

Wednesday, November 15, 2017
Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Leroy H. Smith Elementary School

The Regional School Unit No. 22 Board of Directors met at Leroy H. Smith Elementary School on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. Board Chair Karen Hawkes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Directors present were: Jayne Dyer, Lucas Flanagan, Rob Frank, Wallace Fraser, Jessica Giles, Allan Gordon, Jr., Karen Hawkes, John Holmes, Jessica King, Anthony Liberatore, DMD, Heath Miller, Amanda Sidell and Mark Schmelz.

Scott Cuddy and Dakota Noonan were excused.

II. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 1, 2017

Liberatore moved, Holmes seconded, and the Board voted favorably to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 1, 2017.

Abstain: Fraser, King, Schmelz

III. Adjustment to Agenda

Superintendent Lyons announced the following adjustments to the agenda:

- Article XIV, Executive Session to Discuss a Legal Matter, According to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E) will move to Article VI-C, Personnel
- An addition to Article VIII-A, Discussion of Allegation of Sexual Harassment
- Article XII-B, Presentation by Leroy H. Smith Personnel, will be moved to the Regular Meeting of December 6, 2017

IV. Persons Desiring to Address the Board

None.

V. Board Chair

Chair Hawkes welcomed the Board and audience to Leroy H. Smith School.

A. Subcommittee Matrix

Board members will be assigned to two standing committees following the Thanksgiving break. They were asked to submit their top three choices to Ms. Hawkes and Superintendent Lyons.

Chair Hawkes welcomed new board member Mark Schmelz, representing Hampden. Mr. Schmelz said he was happy to be on the board and has two children, one in 4th Grade at Weatherbee and one in 1st Grade at McGraw.

VI. Personnel

A. Resignations

None.

B. Nominations

None.

C. Executive Session to Discuss a Legal Matter, According to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E)

At 7:07 p.m. Libertore moved, Frank seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter, according to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E).

The Board entered back into regular session at 7:28 p.m.

VII. Superintendent of Schools

A. Reading of Essential Behaviors and Outcomes Proclamation

Board member Heath Miller read the Essential Behaviors and Outcomes Proclamation.

B. Community Public Forum - December 4

Superintendent Lyons announced the upcoming Community Public Forum to be held at Hampden Academy on Monday, December 4th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The athletic field turf replacement will be a primary topic. All board members are encouraged to attend.

C. Personnel Recognition

Weatherbee Principal Jen Cyr introduced Kelly O'Brien Weaver as the new Maine Guidance Counselor of the Year. This award was announced on Thursday November 9th in Freeport at the Maine School Counselor Association conference. Kelly's expertise at all education levels in teaching and school counseling along with use of data in education were pivotal reasons for her selection. Kelly is halfway to National Board Certification and she serves as Co-Director of Guidance in RSU #22. She was nominated by previous

Weatherbee Principal Tina Boone and Mrs. Cyr shared an excerpt from Mrs. Boone's nomination of Kelly O'Brien Weaver.

On Tuesday November 20th, Kelly will be honored at the Weatherbee All School Share. Board members are invited to attend.

Mrs. O'Brien Weaver spoke to the board in thanks for providing an opportunity for guidance counseling to be robust in RSU 22.

D. Board Meeting Schedule

Superintendent Lyons reminded the Board of the revised meeting schedule of one meeting per month and the locations.

E. Principals Monthly Reports

A new initiative this year, board members are encouraged to email principals with questions or comments about the new Principal Monthly Reports.

E. Assistant Superintendent's Update

Assistant Superintendent Nickels reported on various school business matters, including storm damage clean up and turf field replacement.

F. Student Representative

Student Board Representative Lucas Flanagan shared that he is working with students to help them feel more empowered to be an active part of their community. He has put together a Student Response Survey to solicit student feedback, opinions and ideas about their experience in RSU #22.

VIII. Questions of Board Members

A. Discussion of Allegation of Sexual Harassment:

Mr. Lyons shared a handout that communicates the events surrounding an allegation of sexual harassment in RSU #22. Superintendent Lyons shared that a parent email was the first correspondence between the district and the parent. An email then came from the Department of Education asking for investigation of the Athletic Director due to an allegation of negligence of duty to keep students safe from harassment. Mr. Lyons began this investigation as the DOE requested.

