

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING  
STEARNS LIBRARY  
BOARD IN-PERSON; PUBLIC BY ZOOM  
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022  
4:30 PM**

Michelle Brundrett	Present
Kevin Gregory	Present
Erika Mackin	Present
Donald Raymond	Present
Warren Steward	Present
Dr. Joshua McNaughton, Superintendent	Present
Jillian Harper, Student Representative	Excused

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Warren Steward, Chairperson.

**II. Recognition of the Stearns Girl's Varsity Basketball Team**

The School Board recognized the Stearns Girls' Varsity Basketball Team for their hard work and accomplishments. They are the PVC Northern Maine champions and it was the first time they had reached the State finals in 27 years. They represented our town with good sportsmanship and integrity. The Board expressed their thanks and appreciation for their hard work. The coaches were recognized and the girls were each given a certificate from the School Board.

**III. Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

**IV. Public Comment**

Sandra Sullivan asked to have the chat enabled in order for the public to be able to participate through that method. The Superintendent stated that it was disabled because the Board has required the person's face to be viewed in order to address the Board and chat does not permit that. That is the reason chat was disabled. She doesn't feel that chat being disabled is very public-friendly.

Rebecca Dorobis stated that she doesn't know what the agenda topics are. She wants transparency in the agenda. She would like to keep Zoom in addition to in-person to help with participation. She would also like the time of meetings to be revisited. She would like to see the recordings posted, including Committee Meetings and would also like the Curriculum Committee approved. She would like to see all Committee minutes posted, as well.

Dustin Mackin stated he would like to see the Zoom recordings on YouTube. The Town has already started doing that and there is an open invitation from the Town Council to use their YouTube channel. He would like the Board to consider that.

Stephanie Jamieson stated she would like to see the recordings on YouTube, too. It eliminates a barrier for the public being able to participate. And would also like to see the Curriculum Committee put in place. She also reiterated that we are the only School Board in the area meeting at 4:30 and she would like to have that revisited. She had emailed the School Board and only received responses from 2 members.

Susan D'Alessandro wanted to echo all the comments and be counted as in full agreement to what has been said.

Alice Hartley stated she has been attending School Board Meetings for around 20 years. She has seen the time changed many times over the years. She did not see the attendance increase when the time was at 6:00 PM. She agreed with the comment made at a previous meeting that if there is something you want to speak about, you make an effort to be there. It is only 2 times a month, not a nightly occurrence.

Stephanie Jamieson stated she believes times have changed and there is more of a need to have the meeting times changed. She is hearing from others that they would like to come to the meetings and can't come. She missed an opportunity for public comment at the last meeting and the time change would have made a difference.

Dustin Mackin stated he thinks people are misconstruing the idea. It isn't about if people are actually showing up to every meeting. We are hearing people say it is an inconvenient time for the majority. We should hold them at an open and transparent time for everyone.

Susan D'Alessandro stated she thinks it is hard to figure out what is going on. The agendas are very limited and the public has no history. It is hard to participate without knowing what is going on.

## **V. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the School Board Meeting April 5 and April 8, 2022, barring any errors or omissions.

**Motioned by:** Donald Raymond

**Seconded by:** Kevin Gregory

### **Board Discussion:**

The vote for item XV on April 5, 2022, should be changed to 3 yes, 0 no and 2 Abs. That will be corrected.

Erika Mackin stated at the Budget Workshop she asked regarding the ideas presented, the Home Ec Teacher, Industrial Arts Teacher and AP/AD, if they were the only ideas presented and could other ideas be discussed with the carryover in the budget. She would like that listed in the minutes. That comment will be added to the April 8, 2022, minutes.

**Voted:** 5 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**VI. Payroll Warrant**

**Motion:** It was moved to direct the Superintendent of Schools to authorize payment by the Town Treasurer to each party listed herein, the sum set against each name contained in School Payroll Warrant #22-22 in the amount of \$158,213.38 on April 21, 2022 and MainePERS #22-10 in the amount of \$37,353.66 on April 11, 2022.

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory

**Seconded by:** Michelle Brundrett

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 5 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**VII. Payable Warrant**

**Motion:** It was moved to direct the Superintendent of Schools to authorize payment by the Town Treasurer to each party listed herein, the sum set against each name contained in School Payable Warrant #22-31 in the amount of \$32,927.36, #22-32 in the amount of \$100,901.01 and SHS#21 in the amount of \$10,000.00 on April 21, 2022.

**Motioned by:** Donald Raymond

**Seconded by:** Michelle Brundrett

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 5 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**VIII. To see if the Board will change May 13, 2022, to an early release.**

\*Note: Prom is on Saturday, May 14, 2022. Traditionally the day before has been an early release to allow the students time to decorate, but the calendar was approved without that designation.

**Motion:** To approve May 13, 2022 as a PreK-12 early release day.

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory

**Seconded by:** Donald Raymond

**Board Discussion:**

Region III students would attend Region as scheduled.

**Voted:** 5 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**IX. Discussion regarding in-person vs virtual School Board meetings**

Kevin Gregory stated we are trying to get back to normal, so he would like in-person. He also wouldn't mind virtual as well for the public. We should meet in the library if we anticipate a large crowd, because the conference room is too small.

Erika Mackin agreed we should move forward and get back to normal with in-person. She would also like to see Zoom continued for the public to participate.

Donald Raymond and Michelle Brundrett also agreed with both options.

**X. Discussion regarding adding School Board meeting Zoom recordings to YouTube**

Michelle Brundrett stated that if the Town will allow us to use their YouTube channel, then we should do it.

