

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 21, 2009
MINUTES

Chair Laura Tracy called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at the James H. Bean School in Sidney. Directors Lawrence Brown, Glen Davis, Donna Doucette, Elwood Ellis, Cathy McKelway, Kerri Oliver, Deanne Pizzo, Rebecca Seel and Laura Tracy were present. Director Lora Downing was absent. A quorum was declared. Also present at all or parts of the meeting were Gwen Bacon, Lois Bowden, Daniel Bowers, Carol Browne, Paula Callan, Carl Gartley, Monique Gilbert, Mark Hatch, Linda Laughlin, Doreen Leighton, Cheryl Mercier, Constance Packard, Nancy Reynolds and Kelly Roderick.

There were no delegations to be heard.

Ellis/Doucette The minutes of the October 7, 2009 meeting be approved as amended to include a correction on page 6 to include the word “mail” as opposed to “main” in the sentence, “The office will screen all mail coming in for students and either mail it to the parent/guardian or have them pick up the mail at school.”

Motion carried unanimously.

The Superintendent’s Report was updated. Superintendent Smith congratulated Messalonskee High School vocalists Ryan Brown, Jacob Sutherland and Matt LaRou for being accepted to the All State Jazz Festival, scheduled for this January to be held at Bangor High School.

Superintendent Smith noted Ninette Fenlason, yearbook advisor, would be at the next Board meeting, scheduled for November 4, to take a photo of the Board for the Messalonskee High School yearbook.

Superintendent Smith noted that Regional School Unit No. 18 reported today that a student at Messalonskee High School is being treated for H1N1 influenza symptoms per the student’s physician. The student has been out of school since Friday. The student’s sibling is also being kept home at this time as a precautionary measure. The staff has spent a significant amount of time preparing for the upcoming flu clinics.

Linda Laughlin, Assistant Superintendent, noted that the School Unit distributed materials to parents, including a revised consent form for the vaccination clinics. Initially, the School Unit distributed a consent form for parents to complete for their children to obtain the seasonal flu vaccine. The revised consent form also included permission for students to obtain the H1N1 vaccine. There are three clinics scheduled for RSU No. 18: October 27, November 9 and November 17. For the October 27 clinic, it appears that MaineGeneral will potentially have both the seasonal and H1N1 vaccine available for students. The October 27 clinic will be held at Belgrade Central School in the morning, and at the James H. Bean School in the afternoon. Information regarding the clinics is posted on the RSU Web site, and notifications to parents will also be communicated through the School Messenger calling system. Ms. Laughlin noted that Dr. Diaz of MaineGeneral has been extremely helpful in keeping the School Unit informed

regarding vaccine availability. Kelly Roderick of Kennebec Valley Emergency Management Systems has been great in securing volunteers from the community to help with the clinics.

Superintendent Smith noted that the initial meeting regarding plans for the Cost Sharing Committee was held on October 13, 2009. Town managers are working on obtaining volunteers to serve on the Committee. The first Governance meeting of the 2009-10 school year is scheduled for October 29, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at Messalonskee Middle School. These meetings provide an opportunity for Board members and elected officials to come together to discuss issues of mutual interest. Discussion on the 29th will center on November ballot questions related to TABOR, consolidation and excise tax; the financial outlook for the RSU; school facilities and enrollment.

At the last Board meeting Superintendent Smith reported that the state revenue forecast is for a curtailment of approximately \$350,000 to \$400,000 for RSU No. 18 for the current school year. Reports as of today indicate that the curtailment could reach \$400,000 to \$500,000, with the possibility of that being doubled for next year's school subsidy. The School Unit will continue to monitor those discussions very closely.

Superintendent Smith reported that on October 16, 2009 he attended the Boys' Expo event. The objectives of the event were to provide students exposure to a college campus, to explore different careers and trades and to experience investigative learning. Mark Hatch, Principal of Messalonskee Middle School, noted that for a number of years 8th grade girls have had an opportunity to attend Future Focus at Colby College to explore different occupations and trades. There has not been anything in place for 8th grade boys that would provide an equally educational experience. This year a Committee has worked hard to put together the Boys' Expo, which was held at Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC). Sue Bradshaw and Kris Croteau, Messalonskee Middle School guidance counselors, with support from Hauns Bassett, Jobs for Maine's Graduates teacher at China Middle School, and Glen and Cal Davis worked with KVCC representatives to help set up the program. They invited several individuals who represent many different occupations and trades to serve on panels to discuss careers and activities. This was a very positive experience for the boys. A follow-up survey will be administered to the students to determine how they felt about the event. Glen Davis noted that Cal Davis was instrumental in setting up this event, and that the guidance counselors did a fantastic job.

