

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
BOARD IN-PERSON; PUBLIC BY ZOOM  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022  
6:00 PM**

Michelle Brundrett	Present
Kevin Gregory	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 Warren Steward, Chairperson.

**II. Election of Vice Chair**

**Nomination of Board Vice-Chair:**

<u>Names:</u>	<u>Nominated By:</u>
Donald Raymond	Kevin Gregory

**Motion:** To cease nominations for Board Vice-Chair.

**Motioned By:** Kevin Gregory      **Seconded:** Michelle Brundrett

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 3 - Yes      0 - No      1 - Abs (Donald Raymond)

**Motion:** To elect Donald Raymond as Board Vice Chair

**Motioned By:** Kevin Gregory      **Seconded:** Michelle Brundrett

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 3 - Yes      0 - No      1 - Abs (Donald Raymond)

**III. Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

**IV. Public Comment**

None

**V. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the School Board Meeting December 14, 2021 and January 7, 2022, barring any errors or omissions.

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory

**Seconded by:** Michelle Brundrett

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 4 - 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 #22-15 in the amount of \$145,933.49 on January 13, 2022.

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory

**Seconded by:** Donald Raymond

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 4 - 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 #22-21 in the amount of \$132,958.47 on January 13, 2022.

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory

**Seconded by:** Michelle Brundrett

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 4 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

## VIII. Student Representative Report

None

## IX. Administrative Reports

### **Alicia Campbell, Food Service Manager, reported:**

The month of December was different in the cafeteria. When school went virtual December 13th, the number of meals being served was considerably reduced in comparison to in-person learning. We had two staff members working in the kitchen at Stearns to continue providing meals. These meals went to KidsPeace staff and students in addition to several Stearns students who wanted meals during virtual learning. Three staff members worked at Granite Street School providing meals for students during virtual learning. They also did some deep cleaning in the cafeteria. Approximately 50 meals per day went to students that were learning from home.

### **Cody Clinton, IT Coordinator, reported:**

Since being finalized and approved I have been working on moving forward with the projects that were proposed and funded through the ESSR 3 grant. So far only a few items have been ordered and shipping delays have been an issue with the current global situation.

Many of the projects proposed and approved are having to be re-quoted since the response time from quote to order was longer than expected due to the turnaround time of the ESSR 3 application. The WASP barcode inventory management database and system has been ordered and is being shipped as I type this. This is a key part of establishing the inventory management system for any and all equipment across the district. This has been a major item on the IT / Technology Coordinator wish list since I took over the department and learned that there was very minimal tracking of technology assets. This system will allow us to label and assign every piece of equipment owned by the school to help us better track what we have and where it is. As a bonus, this system will also be available to Louis and his team for inventory tracking anything he might need or want to.

The Samsung Tablet exchange is in place, and I will be packing up the Samsung tablets over the next two weeks to get them shipped off to the company buying them so we can allocate those funds toward the WiFi HotSpots we have purchased thus far, and to purchase the additional WiFi HotSpots as planned for the district.

The updated server project has been put on hold as the standing rack cabinets have to be installed into their permanent places, which will require an extended down time for the internet and server systems. This project will be worked on in conjunction with Louis to be completed over the summer most likely. In the meantime I am working on a comprehensive wiring diagram of all the network switches, servers and firewall hardware to aid in future troubleshooting and to be able to move the equipment to its new secure cabinet. This diagram is another major project that should have been in place from when this equipment was initially installed, but has not been done. The cabling throughout the building will need to be identified, individually labeled, and cataloged on the master

diagram. This will be an ongoing project throughout the year, but the server room connections will be completed first which will allow for the movement of the equipment.

Daily reports and system diagnostics have been implemented since this past August. I have been running daily diagnostic reports of the WiFi systems at both Campuses, and have had the opportunity to prevent a couple of different outages. The new infrastructure and WiFi network equipment, Firewalls, and monitoring assets have been working quite well and are allowing me to ensure and maintain our systems. Both campuses have experienced a major reduction in Internet outages and system failures over previous years, and the projects ahead of us are going to put us even further ahead in updating our systems.

As always I remain available on call 24/7 to deal with any issues as needed, and am alerted via email any time our equipment loses connection. Through updated equipment, well researched systems, training and active alerts and monitoring I have updated our school districts systems and improved overall connectivity and functionality for our teachers and students. This is a process that is constantly evolving, and I am working on remaining current on industry standards and common best practices.

**Louie DiFrederico, Facilities Manager, reported:**

Currently completing the ESSER 1 and 2 projects. We installed 3 generators that will power the facilities completely; 2 are at Stearns and 1 is at Granite Street. We are a Red Cross designated area in case of an emergency.

We have just completed the heating system upgrades at both buildings. We put in new boilers in 2011 and did half of the unit heaters at that time. With this new grant money, we were able to replace the remaining heat units and all the control systems. We have healthier classroom air quality based on the upgrades. We are also able to use less fuel.

He has done some roof repairs, because we weren't able to get a vendor to perform the repairs. We have purchased 8 new fountains for the buildings and they are installed. They also have filtered, touchless bottle fill. The fire panel at Granite has been upgraded. We have purchased some new snow removal equipment, including a sander, salter and a loader. It takes some of the burden off the town and it allows us to stay on top of things.

We used a new system to do the gym floor this year. It drastically reduced the time and manpower to do the floor. We also did work to get the athletic fields in better shape. They have taken a back seat in recent years due to funding.

He will report on the ESSER 3 projects in the upcoming months.

**Sam Hiscoe, PreK-5 Principal, reported:**

**PTO**

- The PTO has recently contacted me about ways they can help our staff have a little pick-me-up during the workdays. They have some great ideas they are looking to implement in the near future.

- The PTO is sending postcards to teachers to survey how they can best help our staff.
- The PTO was chosen as one of the 17 nonprofits to receive part of a \$13,000 donation from the Millinocket Marathon.

### **MobyMax**

- Our special education classroom teachers and Title I room have received free subscriptions to Moby Max for the remainder of the academic school year.
- Upon using this free subscription, each classroom using it would receive a free tablet from MobyMax.
- MobyMax is an online game centered educational program used to fill in the gaps students have lost either because of the pandemic, learning disabilities or because they struggle with a certain subject area.

### **Virtual Learning (12/13 - 12/22)**

- Staff reported they had great attendance during virtual learning.
- Every teacher was paired with a support staff so they could provide break out groups and tutoring services daily.
- I have heard positive feedback from both staff and parents.
- I want to thank everyone that was involved in making virtual learning as successful as it could be. Our kitchen staff still provided meals to students who chose to receive them. We had staff come in and deliver packets, computers, meals and other things to the homes of students. We are truly fortunate for the village we have ensuring our students receive a proper education in the midst of a global pandemic.

### **Unified Arts Program**

- Grades 3-5 are still participating in Bucket Band, Guitar Club and Chime Group after school activities.
- This program is led by Jennifer Bissonnette. She is doing a fabulous job with all the kids and the kids are enjoying it.

### **Nurse Report**

- As always, Katie and Courtney have been rigorously working to keep our staff and students as safe as possible. We are beyond thankful for their efforts in everything they do on a daily basis.
- Katie is working with Todd Phillips at MRH to provide another 5–11-year-old Covid Vaccine Clinic.

### **Music**

- Mr. Remillard reported that he is working on:
- Rhythm notation as well as keeping a beat while singing
- BoomWhackers to understand notes and rhythm as well. Each student is assigned a boomwhacker and plays their note by hitting the boomwhacker against their palm.
- Rhythm and movement. Walking in a circle to different songs speed. Also we have been changing the way we march depending on the style of the song. If it is staccato we stomp. If it is legato we glide etc etc.
- We spent much of the fall preparing for the holiday concert. Students prepared 12 songs.
- Due to going remote we were unable to have our Christmas Concert. Instead we are going to focus our efforts on having a spring concert.

- Recorders have been ordered and received for grades 3, 4 AND 5. We will begin learning recorder in the next couple of weeks.
- Band and string lessons have been happening for a few weeks. This happens before school starts.

### **Art**

- Mrs. Campbell reported that she is working on:
- Prior to going virtual, students in Pre-K -2 were focusing on shapes & how shapes are the foundations for all artworks. Students learned/reviewed how shapes are broken down into geometric vs. organic shapes. We discussed how the world we experience everyday has a variety of geometric & organic shapes & connected that back to our artmaking & using both to make effective artworks. Students did a variety of projects such as directed drawings, taking something geometric & drawing it using only organic shapes & vice versa, & so on. Being able to analyze objects into basic shapes & build drawings/artworks from those is such an essential skill we often revisit these concepts multiple times during the year.
- Grades 3-5 were working on snowflake designs, both 2D & 3D, for a collaborative display with the Millinocket Memorial Library. The Millinocket Library approached me at the start of the year about displaying student work & partnering for various seasonal displays. I'm very happy to be getting back into more community outreach given our Covid situation over the past few years. It really has put a damper on a lot of the community projects.
- Currently all grades Pre-K - 5 are working on a Pop Art unit. We just started this unit this week. All students will be creating heart artworks in the style of Pop Art. Pre-K - 2 will focus on the bigger, basic concepts of Pop Art such as use of vibrant colors & identifiable symbols, items, etc. such as a heart. Grades 3-5 will do the same while also adding in art analysis & art history connections by looking at the artworks of Pop Artists Jim Dine, Romero Britto, & J. Goldcrown.

