

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 1
Castle Hill – Chapman – Mapleton – Presque Isle – Westfield

MINUTES

Board of Directors

January 20, 2021

5:30 P.M.

Board Conference Room and Zoom

Directors Present: (Board Conference Room)

Lucy Richard (12)

Curtis Culberson (11)

Roberta Fitzgerald-Hathaway (8)

John Harvell (5)

John R. Johnston (15)

Terry Sandusky (3)

Stephen Sutter (7)

Directors Present: (ZOOM)

Desiree Albert (13)

Carol Bell (6)

Dan Edgecomb (1)

Julie Freeman (16)

Susan Goulet (14)

Paul Saija (17)

Lori Kenneson (9)

Joanna Newlands (2)

Michael Ouellette (4)

Director Absent: James Bubar (10)

1. Call to Order

Chair Lucy Richard called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and did a roll call attendance.

2. Announcements

Chair Lucy Richard announced the following meeting:

Board of Directors – February 10, 2021 – 5:30 p.m. - PIHS Cafeteria

Chair Richard also talked to the Board regarding their district e-mail addresses. She asked them to make sure to check district e-mails for messages.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the Agenda.

4. Acceptance of the Agenda

It was moved by Roberta Fitzgerald-Hathaway and seconded by Paul Saija to accept the Agenda as presented. After a roll call vote motion carried unanimously.

5. **Presentations**

There were no Presentations.

6. **Public Participation**

There were no requests for Public Participation.

7. **Approval of Minutes – December 16, 2020**

It was moved by Paul Saija and seconded by Stephen Sutter to approve the minutes of December 16, 2020 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Approval of Bills and Warrants Signed to Date – December 2020**

Assistant Superintendent for Business Clint Deschene provided the Board with an overview of the December 2020 bills and warrants signed to date. It was moved by Curtis Culberson and seconded by Terry Sandusky to approve the bills and warrants for December 2020 as presented. After a roll call vote motion carried unanimously.

9. **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Greenlaw provided the Board with an overview of COVID 19 cases in MSAD #1.

- Covid cases week of 1/11/21:
Positive case at Pine Street - MSAD # 1 notified Sunday, 1/10/21.
Positive case at PIHS – Tuesday 1/12/21 – early release.
2 positive cases at PIMS – Thursday, 1/14/21 – early release – no school on Friday 1/15/21.

Staff who were considered close contacts were required to quarantine and are back in schools this week (week of 1/18/21) with the exception of the close contacts associated with an individual at Presque Isle Middle School. The quarantine period will expire on Sunday, 1/24/21.

Staff at Pine Street pulled together last week to help cover the absences of 13 staff members who were required to quarantine or were out due to illness.

PIMS currently has 6 staff members who are quarantining. The effort of our staff is very much appreciated.

He reported the decision to continue to offer in-person instruction continues to be based on availability of substitute staff to cover for teachers who need to quarantine and the county designation by MDOE/CDC for in-person learning is Green.

Superintendent Greenlaw stated that in-person instruction is best for the academic, social and emotional well-being of our students. It provides structure, routine, meals, personal connection, academic and social supports for students.

He provided the Board with remote learning numbers. They started at 18%, dropped to 9.5% and now are back up to 18%. Presque Isle High School has a large number of remote learners.

He reported that on December 31, 2020, the DOE and CDC listed Aroostook County as Green but with an asterisk for monitoring due to a high positivity rate.

If the DOE and CDC classify a county as Yellow, it requires all sports to be temporarily suspended and is recommended that schools employ a hybrid approach of in-person and remote instruction.

MSAD #1 was prepared to move to a Yellow or hybrid model if we were designated as Yellow.

MSAD #1 will continue with this plan if we are ever designated as yellow by the DOE and the CDC.

He updated on the high school winter sports. Sports began on January 4, and games will start 1/20/21. Students will wear masks within CDC guidelines. It will be local competition, no state championships.

Superintendent Greenlaw then updated the Board on stimulus money received by the district:

- MSAD #1 is expecting 4 times what was received in ESSERF, approximately 1.6 million. We have until September 2023 to spend. The focus of the money will be on air quality and learning loss.
- Replacing windows and siding at PIHS, and employ a 5th school nurse, will be a preliminary part of ESSER II. 130 windows have been installed at PIHS. Soffits and siding should be installed by the end of February break.

He reported the Governor's proposed budget will include an additional \$45 million for education over two years in an overall budget that is not expected to raise taxes.

Expecting to receive our ED 279 by early February. Will know more as the budget makes its way through the Legislature.

10. Old Business – Discussion and Action

There was no old business.

11. Committee Reports

Terry Sanudsky, Chair of the CTE committee, reported they will hold a meeting before the February Board meeting.

Lucy Richard, Board Chair and member of the Maine State School Board of Directors, reported on her Maine State School Board of Directors meeting of January 9, 2021.

The special guest at the meeting was Commissioner Pender Makin.

It was reported that the ED279 would be out by the end of January, and stated they do finance projections every 2 weeks, and stated there would be no cuts.

Commissioner Makin reported the state valuation has increased 4%, but the state revenues were down significantly. She also reported that drop in enrollment was 2.5%.

Commissioner Makin discussed DOE helping in the contact tracing, and working on vaccine distribution.

Regarding color coding, it is not actually done by the DOE. They have a crew of health professionals – from doctors, public health officials, and volunteers. There are multiple factors involved.

She reported the CRF dollars are extended to 12/31/21, and ESSRF 2 money must be spent by 9/30/23.

Commissioner Makin wanted to remind the Board to support their Superintendent.

The DOE goals for education are Equity, Excellence, and the best education for students is to be in school.

12. Appointment of 2021 Board Committees

Superintendent Greenlaw reviewed the 2021 Board Committee appointments.

13. New Business Discussion – Action

a) Superintendent Greenlaw reviewed new changes for the 2020-2021 school calendar. Three ½ days were added in the fall, and he is asking to add three more ½ days of March 5, May 7, and June 4 to give teachers time to prepare lessons for remote learning. It was moved by Terry Sandusky and seconded by Paul Saija to add the three listed ½ days to the 2020-2021 school calendar. After a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

b) He then recommended the following to act as Business Manager from 2/1/21 to 6/30/21:

Charles Anderson Business Manager

It was moved by Curtis Culberson and seconded by Paul Saija to approve the recommendation of Charles Anderson, Business Manager as presented. After a roll call vote, recommendation passed unanimously.

- c) Dr. Jennifer Bourassa, Curriculum Director, overviewed Policy IGBI – MSAD #1 LAU Plan with the Board. She reported there are now 10 ELL students in the District.

Discussion followed. It was moved by Terry Sandusky and seconded by Paul Saija to approve the updated LAU Plan for MSAD #1 as presented. After a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

14. **Adjournment**

It was moved by John Johnston and seconded by Paul Saija to adjourn at 6:17 p.m. After a roll call vote motion carried unanimously.

/s/ Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin Greenlaw