Donna Doucette provided a report of the Mid-Maine Technical Center Governance Board meeting held on October 19, 2009. Messalonskee High School has 117 students attending the Tech Center this year, the highest enrollment to date. Every year the students from the Tech Center complete a project. This year they will renovate the Tech Center itself, adding eight new rooms, including a new culinary arts center and cafeteria, computer tech and CAD room, staff room, Board room and office complex. The project is coming along nicely, with students completing all the work.

Becky Seel provided a report of the Policy Committee meeting held on October 21, 2009. The Committee reviewed several policies, including policies relating to drug and alcohol testing, homeless students and tuition students. Most will be on the Board's agenda for the future, with some being referred to Drummond Woodsum for additional comments.

Mr. Smith apprised the Board of the resignation of Peter McLaughlin from his position as a special education aide at Messalonskee Middle School.

Information related to fall sports participation at the China Middle School, Messalonskee High School and Messalonskee Middle School was distributed to Board members. Should Board members have questions after reviewing the summary, Mr. Smith asked them to contact the athletic directors at the respective schools.

There were no policies up for Board review this evening.

The schedule for the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Assistant Superintendent of Schools was reviewed. Superintendent Smith noted that the RSU Board has not yet adopted a policy for the evaluation of the Superintendent. To put these in place prior to the evaluation timeframe would require that the Board rush putting together some very critical policies. Both the former MSAD 47 and China policies for the Superintendent's evaluation are very similar. The former MSAD 47 policy also has a performance-rating tool that may be useful in providing evaluators a standard for providing feedback. The tool also provides an opportunity for narrative as well. The recommendation would be that the RSU Board uses the former MSAD 47 evaluation policy and evaluation tool in order to complete this year's evaluation. In order to provide for a more comprehensive evaluation, the proposal is to offer a 360° (full circle) perspective of the Superintendent's performance. In addition to the Board's input, the proposal would include having additional RSU staff members provide evaluation input, including the assistant superintendent, building administrators, business manager, superintendent's administrative assistant and possibly others.

Davis/Ellis The Board adopt the Superintendent's evaluation timeline as presented, with the evaluation materials being distributed to Board members at the November 4 meeting, the Board meeting to discuss the evaluation on November 18, the Board Chairperson completing the evaluation by November 27, and the Board taking action on the contracts of the Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent at the December 2 meeting; and the Board adopt the process for the current school year as recommended, using the former MSAD 47 evaluation policy and evaluation tool, and incorporating a 360° (full circle) perspective of the Superintendent's performance, including evaluation input from the assistant superintendent, building administrators, business manager, superintendent's administrative assistant, faculty and support staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Smith noted that the RSU No. 18 Education Association submitted a “Notice of Intent to Negotiate Wages, Rates of Pay and Other Matters Requiring Appropriation of Money for the Initial Collective Bargaining Agreement”.

Glen Davis noted that Board members received a proposal for an after-school program to be housed at Belgrade Central School. Superintendent Smith noted that the School Unit is working on obtaining information related to the proposal, which will be presented at a future Board meeting.

Superintendent Smith noted that there would be a need for a workshop within the next three months to discuss school facilities and enrollment.

Doucette/Brown The meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

Time: 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary N. Smith
Superintendent of Schools

MEETINGS

Thursday, Friday, October 22-23, 2009 – 36th Annual Maine School Management Association Fall Conference – Maine School Management Association

Monday, October 26, 2009 – Mid-Maine Regional Adult and Community Education Advisory Board – 4:00 p.m. – Waterville Senior High School

Wednesday, October 28, 2009 – Messalonskee Middle School and Messalonskee High School Band Concert – 7:00 p.m. – J. Duke Albanese Performing Arts Center – Messalonskee High School

Thursday, October 29, 2009 – Governance Meeting – 5:30 p.m. – Messalonskee Middle School Cafeteria

Thursday, October 29, 2009 – Tri-M Induction Ceremony – 7:00 p.m. – J. Duke Albanese Performing Arts Center - Messalonskee High School

Wednesday, November 4, 2009 – Board Visioning Workshop – 5:30 p.m. – Central Office

Wednesday, November 4, 2009 – Regular Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – Central Office

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Thursday, November 5, 2009 – Williams Elementary School Grades 3 and 4 Concert – 6:30 p.m. – J. Duke Albanese Performing Arts Center - Messalonskee High School

Wednesday, November 18, 2009 – Special Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Central Office

Thursday, November 19, 2009 – Belgrade Central School Grades 3 and 4 Concert – 6:30 p.m. – Belgrade Central School