

MSAD #8 School Board Regular Monthly Minutes
August 21, 2019
MS Science Room
Business Meeting 6:30 PM

Board Members Present: Renee Jones, Laura Lazaro, Alexandra McCarthy, Caitlin Claphan

Absent: Rachel Noyes

Members of Administration Team Present: Superintendent/Principal Tonya Arnold, Assistant Principal/Lead HS Teacher Bryan Feezer, Assistant Principal/Lead Elementary Teacher Blake Reidy, Special Ed Service Coordinator Jill Oakes

Member of the Public and Staff Present: Ann Osgood, Jessica Farley, Kris Osgood, Mae Applegate, Pat Paquet, Samantha Thompson

1. Call to order by Chair Renee Jones at 6:30 PM
2. Action on minutes of June 19, 2019 Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Motion L. Lazaro/second A McCarthy to approve (Vote passed 4-0-0)
3. Adjustments to and Approval of the Agenda
Motion R. Jones/second L Lazaro to approve (Vote passed 4-0-0)
4. Public Comment on Agenda Items: **None, but public discussion was allowed later in agenda on informational items related to playground and handbook.**
5. Public Comment and Input on Title Grant Programs and Comprehensive Needs Assessment update

Mae and Jill provided an overview

Appreciation was expressed for the good work being done to help with ELA intervention, but there was a question about why Title projects were limited to ELA and not math.

The reason is that Title 1 funding is limited and not sufficient to cover even one full-time position, so we could only add a Math Coach or Math Intervention Specialist in addition to the ELA Title 1 work if the town would support that addition to the budget with local funds

6. School Leaders Report

Spent two days planning for in-service days, added BBQ for new staff, and planned some new activities for opening day for students

Have been working on policy review and handbook review

7. New Business

Action item: Second Reading on Title 1 Parent Involvement KBF-E2-VH

Motion L. Lazaro/second C. Clapham to enact KBF-E2-VH (Vote passed 4-0-0)

Action item: Approval of the following appointments

Motion R. Jones/second A. McCarthy to approve (Vote passed 4-0-0)

Teacher Certification Coordinator Stipend- \$500 – Mae Applegate

Mentor Coordinator Stipend - \$500 - Mae Applegate

Mentor Teacher - \$250 - Susan Philbrook

Mentor Teacher - \$250 - Emily Cohn

Mentor Teacher - \$250 - Jill Oakes

Mentor Teacher - \$250 - Robb Warren

Math Team Advisor Stipend - \$750 – Bryan Feezer

Model UN Advisor Stipend- \$750 – Mae Applegate

NHS Advisor Stipend - \$500 - Bianca Barrosa

Student Leadership Team Advisor Stipend - \$500 – Bryan Feezer

Priority Team Stipend - Up to \$2000 paid hrly Grant funds - Mae Applegate

Priority Team Stipend - Up to \$2000 paid hrly Grant funds - Robb Warren

Priority Team Stipend - Up to \$2000 paid hrly Grant funds - Pat Paquet

Priority Team Stipend - Up to \$2000 paid hrly Grant funds – Meagan Miller

Priority Team Stipend - Up to \$2000 paid hrly Grant funds - Jill Oakes

Priority Team Admin members – (No stipends)

Blake Reidy

Bryan Feezer

Tonya Arnold

Policy Related Roles 19-20 – (No Stipends)

Affirmative Action Officer/Title IX – Robb Warren

Homeless Liaison - Jennifer Feezer

Foster Care Liaison – Jennifer Feezer

Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper – Tonya Arnold and Jennifer Feezer

Action item: Set date for next meeting 6:00 warrants, 6:30 monthly board meeting

Wednesday, September 18th

Training for Island School Board Members on September 19th,

9 am 2:00 pm at the Island Institute

Discussion item: Timing and Components of Re-Visioning Process
and Board Goals for the 19-20 year

Board suggested that we form a committee and provide updates back to the Board as things progress.

