

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 52

Greene, Leeds, and Turner, Maine

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

May 11, 2017

Greene Central School

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

Members absent: Pamela Sirois; Richard Gross

Others Present: Kimberly Brandt, Superintendent of School; Thomas Ambrose, Assistant Superintendent; Deb Roberts, Business Manager; Del Peavey, Director of Special Education; Eben Shaw, Leavitt Area High School Principal; Danielle Harris, Leeds Central School Principal; Karen Potvin, Technology Education Coordinator; Razell Ward, Adult Education Director; District Citizens; District Employees

1. Chairperson Elizabeth Bullard called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and Peter Ricker led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The Minutes of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting, April 27, 2017 and the Minutes of the District Budget meeting, May 2, 2017 were approved by general consent.
3. Communications:
 - 3.1 Superintendent Brandt reported the resignation of Kristen Proctor, Greene Central School K-2 Special Education Day Treatment Teacher, effective end of the 2017 school year.
 - 3.2 Superintendent Brandt reported the resignation of Jamilyn Ellis, Greene Central School Fourth Grade Teacher, effective end of the 2017 school year.
 - 3.3 Superintendent Brandt reported the resignation of Shon Collins, Leavitt Area High School Co-op Head Girls Varsity Ice Hockey Coach, effective April 17, 2017.
4. Adjustments to Agenda:
 - 4.1 Removal of Agenda items 9.15, 9.16, 9.19 and 9.20.
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, but will meet on May 23rd at 5:30pm at the high school.
 - 5.3 Curriculum/Policy Committee – JoAnn Nickerson reported the committee met. They discussed the Technology Director Job Description to be presented later this evening.
 - 5.4 Student Representatives Report – Madeline Hanscom, Chole Veilleux, Saige Arseneault are at the track meet.

- 5.5 Tri-Town Education Association Negotiations (Teacher) – Jon Woodard reported there will be an executive session tonight.
- 5.6 Administration Work Agreements – Peter Ricker reported they will be meeting in the next few weeks.
- 5.7 Administrator Report –Karen Potvin reported on the district technology plan. She shared a summary of the plan and talked about the process for updating the plan in the upcoming weeks.
- 5.8 Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Brandt reported that she met with the librarians last Tuesday night to begin strategic planning. They then met with Turner Public Library's Anthony Shostak and trustees to discuss collaboration in support of our students. They discussed several ideas and learned about items that can be signed out of the library. Superintendent Brandt specifically noted that she was impressed that the library had a telescope and a 3D pen available for use.

Superintendent Brandt said that Special Education Director Del Peavey has been looking at programming and data for special education and that he has been asking "Is what we are doing working for our children?" She mentioned that his thinking has been refreshing and that she is looking forward to continued strategic planning conversations.

Per District Policy DN, Mrs. Brandt informed the Board that Facilities/Transportation Director Kim Long would be offering several bus parts for sale by bid. Mr. Ricker asked if they are in a bus or just inventory. Business Manager Mrs. Roberts said that some are busses that need parts. Superintendent Brandt also notified the Board of Directors that the District is disposing of old supplies and books from Greene Central School.

Superintendent Brandt shared that the administrators have scheduled their administrative retreat days for the summer. During these days, the Ad Team will reflect on this school year and begin planning for next year. They will also begin working on the strategic plan.

Mrs. Brandt shared that she signed the diplomas today and it made her reflect on the years of study and work our seniors have dedicated to get to this point. She is also very proud of our staff and District for the years of support invested in our student.

6. Public Comment:

- 6.1 Mr. Ambrose talked about the positive MLTI visit at Tripp Middle School.

7. Old Business

- 7.1 The Board of Directors signed the revised notice of amounts adopted at the May 2, 2017 budget meeting.

8. Consent Agenda - A motion was made by Yuri Kowalski, seconded by Carlos Gnipp and voted unanimously by those present to approve the Non-Instructional appointment:

8.1 Non-Instructional Appointment

- 8.1.1 Jane Campbell, District Wide PDC Chairperson.

9. New Business:

- 9.1 To act on the reappointment of the following for the 2017-18 school year:
 - 9.1.1 A motion was made by Carlos Gnipp, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve Probationary Contract Teachers (2nd Year). (See attached).
 - 9.1.2 A motion was made by Carlos Gnipp, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve Probationary Contract Teachers (3rd Year). (See attached).
 - 9.1.3 A motion was made by Carlos Gnipp, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve First Continuing Contract Teachers (4th Year). (See attached).
- 9.2 A motion was made by Yuri Kowalski, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve a donation to Turner Primary School from Hannaford for \$1,000.
- 9.3 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve an overnight field trip for Leavitt Area High School's Latin Club to attend the Maine Junior Classical League Spring Convention in Winthrop.
- 9.4 A motion was made by Carlos Gnipp, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve the March Expenditures and Operating reports.
- 9.5 A motion was made by Carlos Gnipp, seconded by Robert Allen and voted unanimously by those present to approve the 2017-18 school calendar.

The Board discussed the usefulness of half-and-half days. Principals shared that the time is necessary for professional development, senior projects and planning to support students. Mr. Ricker asked if students could have a day off instead of two half days. Business Manager Mrs. Roberts explained that adding a full release day to the calendar would add a day of pay to the salaries of staff who attend because the district must have the correct number of school days per year. She further clarified that the half-and-half days count as a student day and that a full day would not.

Chairperson Bullard acknowledged that this time is very valuable and asked if the administration could share the value of the half-and-half days with parents.

- 9.6 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Carlos Gnipp and voted unanimously by those present to approve the 2017-18 Board of Directors meeting calendar.

Jon Woodard asked about the asterisk noting meetings that have limited agendas. The Board agreed to add budget workshops to the meetings with asterisks. Chairperson Bullard asked about a Board Retreat (workshop). Mrs. Brandt will email out proposed dates and add the summer Board Retreat date to the calendar.

- 9.7 The Board held a discussion regarding the over EPS amount in Warrant Article 17.

Chairperson Bullard noted that based on the conversations at the District Budget meeting a handout was developed to support communication around the amount the district spends over EPS.

Superintendent Brandt explained that EPS is the formula the State of Maine uses to determine the cost of educating students. It is an adequacy model, meaning the minimum needed to adequately educate students. Many communities support their schools with additional local funds to meet the needs of their students, as in MSAD 52. We refer to this as “over EPS”. The statewide average for over EPS in 2016-17 is 17%

There are several reasons why MSAD 52 is over EPS. Because of our large geographic area, it costs more for us to transport our students. The District has several small schools that require heat, lights, custodial, maintenance, kitchen, support staff and clerical support. The District has a wastewater treatment plant that will cost almost \$43,000 next year.

In addition, the governor has proposed changes to the EPS funding formula such as some increased student to staff ratios and removing support for systems administration from the funding formula. The result is that the EPS per pupil rates have decreased by \$157 per pupil for elementary students and by \$146 per pupil for secondary students. This matters because the per pupil amount is used to establish our allocation.

The District also made local choices to support our students. Such choices include having a principal in each building, having nursing based on student needs, our co-and extracurricular offerings such as football, drama and baseball and having intervention ed techs based on student needs, as required by Response to Intervention.

Mr. Ricker asked if the information on the document would be shared with the communities as a whole. Mrs. Brandt asked for feedback from the Board regarding sending this information to the communities. Mr. Ricker asked about the \$233 per student amount for central administration. Mrs. Brandt noted that the \$233 was for the system administration that had been eliminated by the governor’s proposed budget. Mr. Ricker noted that it would be helpful for the names of the communities to be listed on the grid on the back. Chairperson Bullard asked the Board if the information should be shared on the website. Mr. Allen said that it would be helpful. Mr. Gnipp said that the information would be good for communities to have. Chairperson Bullard asked if it could be posted because May 16th is the validation vote for the District budget. Mr. Ricker noted that it might be helpful to email it directly to the town offices or drop it off. (See attached 9.7 Exhibit).

- 9.8 A motion was made by Robert Allen, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve the Second Reading and Adoption of Policy JLCC: Communicable/Infectious Diseases.
- 9.9 A motion was made by Carlos Gnipp, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve the Second Reading and Adoption of Policy JLF: MSAD 52 Policy on Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect and Regulations and Exhibits JLF-R and JLF-E.
- 9.10 A motion was made by Carlos Gnipp, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve the Second Reading and Adoption of Policy JJIAA: Private Schools Students-Access to Public School Co-curricular, Interscholastic and Extra-curricular Activities and Exhibits JJIAA-E1, JJIAA-E2, JJIAA-E3, JJIAA-E4
- 9.11 A motion was made by Carlos Gnipp, seconded by Yuri Kowalski and voted unanimously by those present to approve the First Reading and Acceptance of Policy IMBBA: Exemption from Classroom Video Presentations.

- 9.12 A motion was made by Carlos Gnipp, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve the First Reading and Acceptance of Policy IMB: MSAD 52 Teaching About Controversial/Sensitive Issues
- 9.13 A motion was made by Carlos Gnipp, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to approve the First Reading and Acceptance of Policy IMBB: MSAD 52 Exemption from Required Instruction
- 9.14 A motion was made by Robert Allen, seconded by Carlos Gnipp and voted unanimously by those present to approve the revised Technology Director Job Description.
- 9.15 Agenda item removed.
- 9.16 Agenda item removed.

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Bullard moved to Agenda Item 10.

- 10. Other Business: Mr. Allen shared that he attended the Honors Banquet at the high school. It was well organized and excellent. The food was great and it was a nice night. Mr. Gnipp echoed Mr. Allen's point about the Honors Banquet.

Hearing no objections, Chairperson Bullard returned to Agenda Item 9.17.

- 9.17 A motion was made by Robert Allen, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Tri-Town Education Association Teachers (TTEA) negotiations pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6) (D).

