

MILLINOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
STEARNS JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016
4:00 PM

Jeffrey Gordon	Present
Kevin Gregory	Present
Michael Jewers, Chair	Present
Margaret Manzo	Excused
Warren Steward	Present
Francis Boynton, Superintendent	Present
Christopher Brown, Student Representative	Excused

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Michael B. Jewers, Chairperson.

II. Adjustments to the Agenda

IXa. To see if the Board will approve an Erate proposal through OTT Communications.

III. Public Comment

Town Councilor Paul Sannicandro distributed information to the Board on Rural Aspirations Project as an opportunity to bridge the gap with youth in our area regarding our community's heritage and economy through educational cooperatives.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the School Board Meetings March 3, March 8, and March 22, 2016, barring any errors or omissions.

Motion by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Jeffrey Gordon

Board Discussion:

None

Vote: 4 – Yes 0 – No 0 – Abs

V. 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 #16-21 in the amount of \$126,422.01 on April 7, 2016.

Motioned by: Jeffrey Gordon **Seconded by:** Warren Steward

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VI. 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 #16-32 in the amount of \$131,482.88 on April 7, 2016.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Jeffrey Gordon

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 4 – Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VII. To see if the Board will appoint Deborah Levesque as Acting Superintendent while the Superintendent is in China.

Motion: To appoint Deborah Levesque as Acting Superintendent during Superintendent Francis Boynton’s trip to China April 9 – 21, 2016.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Jeffrey Gordon

Board Discussion:

The Superintendent will still be in contact daily during his absence.

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VIII. To see if the Board will approve a \$.10 increase in school lunches beginning the 2016-2017 school year.

Motion: To increase the 2016-2017 school lunch prices by \$.10.

Motioned by: Jeffrey Gordon **Seconded by:** Warren Steward

Board Discussion:

This is state mandated.

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

IX. To see if the Board will approve the paper bid for the 2016-2017 school year.

Motion: To award the 2016-2017 paper bid to Contract Paper, Inc. for \$4,581.

Motioned by: Jeffrey Gordon **Seconded by:** Warren Steward

Board Discussion:

Discussion regarding approving the local bid due to the small difference in price, and the wisdom of staying with the low bidder for budget purposes. The Superintendent recommended the lowest bid, since they have been our provider for many years, even though they are not local, plus we know the paper quality works with our copiers.

Voted: 3 - Yes 1 – No (Kevin Gregory) 0 - Abs

IXa. To see if the Board will approve an Erate proposal through OTT Communications.

Motion: To approve the Erate proposal through OTT Communications as presented.

Motioned by: Jeffrey Gordon **Seconded by:** Warren Steward

Board Discussion:

This will be an upgrade to Granite Street School, which is covered by Erate at 80%. The Superintendent will approach the Town Council about covering the remaining \$4,200 through the capital improvement fund the auditor discussed.

Discussion of increasing the support from 3 years to 5 years was discussed.

Motion was rescinded by Jeffrey Gordon, and the second was rescinded by Warren Steward.

Motion: To approve the Erate proposal through OTT Communications with 5 year support and with support of the Town Council.

Motioned by: Jeffrey Gordon **Seconded by:** Warren Steward

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

X. Student Representative Report

Student Representative Chris Brown reported:

No report

XI. Administrative Reports

Pre-K – 12 Principal Deborah Levesque reported:

Congratulations to the Stearns Junior High Show Choir and the United Harmony Show Choir who earned awards at the Maine State Jazz Festival held at Stearns last weekend. Our Junior High group earned 2nd place in their division and the high school students took first place. Once again Sandy Hartley was awarded top choreography awards for both groups and Liza Brown received an award for her solo. We are certainly blessed with amazing talent in our community...both students and directors.

I had the pleasure of attending the Maine Principal's Association annual luncheon that recognizes one high school senior from each school in Maine. Jessica Girska was selected to represent Stearns this year. The criteria include academics, service to school, and citizenship. Jessica is a strong student academically, has participated in sports throughout her years in school, and has been her class president. She is involved in other sport activities with the youth in the community. She was eligible to win one of ten \$1000 scholarships but unfortunately didn't win. It is a wonderful experience to spend time with all of the high-achieving students across the state.

MEA testing is continuing at Granite Street but is mostly finished at the Junior High. Students are being assessed in literacy and math. The technology piece of the testing is much smoother this year and students are speaking more positively about the process. This should be completed by April 15.

Students will be completing teacher surveys before April 15. Each year as part of the evaluation process, students are asked questions about their teachers and classroom experiences. The categories include: caring, challenging, control, clarifying, captivating, conferring, and consolidating. After this year's survey, the teachers will have 4 years of data to compare. Many teachers use this information to help develop their professional goals.

Juniors will be completing the SAT on Tuesday April 12. This will again be used as the school's measure of progress.

Granite Street is hosting a Buy One Get One Free book fair from now until April 14. We will have a Family Game Night on Thursday April 7.

Board Discussion:

The 5th grade laptops were not reliable for MEA testing. The computer lab was used.

Comments were given regarding the Jazz Festival last weekend. It's heartwarming to see how the students are so supportive of each other and cheer for other groups. Many positive comments were given regarding our facility and our Performing Arts Program.