The Board representative on the committee will be Ali McCarthy. We will meet with the Town Manager, Gabe and the Island Institute to see how we might

collaborate, since the cost of this was not budgeted.

A suggestion was made to ask if there are any members of our community who do this kind of facilitation for a living who may be willing to volunteer some time to the effort.

Proposed timing for these visioning sessions would be December into early January.

Informational Item: Parent-Student Handbook

Appreciation was expressed for the school's work on the handbook to attempt to make it more user friendly for parents, allow input at the meeting with copies of the draft provided, and update the document with policy, legal notices, and requirements.

A couple of minor corrections or items to check on were suggested.

Many of the behavior policy elements that seem focused more on older students were legally required. Once we work as a staff on creating consistency with social emotional and behavioral expectation training and responses, it was suggested that we add more to the handbook about our approaches and responses, and perhaps provided trainings or information sessions for families to learn more about those approaches as well.

Suggestion was made to ensure all students, staff and families understand these expectations and improve teamwork to enable consistent follow through together on these expectations.

It was noted that student cell phone use has become a disruptive problem in classrooms at times, so we need to work together on this. This area requires assistance from parents/guardians to help limit student cell phone access when students do not follow the policy. Also shared was that students advocated for the existing cell phone limits in the current policy because even they recognize the negative impact on learning this can have.

8. Old Business

Discussion: Update on Play Ground

Appreciation for the committee's work and all members of the staff and community who helped get things this far was expressed. Bowdoin volunteers will be working on spreading the rest of the woodchips on Friday August 30th. The original work included in the budget is complete and paid for. The actual costs exceeded the budgeted amount by almost \$9,000 due to the added need for moving woodchips, cost of removing old equipment and materials, shipping costs and some other minor issues.

The cost of fencing along the drop off circle and the basketball court improvements were not in the original budget. Adding a fence should be the first next priority, but we need to wait to obtain enough funding for this before authorizing the work. Donations are welcome, and these and grant funds are being pursued.

The members of the playground committee will meet with the business office, so we can prepare a full accounting and update to share at the next meeting. A big thank you to Jess and Samantha who were at the meeting was also given.

Action item: Update to Policy GCF Hiring of Professional Staff

R. Jones motioned to approve first reading of replacing the current policy with a version suggested by Maine School Management Association/second L. Lazaro. (Vote passed 4-0-0)

9. Superintendent Report

I've enjoyed much learning beginning before July 1 and throughout the transition process, including pre-audit training with Marc Roy, Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper training, Me DOE Data training, meetings with Priority Team and the Dirigo Star Survey coach, and many staff and community members.

New locks installed today in all doors inside the school and the front door, following the plan approved by the Board last school year.

Three exterior doors will be replaced during the October 10 and 11 workshop days. Facilities plans for this year include more work on the roof and the several areas that leaked during the last heavy rain. We anticipate using all of the funds in the budget for roofing repair this year. Our facilities director's skills are saving us money and helping us get by with minor fixes, but given the age of the building (18 yrs), changing weather patterns causing a need for flashing that was not installed when the roof was originally done, and the number of issues developing we will need to start making plans for a more major roof replacement project. Within that next bond project, we need to include some floor repair due to issues developing because of the leaks, and a full re-painting of interior walls as well.

After spending a couple of days analyzing the budget with the business office staff, the budget is extremely lean and tight this next year. The budget does not include a reasonable contingency amount for unexpected changes in lines that can be variable. One example of this would be to build in a financial safety net in the staffing lines for situations that could arise midyear; such as being able to afford the best candidate if that is a more experienced person than the person who left, having the funds in the budget to cover the cost of a long term sub and pay the required sick days for medical leave coverage, or covering changes in different benefit plan selection costs due. These types of situations should be planned for in future budgets to ensure other critical classroom needs are not impacted.

10. Executive Session as needed (MRSA Chapter 13, Sec 405, Subchapter 1): **None**

11. Other: **None**

12. Adjournment; 7:55