

**REGION 8 COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING
February 26, 2020**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Cooperative Board was held on February 26, 2020.

Those in attendance were:

CSD	Bob Duke, Tori Manzi, Brooks Crane	(69.62/ea)
Islesboro	John Gorham	(11.94)
RSU 13	Bill Pearce, Joanne Richards, Loren Andrews, Gerald Weinand	(77.82/ea)
SAD 40	Matthew Speno, Danny Jackson, Seth Hall, Rick Butler	(77.89/ea)
SAD 7	Jerry White	(7.49)
SAD 8	Yvonne Thomas (via zoom)	(24.58)
St. George	Alane Kennedy	(54.68)

Beth Fisher, Director; Sherry Moody, Business Mgr., Bobby Deetjen, Asst Director; Amy Drinkwater, public

Absent –

Chair Jerry White opened the regular meeting at 7:06 P.M. **Total weighted votes: 905.8**

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Amy Drinkwater, a member of the public, asked to read aloud a letter to the Board.

MOTION by Andrews, seconded by Hall, to allow a non-resident member of the public to speak to the Board

Danny read an excerpt from Policy BEDH to the board regarding public participation at board meetings. (Y. Thomas joined meeting at 7:08 PM via Zoom). Jerry advised the board that members of the public cannot address items not on the agenda. According to board policy, public members have to request the agenda item in writing to the Director. The Board discussed the policy about allowing or not allowing public comment during board meetings. Jerry disallowed the prior motion.

ADJUSTMENTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Richards, to approve the minutes of the regular January 22nd meeting

Motion approved with one abstention (Butler)

Total weighted votes: 852.49

DRAFT BUDGET DISCUSSION

Sherry opened the discussion by reviewing the budget summary. Overall, the general fund budget has a 4.5% increase. The budget includes a request for a new mini-bus, two new Exploratory Program teachers, a reduction in the Pre-Engineering teaching position, discontinuing the program on North Haven and an Ed Tech II in the Culinary Program. The District Assessment is basically flat although there are slight changes in each sending school's assessment based on the 9 through 12 grade three year averages. Board members asked a number of questions about the budget.

MOTION by Richards, seconded by Pearce, to approve the 2020-21 budget in the amount of \$5,872,769.

Motion approved unanimously

Total weighted votes: 930.38

DRAFT 2020-21 CALENDAR

Beth reported the calendar is worked on regionally with the Superintendents Advisory Committee. The regional calendar is sent in to the Commissioner of the Department of Education for approval. Rick noted that the October Holiday needs to be renamed Indigenous People's Day.

MOTION by Hall, seconded by Richards, to approve the 2020-21 calendar

Motion approved unanimously

Total weighted votes: 930.38

UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Beth reported the electrical contractor worked over February break and fixed many of the control and lighting issues. The controls manufacturer was in the building to work with the electrical contractor on wiring/programming issues. There are still some unresolved HVAC issues that need to be addressed. The solar project is moving along but the original transformer installed by Central Maine Power is not compatible with our solar panels. CMP met with us last week and will be recommending the installation of a different transformer in the next several weeks. The expected cost will be \$5,000 or \$6,000 as the solar installer is sharing the cost. Gerald asked about the lien with the electrical contractor and if the noise from the rooftop units had been resolved. Beth advised the night time noise issue has been resolved since the controls have been adjusted properly.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

Beth advised we have received a MELMAC grant to run a summer camp. We also found out that the DOE has Middle School funds available as well. These extra funds will allow us to fully fund and staff the summer camp. Bobby reported the plan is to serve sixty students over a two week period. Students will be bussed from the three sending schools. The students will have experiences in a variety of programs over the two weeks. Yvonne asked if island students could also attend and Bobby advised we could accommodate students from the islands. Gerald asked how students would be selected for attendance. Gerald also asked about continuing the program in following years and potential funding to sustain the program. Loren was in favor of expanding the program in future years, as well. Seth asked about the total Middle School population in the region.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Richards, pursuant to Section 405(6)(D) of Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, move that the Board enter into executive session to discuss the status of negotiations

Motion approved unanimously

Total weighted votes: 930.38

Enter: 8:25 PM

Exit: 8:58 PM

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Warrants and Budget

Bob reported the committee met and signed the warrants for January and February. Bob reviewed the Accounts Payable warrants with the board. He discussed the January 31st financial report.

MOTION by Richards, seconded by Jackson, to accept and approve the warrant and budget reports for and January.

Gerald asked about the Scholarship monies paid out.

Motion approved unanimously
Total weighted votes: 930.38

POLICY COMMITTEE

Bill advised the committee met and discussed revising the Concussion policy as amended by the DOE. The committee discussed several other policies as well, including the Lockout/Tagout policy. The committee plans to review and revise a number of outdated policies in the next few months. Seth asked that the committee review the policy on public comment. Danny advised the committee will take the Board's recommendation to review this policy immediately.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Tori advised the committee met and discussed a job description that will be brought to the next board meeting.

CHAIR UPDATE

Jerry attended several of his usual board meetings over the past month. There is a small crisis in rural schools nationwide over REAP funding. There is some impact to Maine schools.

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Beth reported we had a three year comprehensive school review for the past two days. Feedback from the team has been positive. She discussed Live Work projects and the Applied Learning policy. Danny asked for an update on the fencing and Planning Board issue. Beth replied we have the Code Enforcement Officer in the building on Friday for review of our temporary occupancy permit. The plan is to tackle one issue at a time with the Planning Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Jerry declared the meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Next Board Meeting: March 25, 2020

Elizabeth Fisher, Board Secretary