

Subject: Minutes of the Union #93 Joint School Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Penobscot Community School

School Committee Members Present: Jan Snow (0), Ben Wootten (2665), Rebecca Conable (0), Helen Condon (185), Patty Tapley (185), Eliot Coleman (185), Kathy MacArthur (458), Alyssa Radcliff (458), Charles Brenton (250), Fred Briehl (250), Anne Hayes-Grillo (250), James Goodman (250), Marlene Tallent (292), Pat Jencks (292)

School Committee Members Absent: Jim Lacasse (0), Sean Walsh (0), Matt Freedman (185), Charles Tarr (185), Joe Spinazola (458), Jerry Markley (250), Michelle Berger (292), Don Driscoll (292), Joan Welgoss (292)

Others Present: Mark Hurvitt, Vernetta Bannister, Sheila Irvine, Heather Lanpher, Diana Stearns, Dawn Robbins, Susan Duddy, Richard Avery, Allen Cole, Monique Labbe (Reporter for *Penobscot Bay Press*)

1. Marlene Tallent called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. There was a flag salute.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: December 15, 2016

A motion was made by Fred Briehl, seconded by Jim Goodman, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2016 meeting.

Ayes: 5720

Nays: 0.

4. Communications

Marlene Tallent commented on the designated votes: Blue Hill to Ben Wootten.

Ms. Tallent welcomed new board member, Eliot Coleman from Brooksville.

5. Comments and Questions from the Public:

None.

6. Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Jim Goodman, seconded by Kathy MacArthur, to approve the agenda after deleting 8F (Executive Session).

Ayes: 5720

Nays: 0

7. Old Business:

None.

8. New Business:

A. Special Education Director Report – Sheila Irvine

Mr. Hurvitt stated that this is the bi-annual report.

Ms. Irvine said that on July 1, 2017 the office will move to a state-approved IEP data system called MSB. Area Special Education offices are embracing it due to its enhanced reporting capabilities. Bucksport High School and George Stevens Academy will be using it which will make having the same information more readily available.

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Special Education Director (cont'd)

Ms. Irvine reported that Special Education budgets have been approved in four of the five schools. Brooksville's budget is down by 21%, partially due to decreasing one position in the school; Castine and Penobscot have modest increases, Blue Hill has had a sharp increase due to an out of district placement and Surry's is down 19%.

Ms. Irvine asked if there were any questions from the board, and there were none.

B. Curriculum Coordinator Report – Dawn Robbins

Ms. Robbins asked the Board for the annual permission to run the Leaping Literacy camps at the Blue Hill Library again this year. She explained that there will be three one-week camps: July 17, July 24 and July 31. She has applied for three grants to fund the camps and should have the decisions in April. If the grants are not approved, she will do personal fund raising in the area to raise the funds needed to provide the camps.

A motion was made by Ben Wootten, seconded by Jan Snow, to allow the Leaping Literacy camps.

Ayes: 5720

Nays: 0.

Ms. Robbins further reported that the MEA testing is going smoothly. Dates that the results will be reported are unclear.

Brooksville Elementary School issued Google Docs report cards and now all five schools are using the same report card program.

Ben Wootten asked if there has been discussion on the Bridge Program at GSA?

Fred Briehl asked how are the eighth grade students prepared for high school? Ms. Robbins responded that she receives information from some of the area high schools stating specifically what their expectations of incoming students are: i.e., technology skills.

Ms. Robbins had a handout which is attached to the office minutes.

C. 2017-2022 Proposed New Copier Contract – Richard Avery, Tech Coordinator

Mr. Hurvitt reported that in 2010, there were numerous types and models of copiers in the Union. It was decided to get started on combining all contracts. They were able to do that in 2012. It is now time to review the Union's copier configuration and select a vendor/servicer for a new five year contract. He introduced Mr. Avery who had worked with an ad hoc committee to decide what the needs were for copier use in the union's schools.

Mr. Avery did a presentation with several handouts (attached to office minutes) with information from four copier companies who had responded to the bid requests. Mr. Avery stated that the committee recommended A-Copi as the vendor of choice. Their machines were tested at the Blue Hill Consolidated School for a week and it went well.

Mr. Wootten asked if anyone had a problem with A-Copi as a service provider? No one did. There being no further questions from the Board, a motion was made by Ben Wootten, seconded by Jim Goodman, to accept the contract from A-Copi.

Ayes: 5720

Nays: 0.

Dawn Robbins thanked Mr. Avery for the work involved in bringing the copier contract information to the Board.

D. Draft Calendar Discussion 2017-2018 School Year

Mr. Hurvitt explained the draft calendar had been sent to the Union personnel and Union Board for input and there were three suggestions. He said that the calendar is much like previous years', with Blue Hill, Brooksville, Castine and Penobscot having 175 school days and Surry having 177 school days.

Ms. Tallent stated that the 177 days are in the Surry Teacher's Contract.

Mr. Wootten questioned Columbus Day in October as a holiday as it is not one to be celebrated, stating, "there is a bigger picture" in history. It was mentioned that there is now legislation to rename the holiday. In the meantime, it is a federal holiday and the calendar will continue to reflect that.

E. To Allow Superintendent to Roll Over 2 Vacation Days from 2015-16 to 2016-17

Mr. Wootten asked if there is a procedure on record for this request? Mr. Goodman and Mr. Hurvitt replied that the request goes to the Union Board. Ms. Tallent asked if there is anything in the Superintendent's contract to prohibit the request and there is not. Fred Briehl called the question.

Marlene Tallent called for a vote. A motion was made by Jim Goodman, seconded by Fred Briehl, to allow the Superintendent to roll over 2 vacation days from 2015-16 to 2016-17.

Ayes: 3055

Nays: 0.

Abstained: 2665 (Wootten with designated Blue Hill votes)

9. Other Business:

Fred Briehl stated that he has a heavy background in organizing field trips. He would like the school boards to consider consolidating school trips.

Marlene Tallent asked if there were any further questions or comments prior to adjournment. There were none.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Tallent adjourned the meeting at 6:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernette Bannister
Executive Secretary