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:45 P.M.
The Board returned to Open Session at 8:16 P.M.

- 9.18 No action warranted.
- 9.19 Agenda item removed.
- 9.20 Agenda item removed.
- 9.21 A motion was made by Carlos Gnipp, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously by those present to enter into Executive Session to discuss Non-Instructional Salaried Employees (NISE) work agreement pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6) (D)

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:17 P.M.
The Board returned to Open Session at 8:32 P.M.

- 9.22 No action warranted.
- 9.23 Other – None.

- 11. A motion was made by Robert Allen, seconded by Jon Woodard and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Brandt

Kimberly Brandt, Secretary

2017-18 School Year
Probationary Contracts (2nd Year)

Leavitt Area High School

Mollie Bell Chelsea Cunningham

Tripp Middle School

Jordan Hersom Samuel Mullen Linda Penley Papawadee Yooman

Turner Elementary School

Olivia Doyer Lauren Kolenda Pamela Morin Laura Sotherland
Carlene Treadwell Kathryn Ventrella

Turner Primary School

Linsey Holst Jennifer Vadnais

Greene Central School

Jennifer Mason Olivia Wandelea

Leeds Central School

Elizabeth Cook Phyllis Hunter Lauren Plossay Angela Sanchez-Dow
Lori Slovak

2017-18 School Year
Probationary Contracts (3rd Year)

District Wide

Kara Bryant

Leavitt Area High School

Christopher Gray

Myranda Michaud

Neil Rioux

Tripp Middle School

Joseph Velozo

Turner Elementary School

Linda Copas

Turner Primary School

Samantha Albert

Greene Central School

Aubray Futera

Amanda McInnis

2017-18 School Year
First Continuing Contracts (4th Year)

District Wide

Ruth Cote

Leavitt Area High School

Sarah Frank Sara Thurston

Tripp Middle School

Marie Doucette

Turner Elementary School

Nadia Rioux

Leeds Central School

Sarah McLellan Darlene Rollins

Greene Central School

Shannon Wooten

MSAD 52 Over EPS

Essential Programs and Services (EPS) is the formula the State of Maine uses to determine the cost of educating students. It is an adequacy model, meaning the minimum needed to adequately educate students. Many communities support their schools with additional local funds to meet the needs of their students, as in MSAD 52. We refer to this as “over EPS”. The statewide average of over EPS for 2016-17 is 17%.

Why is MSAD 52 over EPS?

1. **Lack of economies of scale that larger districts have**
 - A. Transportation (We have a large geographic area for transporting students.)
 - B. Small Schools (Operations: heat, lights, custodial, maintenance, kitchen, support staff, clerical)
 - C. Wastewater Treatment Plant (Because we’re rural, FY 18: will cost almost \$43k)

2. **Governor has proposed changes to the EPS funding formula, as reflected in the ED 279**
 - A. The governor’s proposed budget cuts General Purpose Aid by \$9.5 million. At the same time, districts’ fixed costs are rising. Special education costs are going up \$17 million statewide.

 - B. The governor’s proposed budget removes Systems Administration from the EPS funding formula. State law requires districts to have a superintendent. Other things included in Systems Administration are the business office, the cost of the annual audit and legal costs.

 - C. Other changes include increased student-to-staff ratios:
 - For grades K-5:
 - Student to teacher ratios remain the same
 - Student to ed tech ratios increased from 100:1 to 114:1

 - For grades 6-8:
 - Student to teacher ratios increased from 16:1 to 17:1
 - Student to ed tech ratios increased from 100:1 to 312:1

 - For grades 9-12:
 - Student to teacher ratios increased from 15:1 to 16:1
 - Student to ed tech ratios increased from 250:1 to 316:1

- The impact is that calculated EPS rates per pupil have decreased. The rate for elementary students has decreased by \$157 per pupil and the rate for secondary students has decreased by \$146 per pupil. This matters because the per pupil amount is used in Section 2 of the ED 279 to establish our allocation.

3. **Local Choices (EPS is designed to determine the MINIMUM needed to provide education.)**

- A. A principal in each building
- B. Nursing based on student needs
- C. Class sizes
- D. Clerical (related to small schools in #1 above)
- E. Co- and Extra-curricular (Examples include football, drama, baseball)
- F. Intervention Ed Techs based on student needs (Required for Response to Intervention or RTI)

4. **Regional Cohort Comparisons (From Maine DOE website)**

District	% Over EPS	Graduation Rate in 2015-16	Drop-out Rate in 2015-16
Auburn	1%	72.76%	7.76%
Augusta	-2%	87.01%	2.64%
Lewiston	-2%	68.98%	4.97%
RSU 17 Oxford Hills	0%	81.53%	3.01%
RSU 52 Turner, Leeds and Greene	11%	88.81%	0.86%
RSU 16 Poland, Minot, Mechanic Falls	7%	91.23%	2.97%
RSU 4 Litchfield, Sabattus, Wales	15%	56.16%	3.07%
RSU 14 Windham, Raymond	12%	92.55%	2.16%