

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 52
Greene, Leeds, and Turner, Maine

Minutes of the Second Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors for 2017-2018
August 31, 2017 Leeds Central School

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

Members absent: None

Others present: Kimberly Brandt, Superintendent of Schools; Michelle Coates, Business Manager; Theresa Gillis, Assistant Superintendent; Kelly Marston, Turner Elementary School Principals; Mark McDonough, Greene Central School Principal; Danielle Harris, Leeds Central School Principal; Eben Shaw, Leavitt Area High School Principal; Gail Marine, Tripp Middle School Principal; Rebekah Drysdale, Director of Special Education; Randy Swift, Technology Coordinator; District Citizens; District Employees

1. Chairperson Elizabeth Bullard called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and Carlos Gnipp led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The Minutes of the First Regular Meeting, August 17, 2017 were approved by general consent. The Minutes of the First Special Meeting, August 24, 2017 were approved by general consent.
3. Communications:
 - 3.1 Superintendent Brandt reported the resignation of Jeremy Hersey effective August 25, 2017.
 - 3.2 Superintendent Brandt reported the resignation of Justin Chiaravelotti effective August 23, 2017.
4. Adjustment to Agenda:

Mark McDonough will report out for 5.7.

Agenda Items 9.8 and 9.12 were removed from the agenda.
5. Committee Reports:
 - 5.1 Finance Committee: Jon Woodard reported that the committee met prior to the 8/31/17 board meeting and the following items were acted upon; warrants were signed; salary for new principal at TPS was reviewed; the need for two additional special education educational technician positions (one at LAHS and one at LCS) was discussed. Other items discussed but not on tonight's agenda: coverage for the vacant speech language pathologist position, and possible additional work days for the Assistant Special Education Director to aid with the transition. More on both of these items as they become necessary.

- 5.2 Plant/Transportation/Building Committee: Peter Ricker reported the committee has not met.
- 5.3 Curriculum/Policy Committee Joanne Nickerson reported the committee has not met.
- 5.4 Student Representatives Report: None
- 5.5 Tri-Town Education Association Negotiations (Teacher): Jon Woodard reported that there is no update.
- 5.6 Administration Work Agreements: Peter Ricker reported that updates will be discussed in Executive Session.
- 5.7 Administrator Report: Mark McDonough reported that he is looking forward to his second year as principal of Greene Central School. He shared that during the two in-service days the staff worked on the Responsive Classroom morning meeting model in order to build school community. Prior to the in-service days, the GCS Building Leadership Team met. During this time members discussed school climate & culture and reading and math. They looked at action steps to focus in on work for the year. They established a wellness committee and worked on establishing foundations for the school based on the results of the Effective School Surveys and ways they want their school to be in the areas of student interactions, staff interactions, climate and culture, teaching and learning and community involvement.
- 5.8 Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Brandt reported on the Administrator Work Session on August 16th. Administrators worked together on the Strategic Plan as well as items necessary to prepare for the Opening of School. She thanked the following people for their help with New Teacher Orientation-Eben Shaw and Theresa Gillis for reviewing the Teacher Evaluation System; Barbara Gavin for providing an overview of TTEA, Randy Swift and the Technology Team for helping prepare technology for our new teachers; Theresa Gillis and Kelly Marston for reviewing New Teacher Induction/Parameters; and Jane Campbell for her overview of PDC/PLCC and mentors. Opening day on August 28th began with an awesome breakfast thanks to David Roberts and his crew. All staff gathered in the Auditorium where they were welcomed by Superintendent Brandt and district administrators. New employees were introduced and welcomed with carnations. Current employees were recognized for years of service in five year increments. The Board retreat was held on August 24th where board members worked with Superintendent Brandt on strategic planning.

Special thanks to Kim Long and the Maintenance and Transportation department staff. Our district had a really smooth opening day for students on buses. Many items were completed during the summer including: new high school doors, exterior and interior painting at many of the district schools; tile and carpet replacement; upgrades to kitchens and repairs and upgrades to windows.

6. Public Comment: None
7. Old Business: None
8. Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Richard Gross, seconded by Bob Allen and voted unanimously to approve the Non-Instructional appointments.