Simultaneously, Athletic Director Fred Lower conducted investigatory activities to address the allegation. Mr. Lower shared exhibits to include a timeline of events and the investigation report he authored.

Student reports given to Principal Bill Tracy and Athletic Director Lower were discussed as the students were at the games (soccer and/or field hockey) and reported that no sexual harassment was heard. Multiple parents who were also sitting in the stands alongside or behind the student section also report that no sexual harassment was heard whatsoever.

Mr. Lyons shared a copy of the PenBay Pilot article written by the student alleging harassment during a soccer game at Hampden Academy.

A public statement was written by the Board of Directors in response to the allegations in the PenBay Pilot article.

A news clip was aired on a Portland television station interviewing the Camden Rockport player alleging the harassment.

Superintendent Lyons shared the Hampden Academy Social and Civic Expectations articulated for multiple environments within the school but also on the athletic fields. He emphasized how seriously RSU #22 and Hampden Academy take behavior, ethics and student conduct. Such behavior as alleged is not condoned at Hampden Academy. Chair Hawkes expressed appreciation for the administration's response in both investigating but also working with the students to advance strong adherence to the Code of Conduct. Student representative Flanagan shared that students do hold themselves to a high degree of accountability.

The Reeds Brook cross country team won the Sportsmanship Award this fall. Coming up, the Hampden Academy Girls Soccer Team and the Hampden Academy Football Team will both be awarded 2017 Sportsmanship awards at upcoming regional events.

Board Member Sidell shared concern that the heightened publicity surrounding such allegations in the high school setting may thwart rich conversation with teenagers to shape behaviors and educate.

Board Member King shared that the Special Olympics Bowling team competed today with several participants from RSU #22. She expressed thanks from Coach Andrea Lee for the Board's support of Special Olympics. The team will be snowshoeing, snowboarding and alpine skiing at the upcoming Special Olympics Winter Games at Sugarloaf Mountain.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

None.

B. Budget Committee

None.

C. Athletic Committee

Chair Miller reported that while the Athletic Committee did not meet as a body, the Ad-hoc Turf Replacement Committee did have a recent meeting to discuss aspects of the timeline, details and public sharing of the replacement project. The next Ad-Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday November 20th at 6:00 p.m. at Hampden Academy.

D. Building Committee

Chair Gordon reviewed the agenda items.

E. Negotiations Committee

None.

F. Education Committee

Chair Sidell shared that discussion of K-5 report cards took place. The report card is considered difficult to read by some and clear to understand by others. Balancing the need for communication of progress is the topic; the layout and communication of the information on the report card are discussion points. Personalization of comments is an aspect parents appreciate.

G. Policy Committee

Chair Holmes reported that the committee met on November 13th.

H. United Technologies Center Board

Board Representative Gordon reported that school enrollment is up at UTC. There are programs that are at maximum enrollment and cannot accept further students. If UTC enrollment continues to climb, expansion would be one course of action and quotas for each sending school may be another. School enrollments are typically declining.

He also reported that Mr. Tim Schopee donated a 1926 Model T truck to UTC. The students refurbished the truck and got it running. It is on display at the school.

I. Behavioral Review Committee

None.

J. Education Foundation

None.

K. SPRPCE Board

None.

L. Substance Use Committee

Chair Wally Fraser indicated consideration of combining the Substance Use Committee with the Wellness Committee.

M. Community Relations Committee

The development of a communications plan was the topic at the most recent meeting.

X. Policy Consideration

None.

XI. Old Business

None.

XII. New Business

A. Discuss and act on Regional Service Center (School Management and Leadership Center) Application, Part I

Currently three Wagner students and two Reeds Brook students are in attendance. The grant invites other districts to join the regional service center. It also provides for School Leadership development and sharing of services and purchasing. Superintendent Lyons expressed appreciation for Bangor Superintendent Betsy Webb.

Board Member Sidell shared that this Regional Service Center application allows RSU 22 to access the incentives provided by the funding formula at \$46 per student.

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Dyer moved, Holmes seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to endorse the Regional Service Center Application, Part I.

XIII. Communication and Correspondence

Set Meeting Dates: Ad Hoc Turf Replacement Committee, November 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Substance Use Committee, November 28, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.

XV. Other Business

A. To see what action, if any, the Board wishes to take on business required by items that are part of this agenda.

None.

XVI. Adjourn

Libertore moved, Dyer seconded, and the Board adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools