

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD IN-PERSON; PUBLIC BY ZOOM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021
6:00 PM**

Michelle Brundrett	Present
Kevin Gregory	Present
Peter Jamieson	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 6:00 PM by Peter Jamieson, Chairperson.

II. Adjustments to the Agenda

Move VII Covid Update to III.

Table executive session XI.

III. COVID Update

The Superintendent relayed that we are switching to virtual instruction December 13 – 22, which is the first time this year. He updated the Board regarding student cases throughout the state. We have confirmed positive cases with students and staff – the majority with students. We have 116 people who have tested positive or are in quarantine as of today.

We have a 4 step process. Mrs. Carr monitors the COVID situation 7 days per week. The Superintendent and Mrs. Carr assessed the current information in conjunction with the Town Health Officer and Millinocket Regional Hospital. They also discussed the information with the DOE and Maine CDC. All of these groups recommended switching to virtual instruction based on the conditions in our community. The last step was to make the decision to go virtual.

Ms. Peavey and Mr. Cullen have been working diligently to reschedule basketball games. We have also had to postpone the dance recital and Christmas con certs. We should be open in time for the upcoming cheering competition.

The Binax test is available on the 13th, 15th, 17th, 20th & 22nd for students to be tested at Stearns or Granite Street. They only need to pull their car up to the main entrance and a staff member will come out to test. We have had 13 individuals use it to date and this has allowed us to identify some additional cases.

The Maine CDC in conjunction with DHHS are looking at a different approach to the Standard Operating Procedure. Currently, schools are responsible for that decision. Discussions are ongoing and we expect to hear something early in January as to changes for our school. The Stakeholders group will meet when we get the information.

We will continue to monitor the situation over Christmas break to see if we can safely return on January 3. The Principals will report what virtual instruction looks like at their school during their monthly report.

The Superintendent realizes it is a difficult situation for everyone, but he hopes everyone understands we have gone virtual for the safety of our students and staff.

IV. Public Comment

Stephanie Jamieson stated she has a tremendous amount of respect for the decision that had to be made and that the decision had to be made so quickly. We are a strong community and we can get through this. Thank you for keeping our students and staff safe.

Erica Mackin thanked everyone for the time they have put into virtual learning, especially the teachers and thanks to the Board and Superintendent for keeping our kids safe. She proposed that the Board and Superintendent discuss pool testing. She would also like to see a COVID discussion on every agenda going forward. She asked if in the future a letter or message can go out with Facebook announcements to give further information.

Mallorrie Nadeau said she appreciates everyone coming together and doing the best they can. She recognizes going virtual causes instability, including in her home. Maybe we can also think about a place for students to go for stability.

Kevin Gregory was welcomed back to the School Board as an appointment by the Town Council. His experience and history with the School Board is very important.

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the School Board Meeting November 30, 2021, barring any errors or omissions.

Motioned by: Warren Steward

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 1 – Abs (Kevin Gregory)

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 #22-13 in the amount of \$158,653.31 on December 16, 2021, and MainePERS #22-6 in the amount of \$38,268.70 on December 6, 2021.

Motioned by: Michelle Brundrett **Seconded by:** Warren Steward

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 #22-18 in the amount of \$30,485.56 and #22-19 in the amount of \$193,902.40 on December 16, 2021.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Donald Raymond

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VIII. Student Representative Report

Jillian Harper reported:

None

IX. Administrative Reports

Alicia Campbell, Food Service Manager, reported:

The staff in the cafeteria have been very busy providing meals to students in school and students who have had to quarantine. We have been serving around 230 breakfasts and 270 lunches per day between Granite Street and Stearns. Although we have faced some challenges this school year, everyone is doing their best and in many cases going above and beyond.

Cody Clinton, IT Coordinator, reported:

None

Louie DiFrederico, Facilities Manager, reported:

None

Sam Hiscoe, PreK-5 Principal, reported:

PTO – A few successful fundraisers to help us get closer to their goal for purchasing the Gaga Ball pit for the playground. A cheesecake raffle raised over \$250. A marathon runner who organized a recovery run and encouraged participants to donate to the PTO and that raised \$175. The Gaga Ball Pit costs roughly \$2,000 and the PTO has currently raised close to \$1,435.

The PTO is still having monthly meetings via Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30. The Zoom link is on our Facebook page for anyone who wants to attend.

The PTO purchased crayons for Mrs. Reece's bags she sent home over Thanksgiving break and the gingerbread house kits for the classrooms.