### **Gym**

- Mrs. Leach has been teaching students the game over Cornhole.
- Students are having the best time while learning this game. Mrs. Leach is blasting KidzBop music and students have begun a Cornhole tournament within their classrooms.
- Cornhole not only involves physical education movements, but it also includes math and strategic planning.

### **Library**

- Mrs. Reece reported:
- Granite Street School sold approximately 1,062 Books, which equaled 191,111 Voluntary Reading Minutes! In addition, our participation results placed 4 books in the hands of every student!
- In the Library, we had a project over Thanksgiving break to disguise the gingerbread man as your favorite character. It was a family project and the PTO donated crayons for us to send home with every student. They turned out great and are on display in the hallway for everyone to see. The students like looking at them.
- We spent the last few weeks reading books and learning about the start of the Macy's Day Parade, How the Rockefeller Christmas Tree came to be, and learning about Christmas around the world. The kids really enjoyed it and some had never seen the parade or the tree so it was fun to show them clips of that.

- Book club is still going strong. We have around 10 members. We are planning on seeing if any more kids join when we start the second book.

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

Winter sports are well underway. We have had some interruptions due to Covid from other teams as well as our own, but overall, the basketball season is going smoothly. The girls are undefeated and the boys have a 2-3 record.

The PVC Northern Maine Cheering Competition will be held here at Stearns on January 22, 2022. Unfortunately, Stearns will not have a squad competing due to lack of numbers. We have a number of staff both working and volunteering to make this event a success.

The Winter Semi-Formal dance is being held on Saturday, January 15th for both middle and high school students. They will each have one half of the gym with the partition in place. Student Council is hosting this event and special thanks go out to the advisors, Amanda Welch and Kristi Hayes, for organizing, coordinating, and working during the dance. Students will be tested for Covid on Friday afternoon. Any student who tests positive will be unable to attend. Masks are also mandatory for those attending.

At the middle school: First Lego Robotics, National Junior Honor Society, the 30th Annual Model Bridge Competition, Sewing Club, and an exciting collaboration between the elementary, middle, and high school to create the *Minuteman Media*, a school newspaper!

Despite many obstacles, the High School Mock Trial team competed for its third year. According to their advisor, Laura Dwyer, “They were polished, knowledgeable, and feared! The competition was once again remote this year due to following CDC guidelines; however, next year, we hope to be in person in court!”

The make-up chorus concert is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26th at 7:00 PM. The original concert was not able to be held as the district switched to remote learning during the days leading up to our December break.

Please thank our staff whenever you see them. They have worked hard during this entire Pandemic to ensure the educational, social, and emotional needs of our students. Our teachers, ed techs, clerical, medical, custodial, and cafeteria staff are all to be commended.

**X. Superintendent’s Report**

The Superintendent updated the Board on the COVID situation. The Board approved the new Standard Operating Procedures on Friday, January 7. The information is on the website and the Facebook pages. He thanked the Stakeholders Group for the work they did on the SOP.

We were able to decrease the quarantine period for some of our students due to the new SOP, so that was also a benefit.

Granite Street School went virtual yesterday due to a staffing issue based on positive cases and exposures. We are monitoring it and we hope to be back to in-person Tuesday, January 18. We continually monitor numbers at Stearns and will go virtual if it is warranted.

He thanked our medical staff Katie Carr and Courtney LeGassey, as well as Principals Beth Peavey and Sam Hiscoe for all the work they've done over the past several months.

He updated the Board on the OSHA Vaccination Mandate. Previously the Board decided to allow staff to make the vaccination decision for themselves. The OSHA mandate was upheld in court, so it has now gone to the Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court doesn't reverse the decision by February 9, we will have to test unvaccinated staff once a week.

The Superintendent and International Coordinator, Michelle McGreevy, met with some staff regarding holding a summer program for international students, as was done prior to COVID. The purpose is to increase international students' interest in our school. We would like to start the summer program up again this summer and have been working on getting estimates on housing, food, activities, etc. We are discussing 3 sessions. Our staff is interested in being part of it, so we will send the information to some agencies. We are looking to countries other than China to keep the program afloat.

Our next Stakeholders meeting will be next Thursday afternoon.

We have started budget meetings with department heads and will build the budget in the coming weeks to present to the Board.

Kevin Gregory requested a quarterly update of the budget so the Board will be informed of our financial status.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

**Motion by:** Donald Raymond

**Seconded by:** Michelle Brundrett

**Voted:** 4 – Yes

0 - No

0 - Abs

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

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