

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD IN-PERSON; PUBLIC BY ZOOM
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021
6:00 PM**

Matthew Ayotte	Present
Michelle Brundrett	Present
Hilary Emery	Present
Peter Jamieson	Present
Warren Steward	Present
Francis Boynton, Superintendent	Present

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Peter Jamieson, Chairperson.

II. Adjustments to the Agenda

Table VIII. To approve the Superintendent's nomination of and authorize the Superintendent's hiring of a Music Teacher.

Table X. To approve the Superintendent's appointment of and authorize the Superintendent's hiring of a Food Service Assistant.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the School Board Meetings May 18, 2021, barring any errors or omissions.

Motioned by: Matthew Ayotte

Seconded by: Hilary Emery

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - 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 #21-25 in the amount of \$209,727.79 on June 3, 2021.

Motioned by: Matthew Ayotte

Seconded by: Hilary Emery

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - 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 #21-39 in the amount of \$173,353.77 on June 3, 2021.

Motioned by: Matthew Ayotte

Seconded by: Hilary Emery

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VII. To approve the Superintendent's nomination of and authorize the Superintendent's hiring of a PreK-5 Interim Principal.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's nomination of and authorize the Superintendent's hiring of Samuel Hiscoe as a PreK-5 Interim Principal at \$66,590 for the 2021-2022 school year. Benefits as negotiated.

Motioned by: Matthew Ayotte

Seconded by: Hilary Emery

Board Discussion:

A team of administrators and teachers. We are pleased and fortunate to have him on our team.

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VIII. To approve the Superintendent's nomination of and authorize the Superintendent's hiring of a Music Teacher.

Tabled

IX. To approve the Superintendent's appointment of and authorize the Superintendent's hiring of a Food Service Manager.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's appointment of and authorize the Superintendent's hiring of Alicia Campbell as a Food Service Manager at step 0; \$18.20 per hour.

Motioned by: Matthew Ayotte

Seconded by: Hilary Emery

Board Discussion:

This is the best candidate and we are pleased to have her in this position.

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

X. To approve the Superintendent's appointment of and authorize the Superintendent's hiring of a Food Service Assistant.

Tabled

XI. Administrative Reports

Sharon Darling, Food Service Manager reported:

Completed 4/5-16/21: 8.7 days for a total of 153.7 days/190

Completed 4/19-30/21: 4.4 days for a total of 158.1/190

Completed 5/3-14/21: 9.47 days for a total of 167.5/190

Completed 5/17-21/21: 4.97 days for a total of 172.47/190

All our employees, except one who is still out due to health issues and our substitute are doing a great job safely feeding the students healthy, cold bagged or hot boxed meals in our schools!

We are still offering a bagged breakfast and a hot boxed lunch or a cold bagged lunch alternative to all students in school every school day. We continue to offer cold bagged breakfast & lunch together every school day (including virtual days) to all children in Millinocket age 18 and under (whether enrolled in school or not) at one bus location: Bandstand between 8:30 & 9:30 a.m.

Cody Clinton, Technology Coordinator reported:

The new firewalls have setup and installed at Granite, and the power flickering problem has been addressed so the new equipment should not meet with the various and persistent problems of the previous Firewalls. Mr. Mclean has been very fastidious in managing the roll out of the new teacher laptops and we will continue to work together to get the new MacBooks into the teachers and staff's hands.

I have been planning and preparing for the multitude of various projects that are set to be rolled out over the summer which include:

- Implementation of a second WiFi network that is password protected and reserved for teachers & staff. This will help reduce some of the load that the network has in managing all of our devices attempting to connect.
- Set up and installation of the Cabinet mounted racks and high amperage power protections systems at both Granite and Stearns.
- Set up and conversion of GSS server hardware to the new primary server hardware, and the setup and installation of the ghost backup server of SHS primary server.

- Movement of the server and internet equipment into the newly converted storage closet to better climate control and protect our servers and network equipment that is currently sitting on portable desks or on top of a shelf. All equipment will be secured and protected properly.
- Registering and rolling out the remainder of the new Chrome books at Granite.

Louie DiFrederico, Facilities Manager reported:

April and May have been busy with the installation of the new phone system between both buildings which was ongoing for several weeks. This work is now complete and the added functionality of the system especially with the integration between Stearns and Granite has provided for a seamless transition.

Ron McInnis and I spent several days at the beginning of May installing the new baseball field scoreboard. The new wireless LED board was purchased with funds raised from the Elks, Dow family and Bronson Arroyo, and replaces the old 1980's vintage board that was only partially functional.