The PTO helped organize the kid's fun run for the marathon this year. They got the kids registered and ready to race. They worked hard to get the wood medals made so the kids all had something to celebrate their race. They came out awesome and the kids had a blast despite the cold. We are thankful for all the PTO has donated and done for our students and staff.

Unified Performing Arts – This school year, the Unified Performing Arts at Granite Street is offering all students in grades 3-5 who want to be able to participate in not only bucket band, but also guitar club and hand chime groups. We started the first week of December and the groups will continue through the end of the year. This will allow rolling participation. Students who may not be able to participate now because they may have a sport conflict are able to join later.

At this time, students participating in guitar club need to have their own guitars. Jennifer Bissonnette was able to borrow a few guitars from the high school to allow a few more students to participate. She has been using Facebook to request guitar donations. Already, two people have volunteered to donate a guitar their child no longer uses.

In discussion with the district music teachers, we hope to involve these students in concerts throughout the year. We will hopefully have a concert in February or March, as well as one in the spring. We are beyond thankful for Jennifer Bissonnette's dedication to the after-school music programs.

Newspaper – The Granite Street Newspaper Club is a chance for 4th and 5th grade students to learn, and do more writing in hopefully a fun and exciting way. We plan on meeting once a week, Thursdays from 2:15 to 3:00 in the conference room at Granite Street, work on stories and get them published as "Granite Street Growlings" in the *Katahdin Region News*. Shelley Farrington is leading this project and hopes students

learn to write some fun stories, learn about the newspaper business and find some interesting things about the school and staff and let the public know what's happening at Granite!

Nurse's Report – As you are aware we have the BiNax Now testing for Covid-19. Katie Carr and Courtney Legassey have been doing a tremendous job administering these tests and contact tracing when we have been notified of positive test results. With our switch to virtual our medical staff is offering a Covid Testing Clinic Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8-10 A.M. – Leah Malcolm was a huge help to Monday morning administering tests. We are thankful for Katie and Courtney's continued hard work and dedication to our students and staff.

Covid Clinic – Friday, December 10, 2021 was our second shot for the Covid Clinic for our students. Our school partnered with MRH to make this a successful event. A big thank you to Katie Carr, Courtney LeGassey, Staff from MRH, Bruce Bragdon, and Tom Malcolm for making this event possible and safe.

Library – Book Fair: The Book Fair was a huge success. Despite our Covid restrictions to the public, limiting hours, and not having a Family Night, we made over \$5000 in one week. After purchasing some new books for the library, we were given a check for around \$1000 to use for future events. We also raised \$175 for All for Books, which we used to make sure every student left the book fair with a book and every teacher got a book from their wish list. Scholastic will match what we made and send to one of their charities in our name. I look forward to the Spring book fair, which I hope will be 2 weeks long. We are thankful for Mrs. Reece's dedication to the book fair and Dawn Robbins for showing up every day to volunteer her time to work in the book fair. Also, a huge thank you to Rose Raymond for helping us with set up and giving us the run through on how it has gone in the past.

Harry Potter Book Club: The HP book club meets every Tuesday from 2:15-3:00 for 4th and 5th graders. We read around 2 chapters and have an open discussion afterwards. We have around 10 students. The students are doing amazing with it and it is a great group.

Some Exciting Things Happening – We have a staff appreciation cart that was built by Miss DeSilva and Mrs. Wheaton. This cart is in the shape and style of an "Ice Cream Truck" we put snacks and drinks on it and roll it through on random Fridays to show appreciation for our staff. We have done it once and plan to do it every other week on a Friday.

Thanksgiving – Our First and Second Grade students were able to celebrate Thanksgiving together in the gym with turkeys being donated by the community and having a few community members come in and serve the students. This was an exciting opportunity for Staff and Students. We are thankful for the efforts put forth by Mrs. Petrin, Mrs. Waite, Mrs. Michaud and Mrs. Osborne to make this happen.

Ice Cream Celebration – We had an ice cream celebration with our students to congratulate them on their hard work and making it through the first trimester. The ice cream was donated by our local Hannaford. Donation – On Monday, December 13, 2021 our local Hannaford sent us a donation of \$1,000.

Instructional Remote Learning Practices -

- Teachers will teach daily and take attendance at each virtual session. If a student cannot attend a live virtual lesson, they can still make attendance by doing their daily work.
- The teachers are required to do their Zooms at the times they select and report out to parents.
- If you have a young child that is not doing virtual learning due to the inability to navigate an online platform, there will be a packet pick up once a week. The teacher will contact you to make you aware of the times.
- Teachers will include a schedule for families with expectations each week. The schedule will be some online instruction time and some time to work independently on guided practice or independent work. Virtual Learning time includes Lessons, practices, and some form of assessment/check.
- Students will have live learning every day. The amount of time will be developmentally appropriate based on the age of students. At Granite Street School we have set this time to be up to 30-45 minutes for math and up to 30-45 minutes for ELA. This is subject to change depending on the homeroom teacher's preference and grade level. We understand that younger kids will have a difficult time sitting in front of a computer screen for any length of time. At this moment we are trying our best to provide an appropriate education to all of our students. Each teacher is partnered with a Title I or Ed Tech support staff to offer breakout groups during live sessions to provide equitable support for students.
- Ed techs and Title I staff will be providing support in sessions for students and/or classrooms that might need support. Your child may receive a separate email from Title I staff and Ed Techs asking if they would like extra support.
- Regarding specials... Art, Music, Computer, Library, and Gym classes – Teachers will upload activities on their specific canvas page. Students will navigate to the specials canvas page and complete the activity. If a parent wants to reach out to a specials teacher to zoom with their child, they should communicate with the teacher. Please note, Specials Teachers may not be able to accommodate every parent and student with individualized zoom times. Specials teachers have designated days and times to zoom with the 4th and 5th grade classes.
- The schedule will be similar to face-to-face. Monday through Friday the school day for students in grades K-5 will run 7:45 to 2:15. Please keep in mind these are the hours staff will be available for contact, but not be required to be on live zoom. Staff will make a schedule of when they are doing live zoom lessons.

Beth Peavey, 6-12 Principal/Athletic Director reported:

Virtual learning is now underway at Stearns Jr/Sr High School. Teachers are using Canvas to provide instructional materials and supplements. They are conducting lessons via zoom, providing time for practice of instruction, and checking for understanding/administering assessments.

Teachers are available for students during their regularly scheduled classes, as well as by email. Teachers are also offering additional zoom meetings for students who may need additional support or clarification.

In conjunction, our support staff are working closely with teachers to supply small group or individualized support for instruction and practice.

I would like to take this time to thank our staff for all of their hard work, our parents who are supporting this period of virtual instruction and ensuring that their students are participating, and our students for remaining engaged in their learning.

X. Superintendent's Report

The School Board tasked the Superintendent to explore career paths so we looked into joining with the Gear-Up Grant. Unfortunately, the program in this area did not get funded. He was invited to attend a 2-day workshop focusing on Jobs for Maine Grads and learning opportunities for students to work and get high school credit for their work. We are looking to see if JFMG could have a place in our school and we are going to look more in-depth at learning opportunities. The negative is our location, which is not within driving distance to many employers.

Kevin Gregory asked how far we are in the discussion with Region III to allow students to get credit for English and Math. The Superintendent stated we are looking to see if Region can meet the requirements of the school. Also, Mr. Gregory asked about the up and down changes in enrollment. The Superintendent stated it is families moving in and out of the region, as well as families who decide to homeschool their students due to COVID. Mr. Gregory asked about how the school days count for students who have COVID. The State is back to requiring 175 student days. If a student is quarantined and working on school work, it counts as an instruction day.

Before going into executive session, Peter Jamieson stated how much he appreciates Dr. McNaughton and the School Board. He encouraged them to continue to look at the big picture. He stated he came onto the Board angry and couldn't help with anything until his attitude changed. He feels the Board made some good progress and asked the Board to please continue in that progress. Before the next meeting, he will have resigned fully from the Board as he takes on the new position as Millinocket Town Manager.

XI. To see if the Board will enter into Executive Session 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A) information in confidential record

Tabled

XII. To see if the Board will enter into Executive Session 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A) evaluation of the Superintendent

Motion: To enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(D) evaluation of the Superintendent

Motioned by: Donald Raymond

Seconded by: Michelle Brundrett

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

Time In: 6:54 PM **Time Out:** 8:21 PM

Result of executive session: To offer Joshua McNaughton a 2 year contract with an option for a 3rd year. Benefits to be determined. The School Board reviewed the Superintendent's evaluation and noted exceptional performance.

Motioned by: Peter Jamieson

Seconded by: Michelle Brundrett

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Motion by: Donald Raymond

Seconded by: Michelle Brundrett

Voted: 5 – Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

February 8, 2022

February 22, 2022

March 8, 2022

March 22, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua McNaughton, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools