen Souza, as half-time Computer Teacher at Tripp Middle School, effective end of school year.
 - 3.3 Superintendent Aliberti reported the retirement of Judith Reed, as Social Studies Teacher at Tripp Middle School, effective September 30, 2013.
4. Budget Work Session
 - 4.1 Work Session on the 2013-14 budget
 - 4.1.1 In August, there was a session between administration and the Board. District goals were developed in three areas: communication, student achievement and behavior. In another work session in November, board members, administration, community, and staff members broke into small groups and reviewed all areas of budget. The groups reviewed items in the budget that could be improved, enhanced, or deleted. All of this information was posted on the website. Directors and principals formulated and submitted their budgets. Business Manager Deb Roberts compiled the budgets and each director/principal met with the

Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Business Manager to review the budgets. This led to an increase of slightly over 3%. Another review was completed to look at three year spending trends in all lines which led to some lines being increased while others were decreased. This led to a 2.4% increase. When the teacher retirement costs were pushed down to the local level, this led to an increase of a 3% budget. The Board requested that further cuts be made in order to reach a 2% increase. When the insurance costs for next year were received, it was under the projected amounts which placed our current proposed budget at an increase of 1.32%.

Business Manager Deb Roberts reviewed a handout showing what the 1.32% would mean to people owning homes of \$100,000, \$150,000, \$200,000 and \$250,000. The District has received varying printouts from the State, each indicating less money being received than the previous one.

Board Chairperson Elizabeth Bullard reported that they had a recommended half-time administrative cut at the high school level which had been requested from the Board. She asked whether anyone wanted to entertain a motion to act on the recommendation. No motion was made.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted 8 Yes (Morgan, Allen, Carey, Ricker, Gross, Nickerson, Woodard, Milliken) and 1 No (Bullard) to reinstate the Resource Teacher at Leavitt Area High School.

Parents spoke of their concern about the cut of the Resource Teacher as it would result in less student support. Special Education Director Deb Alden reported that currently there are five resource room teachers with caseloads between 16 and 18. This means that caseloads would increase to 22, and some teachers would have to teach additional courses. Some Ed Tech IIIs will be providing services and covering study halls. Teachers also spoke about their concern about the cut.

A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Jonathan Woodard and voted unanimously by those present to reinstate the half-time Visual Performing Arts Teacher at Leavitt Area High School.

Leavitt Area High School Principal Eben Shaw spoke about the theater class that currently is being taught. Other staff members, outside of the Visual Performing Arts, are experienced in theater and would cover this. Four students have requested the guitar ensemble. It is too low to run as a course offering, so it will not be offered next year. Choir has thirteen requests. Administrators have met to look at options. Mr. Steve Barter, Tripp Middle School's Music Teacher, could cover the chorus class and K-6 Music Teachers would cover some of the instrumental work at the middle school.

Ms. Penny Appleby spoke to the position and the other responsibilities the position entails. She said the guitar class should be treated like an AP class and run with four. Students spoke against the cut, saying it will put

more strain on the English department, and would mean that the chorus teacher would not always be in the building for all to access. Creative Writing would not be offered next year as there have not been enough requests. One Act positions remain and will be filled. It was pointed out that students could contact the teacher via technology. Parents voiced their concern about the program being cut. Concerns noted were staff traveling from building to building, not being able to access adaptive music, how the program supports some students, students being able to access the teacher, and being able to build a solid program at the high school.

A motion was made Catherine Carey, seconded by Robert Allen and voted 6 Yes (Carey, Allen, Gross, Nickerson, Woodard, Milliken) and 3 No (Ricker, Bullard, Morgan) to reinstate the Alpine Assistant Ski Coach at Leavitt Area High School.

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Bullard moved to Agenda Item 8.1

8. Old Business:

- 8.1 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Richard Gross to adopt the 2013-14 budget. The motion was withdrawn after Tri-Town Education Association President James Harwood spoke of the change in technology personnel being illegal.

A motion was made by JoAnn Nickerson, seconded by Elizabeth Bullard and voted 7 Yes (Carey, Allen, Gross, Bullard, Nickerson, Morgan, Woodard) and 2 No (Ricker, Milliken) to reinstate all K-8 Computer Teachers.

Superintendent Aliberti stated that as long as there is supervision of Education Technician IIIs, that what the District is proposing is not illegal. Chairperson Bullard responded that she does not want the Tri-Town Education President to threaten the Board. Mr. Harwood did not perceive what he said as threatening. Teachers spoke in support of keeping the current technology structure. They worried about the negative impact of the technology program when going from a certified teacher to an education technician. Technology Education Coordinator Karen Potvin said the impact would be felt in the before and after school support to teachers. Any evening activity would not be supported by education technicians. Some expertise would be lost, and the turnover of staff could be more frequent. A teacher from Turner Elementary School said she has five non-working computers in her room. Ms. Potvin responded that there are monies to replace non-working computers, so the issue should be resolved in the upcoming year. There was a concern that the restructuring proposal was being brought forward during the budget time. This is due to trying to get to a certain level increase with the budget. There was a concern that not all stakeholders were included in the decision.

A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to put a technology committee together to review the technology program.

A question was asked regarding the District Wide Transportation Specialist position. This position includes having a substitute bus driver with additional responsibilities.