Assistant Principal/AD Fredy Lazo reported:

The spring season is underway. Both the Softball and the Baseball teams have a roster of 20 players. Due to the large numbers, I am in the process of scheduling some JV opponents for both teams. We will have a large group of kids that will not get much playing time in the Varsity games. These JV games will help supplement their skills and will allow them to stay invested in the whole season.

Practice are going great and both teams are working hard to prepare for their first opponents. This Saturday April 9th, both teams will have a play day at Bucksport. They will face Mt. View, Old Town, and Bucksport throughout the day. See attach doc. For more details.

Board Discussion:

Clarification was given about transportation with Lee for cooperative sports. The parents for soccer are committed to transporting the students. They are also looking at options of renting a bus through Bragdon's. Lee has minivans available for use, so they will transport their students for football.

Facilities Director Louie DiFrederico reported:**Board Discussion:**

Maintenance issues between the two buildings are being worked on.

The bricks at the front entryway rise and fall with the weather, but they may need maintenance this year.

Our oil tanks will have to be topped off soon to stay within the 10% contracted amount for this school year.

A School Board Member was at a workshop in Caribou with other educators. There were great comments made about our facility from those who attended the Jazz Festival and the custodial staff should be commended.

XII. Superintendent's Report

Report of time:

Completed through June 30, 2015 with scheduled workshops 260/210

Work days July 1, 2015 to present: 191/210

Vacation days remaining: 20/20

Sick Days remaining: 14.5/20

I am very pleased with the efforts of our students and staff this weekend at the state Jazz and Show Choir performances. I have enjoyed working with them as well.

I will be either missing or working part time on the following dates, May 4, 17, 18 and June 1 due to medical procedures. Since the procedures are taking place in Lewiston, it will require some travel time.

We have reached the end of the third quarter of the school year. It continues to be both eventful and challenging. Overall we have made good progress this year both in the academic and social aspects of the school.

We are well involved in the budget process at this point. I expect to have some concrete figures by the middle of May. Friday, we received the Anthem increase and rates, and although the increase is less than the 9% max rate, the rate of 7.5% will have an impact on the budget projections. State funding has increased by about \$30,000, a positive, which when added to the \$140,000 increase over last year, will also be a positive.

I hope within the month of April to have the final figures from the Pre-Kindergarten Grant. This also will impact the final budget. I am receiving positive feedback from the grant administrators, and will work diligently to retain a significant grant sum.

I will travel to China from April 9 through April 21. The purpose of this trip is primarily recruiting students for both the programs in China and to recruit students to come to Millinocket for an academic year. When I return, I will be able to project the estimated revenue from these actions. As you know the economy will be a factor in these situations. The flight cost is under \$1,500 this time for the round trip. There may be some hotel and transportation costs in China, which will add some to this figure. These costs are covered by the travel funds we received last fall from the schools in China.

I respectfully remind the Board and the public that the Legislature is still in session. I am aware of several bills in this session which could have either a positive or a negative impact on the budget as we prepare to finalize. The potential impact is not always predictable, but I will endeavor to be as accurate as I can in the budget preparation.

I would like to thank our Students, Staff, and School Board for all of the hard work that has been accomplished this year. It is rewarding to see the school operation in full function, and to see the commitment that most have in the pursuit of excellence.

Board Discussion:

There is a rumor that schools who want to send their students for Show Choir will be paying \$500 per student, which isn't true. The cost is \$150, and the Superintendent will relay that information through Matt Waite, who will be attending an area School Board Meeting tomorrow night.

There is also a rumor that we are not going to continue with the Pre-K program next year, which is also not true. We will be employing 2 teachers and 3 ed techs, as well as having CDS provide services. The grant is intact. The director of the grant stated we are a positive model for other schools, since we include all students in the program, not just Head Start students.

5:00 PM

XIII. To see if the Board will enter into executive session MRSA § 405(6)(B) Student Discipline

Motion: To enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(B) Student Discipline

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Jeffrey Gordon

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

Time In: 5:04 PM **Time Out:** 5:42 PM

Result of executive session:

No action as result of executive session.

5:30 PM

XIV. To see if the Board will enter into executive session MRSA § 405(6)(B) Student Discipline

Motion: To enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(B) Student Discipline

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Warrant Steward

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

Time In: 5:43 PM **Time Out:** 5:48 PM

Result of executive session:

No action as result of executive session.

6:00 PM

XV. To see if the Board will enter into executive session MRSA § 405(6)(B) Student Discipline

Motion: To enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(B) Student Discipline

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Warren Steward

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

Time In: 5:56 PM **Time Out:** 6:15 PM

Result of executive session:

Motion: To expel Student C until the student approaches the Superintendent for re-entry.

Motion by: Jeffrey Gordon **Seconded by:** Warren Steward

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

XVI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Motion by: Jeffrey Gordon **Seconded by:** Warren Steward

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, April 19 – No Meeting – warrants will be signed at Central Office

Tuesday, April 26 – Special Meeting – Student Discipline, 4:00 PM in the Stearns Junior-Senior High School library

Tuesday, May 3– Regular Meeting at 4:00 PM in the Stearns Junior-Senior High School library

Tuesday, May 17– Warrant Meeting at 4:00 PM in the Stearns Junior-Senior High School library

Tuesday, May 31– Warrant Meeting at 4:00 PM in the Stearns Junior-Senior High School library

Respectfully submitted,

Francis N. Boynton
Superintendent of Schools