8.1 Non-Instructional Appointment(s)

- 8.1.1 Allyson Hoyt, Greene Central School Title 1 Ed Tech III.
- 8.1.2 Randy Hausman, Tripp Middle School Special Education Behavioral Support Ed Tech III.
- 8.1.3 Emily Foster, Turner Primary School Special Education Ed Tech III Autism Program.
- 8.1.4 Marie Violette, District Wide Substitute Food Service Assistant.
- 8.1.5 Jessica Hafford, Turner Primary School Food Service Manager.
- 8.1.6 Jessica Irving, Turner Primary School PBIS Tier I Co-Coordinator.
- 8.1.7 Jennifer Carver, Turner Primary School PBIS Tier I Co-Coordinator.
- 8.1.8 Derek Jordan, Tripp Middle School 7th Grade Boys' Soccer Coach.
- 8.1.9 Jamie Juntura, Tripp Middle School 8th Grade Boys' Soccer Coach.
- 8.1.10 Leavitt Area High School 2017 Stipends:
Alicia Sirois, Student Council Advisor; Wendy Schlotterbeck, Yearbook Advisor; Kelly Bean, Pi-Cone Advisor; TBD, NHS Advisor; Jamie Juntura, Senior Class Advisor; Georgia Vallee/Iva Damon, Junior Co-Class Advisors; Caroline Labrie/Marcia Martin, Sophomores Co-Class Advisors; TBD, Freshman Class Advisor; Debbie Knapp, Math Network Leader; Mike Hathaway, Science Network Leader; Laura de Haas, English Network Leader; Michael Brennan, Social Studies Network Leader; Wendy Schlotterbeck, Humanities Network Leader; Shawn Fanjoy, Special Education Network Leader; TBD, One Act Play; Myranda Michaud, Spring Play Advisor; Sarah Dow, Band Director; Steve Barter, Choral Director.
- 8.1.11 Genevieve Grover, Tripp Middle School Food Service Specialist.

9. New Business:

- 9.1 A motion was made by Bob Allen, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted unanimously to approve the Instructional appointment.
 - 9.1.1 Breanna Allard, Leavitt Area High School English Teacher.
- 9.2 A motion was made by Jon Woodard, seconded by Bob Allen and voted unanimously to approve Ryan Patrie as the new principal of Turner Primary School with a starting salary of \$89,000.
- 9.3 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously to approve out of state games for all high school sports.
- 9.4 A motion was made by Peter Ricker and seconded by Jon Woodard to approve a Lease/Purchase through Androscoggin Bank for 2 buses. The term "Lease/Purchase" was questioned by Citizen Caldwell. Business Manager Coates explained the term actually means "purchase". The motion was approved unanimously.
- 9.5 Discussion of additional state subsidy:
Chairperson Bullard explained that the net of any additional funds goes back to the 3 towns per Warrant Article 22, which was supported by voters.

Superintendent Brandt shared information. The biennial budget passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor gave public schools an additional \$162 million over this year and

next. The budget includes \$48.4 million additional in 2017-2018 and \$113.6 million additional for 2018-2019. MSAD 52 is receiving an additional \$575,153.06 in subsidy.

Discussion from the community:

Chair Bullard opened up the discussion to board members, then to the audience for discussion.

Representative Timberlake (serves on Appropriations Committee) said that this is not a long term projection of where school funding will be. The 3 % surcharge passed by voters was repealed by the senate and reps. There was a big argument about whether or not the money needs to go back to taxpayers or all can stay with schools. The State budget is not fully funded, there will be shortfalls. Rep. Timberlake is concerned that the District will get a number in February 2018, but money will need to be taken out to fund other state services that have not yet been funded. He mentioned Medicaid expansion and said that if that passes there will be a large shortfall and this money will not be available for schools. There is no mandate that schools have to be funded at this level. The state of Maine is decreasing in population; school systems are shrinking; we have an aging population. He is not convinced that schools will get that much money. Rep Timberlake recommends not to do anything with the monies that the District will need to count on in future years because that level of funding may not be there.

Peter Ricker asked if in future years we get money from the State, will that be included in our budget so that it could be part of our budget planning. Betsy Bullard directed the question to Rep Timberlake who responded. MSAD 52 will receive \$900,000 in additional subsidy in year #2; 50% must go back to back to towns. Peter asked how that comes to MSAD 52. Rep Timberlake wasn't sure; intent of law was to put 50% of 2nd allotment into the property tax reduction. Betsy said that this will be something that we look into

Mr. Buckley suggested giving it all back to the towns and having the towns hold onto it. 100% goes back to the towns-is it locked in at 50%?

Representative Timberlake indicated the Board of Directors gets to decide. Warrant Article 22 is for additional funds. Peter Ricker believes that Article 22 that has protected the towns will not be a mechanism for the 2nd bit of money; if it stays how it is; this money is already known; it's not unanticipated excess-Article 22 is all about extra money (surplus). We know we have to give 50% back to the towns; will fall to the board through budgetary process what to do with the other ½ of the \$900,000. Moving forward we can do a lot of thinking, find out what money is actually there and how much we actually want to expand the budget. Because in year 3, the monies may not be there. The board will have a discussion about not spending all 50% and giving even more back to the towns.

Terry Terreri suggested putting the money in a capital project--the townspeople and board of selectmen would be more open to using the money for a capital project rather than if it were used for something else.

Mr. Youland also suggested using the additional money for capital improvement projects.

Mr. Reny shared that all three towns would probably agree to do capital improvements to put the money to good use because putting off the repairs only puts off the cost.