Jon Woodard left the meeting at 8:32 P.M.

- 8.2 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to eliminate the position of District Wide Ed Tech III.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to eliminate the position of District Wide Permanent Sub Bus Driver.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to eliminate the position of Greene Central School Six Grade Teacher.

Jon Woodard returned to the meeting at 8:34 P.M.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to eliminate the position of Leavitt Area High School Half-time English Teacher.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to eliminate the position of Leavitt Area High School Math Teacher.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to eliminate the position of Leeds Central School First Grade Teacher.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to eliminate the position of Special Education K-8 Ed Tech II.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to eliminate the position of Turner Primary School Third Grade Teacher.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to eliminate the position of Turner Primary School Kindergarten Teacher.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to eliminate the position of Turner Primary School Pre-K Teacher.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to increase the position of Physical Therapist an additional one hour per week.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve the new position of District Wide Transportation Specialist.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve the new position of Special Education K-8 Ed Tech III.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve the 2013-2014 District budget in the amount of \$23,515,541.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to formally notify the employees of position eliminations and/or reductions.

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Bullard returned to Agenda Item 5.

5. Adjustments to Agenda – None.

6. Committee Reports:

- 6.1 Finance Committee: Jon Woodard reported the committee has not met. The District has locked in on fuel cost with Murray Oil at a price of \$3.25 per gallon for oil and with Winthrop Oil at a price of \$3.27 per gallon for diesel.
- 6.2 Plant/Transportation/Building Committee: Peter Ricker reported the committee has not met.
- 6.3 Curriculum/Policy Committee: JoAnn Nickerson reported the committee has not met. Next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2013.
- 6.4 Student Representative's Report: No student report.
- 6.5 Administrator's Report: Tripp Middle School Principal Gail Marine reported that Ashley Breton, student at Tripp Middle School, won the spelling bee at the county level, and represented Androscoggin County at the State Spelling Bee. Two students, Haley Demascio and Krissy Waite, went to the Sandy Andy Speech Competition and placed first and third. Nolan Cabral won the local geography bee, passed an exam, and will be competing at the State level. There will be a school play held on April 5th at 7:00 P.M. On April 10th, Tripp Middle School will be hosting a student showcase from 6:00-7:00 P.M.

Assistant Superintendent Becky Foley reported that the PreK-12 Literacy Committee has been formed and will be meeting on April 24, 2013. She also reported on students from Leavitt Area High School needing remedial courses when entering college. At UMO, of the 34 recent graduates enrolled, none needed remedial courses in English and less than five needed them in math. At Central Maine Community College, out of the 32 students enrolled, 16 or 50% of the students needed remedial courses. Staff had recently visited the Riverton School in Portland, North Yarmouth Memorial School,

and the Teacher's College Workshop in New York. The District hosted visitors from Fayette who were visiting us to learn about the Everyday Math Program.

- 6.6 Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Aliberti reported he and Assistant Superintendent Ms. Foley recently attended the Turner Primary School PTC meeting to give curriculum and budget updates. The pros and cons of having a special education audit was discussed. There is some frustration around the special education budget that continues to increase year after year, but not sure what would be gained through the audit. There is some data that could easily be compiled by Special Education Director Deb Alden. It was decided that the next steps would be to have a Board workshop session, and try to formulate some specific questions needing to be answered before deciding on the audit.

7. Public Comment – None.

9. Consent Agenda:

- 9.1 Non-Instructional Appointments - A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Catherine Carey and voted unanimously by those present to approve all Non-Instructional appointment.

9.1.1 Lorien Mathieu, Leavitt Area High School Softball Assistant Volunteer.

10. New Business:

- 10.1 Superintendent Aliberti reported the completion of probationary period for the following employee:

Melissa Wing	District Wide Bus Aide	04-12-2013
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- 10.2 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve the 2013-14 school calendar. (The motion was later withdrawn).
- 10.3 The Board reviewed the official budget ballot for the District budget validation referendum and was approved by general consensus.

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Bullard moved to Agenda Item 10.8

- 10.8 Tri-Town Education Association President James Harwood addressed the Board stating the 2013-14 school calendar that was approved had not been reviewed by the association. Superintendent Aliberti apologized as he thought he had sent it electronically to Mr. Harwood. The motion under Agenda Item 10.2 was withdrawn and will be on an upcoming agenda.

11. Other Business:

- 11.1 Some Board members expressed their concerns about broken computers. Technology Education Coordinator Karen Potvin will report out on this at one of the upcoming Board meetings. The Board showed interest in looking at the 5/6 restructuring plan again and creating a Pay to Play committee. The Board also

expressed interest in reviewing what the District does to ensure a smooth transition for students to the middle school.

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Bullard returned to Agenda Item 10.4

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:27 P.M.
The Board returned to Open Session at 9:37 P.M.

- 10.5 A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to increase the superintendent's salary by 1.7% for the 2013-14 school year.

- 10.6 A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Catherine Carey and voted unanimously by those present to enter into Executive Session to discuss information in confidential records pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(F).

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:39 P.M.
The Board returned to Open Session at 10:05 P.M.

- 10.7 No action taken.

12. Motion by Diana Morgan, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry Aliberti, Secretary