Erika Mackin stated the offer was made by the Town Manager so all the town meetings are in one place and available through the Town website. She thinks it is an awesome idea and it is done by many schools across the State. It is a great option for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Kevin Gregory asked what the cost would be. Also, we would need to be certain that executive sessions would not be recorded.

Warren Steward stated that the only complaint he has heard was that YouTube is world-wide vs KAT-TV, which is local.

Erika Mackin stated that our newspapers are world-wide, too.

The Superintendent stated that our school union was concerned about their classes being recorded and how it would be used. There may be some concern regarding this. Erika Mackin stated classrooms are not public and asked what is being discussed at a Board meeting that can't be heard by the public. The Superintendent stated it is about a comfort level knowing it will be on YouTube.

Erika Mackin asked to go back to IX and make a motion.

**Motion:** To move School Board Meetings to in-person with Zoom as an option for public participation.

**Motion by:** Erika Mackin                      **Seconded by:** Michelle Brundrett

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 4 – Yes              1 – No (Warren Steward)              0 - Abs

**Motion:** To add School Board and Committee Meetings that are Zoom recorded to the Town of Millinocket's YouTube channel.

**Motion by:** Erika Mackin              **Seconded by:** Michelle Brundrett

## **Board Discussion:**

Kevin Gregory asked if we need to notify people that they will be on video and do we need a release? The Superintendent stated we will need to have release forms if students are attending. Parents/Guardians complete forms annually for students. For the public, there is an expectation that it may be posted elsewhere if the Board decides to have the meetings posted on YouTube.

Dustin Mackin stated we are overlooking the fact that it isn't anything different than with Zoom. Anyone could request the Zoom recording and post it to YouTube as a public meeting.

Stephanie Jamieson stated to her knowledge there is no cost to YouTube.

**Voted:** 4 – Yes      1 – No (Warren Steward)      0 - Abs

## **XI. Discussion regarding adding a Curriculum Committee to the Board Committees**

Erika Mackin stated there is language in the Policy Book which allows the Board to research, evaluate, and approve curriculum. We don't have a committee that evaluates curriculum and she thinks there should be one so the Board can start having those discussion with staff.

Kevin Gregory stated we hire staff such as the Superintendent and Principal to select curriculum. As a Board member, he believes it is for the Board to approve curriculum, not to select it. It is based on the scores of our students and if curriculum should be changed, it comes from the Superintendent and Principals.

Erika Mackin stated it is in our Policy Book and it is done across the state and the country. The Board as a team with staff and administration should work together to make sure our students get the most up-to-date curriculum.

Donald Raymond stated, as a former teacher, he picked his own curriculum and the Board supplied and approved the curriculum. He would have been concerned if someone who didn't know his curriculum would have tried to change it. If the Board would like to research it, then they have the right to do that by policy. The Board did not select his curriculum.

Erika Mackin stated it is a part of what the Board does and being aware of the needs of the staff, especially during Budget Workshops, would be helpful to decide what to do with the funds. If we don't meet and talk about it, how can we help?

Kevin Gregory stated we are getting too much into micro-managing. We are here to make sure the policies are being followed. It seems we are starting to nitpick at everything that is done at these schools. We have our say when the curriculum comes before us. This is micro-managing.

Michelle Brundrett asked for clarification. We have the Building and Grounds Committee and Technology Committee. Would the Curriculum Committee also come before the School Board with recommendations?

The Superintendent stated that administration and educators make curriculum decisions based on testing and assessments. Those are the driving factors with staff, such as with iReady and other pieces. It is done at the ground level. We then bring it before the School Board to adopt curriculum.

Erika Mackin stated that if the Board doesn't know all the "grunt work" and evaluations that go into those decision, how can a decision be made? We are making a curriculum selection based on an agenda item; it is a blind decision.

Donald Raymond stated the "grunt work" is done at the teacher and administrative level.

Warren Steward shared his history with former Superintendents. Before any new curriculum was purchased, it was presented to the Board with updates regarding the curriculum. It wasn't a blind vote. We knew about the curriculum they were trying before purchase. We knew from staff and administration what was happening.

Erika Mackin said she wanted to go on record that she thinks the Curriculum Committee is needed and if we want to have forward momentum for our school district, this is what we should do.

Rebecca Dorobis stated it would be comforting not to just have the curriculum brought to the Board. The public could look at Committee minutes to know what is being considered.

No motion was made.

The Board called a recess while the presentation was being set up.

## **XII. MSBA Presentation for School Board Member Training**

Steven Bailey, Executive Director from the Maine School Board Association, made a presentation to the School Board. The purpose of the presentation was to review Maine School Board Statues, develop the Board as a team, enhance Board member learning and establish a strong collective understanding of roles and responsibilities.

## **XIII. To see if the Board will enter into Executive Session 1 MRSA § 405(6)(D) labor contract negotiations**

**Motion:** To enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(D) labor contract negotiations

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory

**Seconded by:** Donald Raymond

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 5 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**Time In:** 6:38 PM      **Time Out:** 6:43 PM

**Result of executive session:**

**Motion:** To approve Louis DiFrederico's Facility Director contract as presented

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory

**Seconded by:** Donald Raymond

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 5 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**XIV. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

**Motion by:** Donald Raymond

**Seconded by:** Erika Mackin

**Voted:** 5 – Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua McNaughton, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

May 3, 2022  
May 17, 2022  
May 31, 2022  
June 14, 2022