Mr. Gross shared that down the road we may discover an instructional program that we would want for our students. He asked for clarification--are you saying that the taxpayers would not be willing to fund new instructional programs, etc.?

Mr. Youland said we would need a list of what the District wants to spend the money on.

Mr. Terreri added that if we start new instructional programs based on the amount of money we get, we would still need to continue to fund the programs-so it may not help the budget anyway. He suggested that new programs be part of the regular budget and get it approved that way and use the special monies for projects like a new roof, gym floor, whatever we need.

Mr. Allen said we will want to continue with a larger discussion, involve Superintendent Brandt, attend tri-town meetings, and keep the discussion going on a continuing basis as we move forward with strategic planning. Then we'll have a better idea of how all stakeholders feel and we'll have a collaborative relationship moving forward.

Mr. Caldwell suggested that the board think about a good way to spend the additional money.

Peter Ricker said that last year we did not plan on any additional money. This year we know about it and it will be part of our planning. Warrant Article 22 will not apply to next year because we know about the additional money.

Representative Timberlake said there are rumors floating around town. He asked if it is the board's intention to continue or eliminate Warrant Article 22 in the future.

Chairperson Bullard responded that as of this evening the board has taken no action on Warrant Article 22.

Representative Timberlake asked if the board had a discussion about getting rid of Warrant Article 22.

Peter Ricker answered that at a past finance committee meeting there has been a discussion about revising Warrant Article 22 to look at addressing capital projects.

Chairperson Bullard reiterated that no decisions have been made and discussions will continue.

Mr. Fitzsimons said that the spirit of this law was for education. He suggested that whatever percentage in the total budget is set to go to capital improvements that this same percentage of the additional money should go to capital improvements.

Chairperson Bullard asked that people share ideas about how to best continue these discussions and work with the board. She said that the board is looking forward to continued discussions.

- 9.6 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Bob Allen and voted unanimously to approve an additional Special Education Ed Tech I for one-on-one with student at Leavitt Area High School. This additional staff person is the result of a denial of a Superintendent's Agreement being overturned by the Commissioner of Education. This student will need an educational technician for in school support. This is unfunded by state and will be paid for with monies in the contingency fund.
- 9.7 A motion made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Richard Gross and voted unanimously to approve an additional Special Education Ed Tech 1 for student at Leeds Central School. This position is to be funded through Local Entitlement.
- 9.8 Agenda item removed.
- 9.9 Discussion about increasing Turner Primary School Pre-K Ed Techs from 4 days per week to full-time due to enrollment. Projected enrollment at Turner Primary School was 60 Pre-K students. Currently there are 67 students planning on attending Pre-K at Turner Primary School. Superintendent Brandt wanted the board to know that our current Pre-K enrollment at TPS is higher than projected. Last year we reduced a half-time Pre-K teacher. The State requires that any Pre-K classroom with more than 10 students also have an educational technician in the class. We are working with Sue Reed at the State who is supporting us in transitioning to meet this requirement. We are monitoring enrollment and attendance during the first few weeks of school to determine if we will need to request additional staff time and/or additional staff in some Turner Primary School Pre-K classes. Superintendent Brandt will keep the board apprised.
- 9.10 A motion made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Jon Woodard and approved unanimously to approve the Leavitt Area High School's Running Club fundraiser for the Bifulco family.
- 9.11 Superintendent Brandt shared that the District has been unable to fill the Speech Pathologist position that has been advertising since May 9, 2017. This is a problem faced by several districts. Special Education Director Drysdale and Superintendent Brandt are working on solutions to this. They have spoken to other districts who are using online service providers and are learning about the services and how they are provided. Superintendent Brandt and Special Education Director Drysdale have also met with an agency that provides these services. At the next board meeting additional information will be provided.

Board Member Allen questioned IEPs and mandated services. Special Education Director Drysdale explained that parents need to be notified when services are not able to be provided. Once we have these services in place, any missed services can be made up and all hours will be fulfilled. Principal Shaw asked about SLPs. Superintendent Brandt noted that last year a comparison was made and hospitals do pay more, she is not sure if there are less people graduating in this field.

- 9.12 & 9.13 Agenda items were removed.
- 9.14 Motion by Peter Ricker, seconded by Bob Allen and approved unanimously to enter into an Executive Session to discuss Administrators work agreement pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6) (D).

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:48 P.M.
The Board returned to Open Session at 8:02 P.M.

9.15 No action was taken.

10 Other Business:

10.1 Principal Marine reported that Tripp Middle School will be holding an Apple Bootcamp. Teachers from Apple Ed Team are coming to TMS. Apple Bootcamp provides training for students support from MLTI and Apple Teachers. She invited school board members to attend.

Mr. Caldwell congratulated the school board for the way the Board handled the meeting, gave everyone a chance to speak; particularly Chairperson Bullard for her control of the meeting.

11 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Carlos Gnipp and voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Brandt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Kimberly Brandt, Secretary