Work has also begun at Stearns with the planned upgrades to the heating and ventilation system. Honeywell began last week running the backbone wiring that will be the main conduit of the digital control system. This will be replacing all the pneumatic 1970's controls that are left in the building. This work will be ongoing throughout the summer and culminating with the install of sum new classroom unit ventilators before the start of school in the fall.

Both Generators have been delivered and set on their concrete pads at Stearns and Granite. Work has begun on the internal installation of the transfer switch gear at Stearns and we are currently waiting on wire and other materials that are currently held up in shipping in order to resume the installation. It is an extremely difficult market procuring materials currently.

We have also had to assume the work of lining, dragging, mowing and maintaining the baseball and softball fields this season. Typically, the recreation department has someone that does this work for us, however that person was unable this year due to a long term absence.

The favorable spring weather has also allowed me to make several roof repairs to the Granite rubber roof. Typically, in the spring after a long winter there are inevitably cracks and holes that need to be addressed annually. Roof repairs at Stearns are scheduled for later this summer.

Joshua McNaughton, PreK-5 Principal reported:

PTO: The 2nd Granite Street Swag order just went in - hoping to do a 3rd order before school ends. It's exciting to see kids and parents wearing their blue Granite St. swag to school!! It has been another great fundraiser too!!

The PTO was able to support Administrative Assistant Day by giving Ms. Donna flowers, snacks, and a small gift. Teacher Appreciation week was supported by PTO donated food and also, local businesses donated food.



PTO volunteers painted three permanent playground games on the pavement outside Granite Street School on Saturday, April 24. Two hopscotch and one sensory path were painted and they have been a big hit for the kids! PTO volunteers are going to plan another day of painting to add to the playground soon.

Reminder - bottles/cans can be donated to the PTO at Milli's in town. Parents, teachers, staff, board members, etc., can download the BoxTops App, and start scanning grocery shopping receipts to continue BoxTop donations to the PTO.

Program Improvement Funds: Granite Street School received \$26,601.02 this school year to focus on academic goals in literacy and mathematics. We meet with our DOE coach on May, 11th to discuss expanding our training into the summer months. This will provide Granite Street educators with paid summer PD associated with literacy and mathematics. This is the same grant that has already provided our educators with additional training on the Canvas Learning platform and Viewboards. Watch for two more pieces of training on Viewboards and Canvas before the end of the school year.

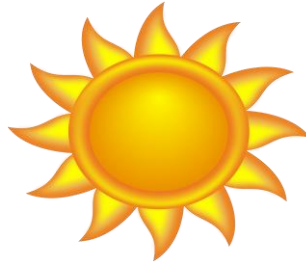
IReady Pilot (underway): Granite Street staff have received several pieces of training on the IReady Intervention system. This is one way we are utilizing our Friday professional development time! In addition, thanks to Mrs. Staci Michaud, our Title I intervention team has received additional in-depth training on assigning students interventions and progress monitoring with the IReady system. We are excited to move forward with this tool for the 2021-22 school year.

Additional Professional Development: On Friday, May 14th, Granite Street teachers received math training. This training focused on the IReady system we are exploring as our new math curriculum.

Bikes for Books: Thanks to support from Nolesemic Lodge No. 205. Granite Street students can participate in the Bikes for Books program this year. Students will receive one entry into the bike drawing (by grade level) for each book they read from May 24th through June 11th. One girl's bike and one boy's bike will be given away, per grade level, on June 16th.

Vaccinations: Granite Street had two students participate in the student vaccination clinic held on Friday, May 21st.

Field Day: Granite will hold a field day to celebrate a successful year, on June 15th. The day's events will include COVID safe activities, a BBQ, and ice cream party.



Extended School Year Program Summer 2021

The Millinocket School Department will provide your child the opportunity to participate in a four week extended school program designed to help maintain academic skills over the summer. The program will run four days per week Monday-Thursday from July 12th through August 5th. Each day will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 11:00 a.m. A breakfast snack and lunch will be provided.

Beth Peavey, 6-12 Principal and AD reported:

As we near the end of the 2021 school year, there are many exciting activities taking place in our classrooms and throughout the school community. The staff and students have been wonderful this year in following all of the safety guidelines during the pandemic.

Mrs. DeMello's Science classes are working on their Invention Convention, which will take place on June 15th. They are preparing posters and prototypes to display for this science fair.

Mr. McLean's Digital Design classes have been learning about stereograms and how they originated from technology developed during WWII that used dual cameras on spy planes to create 3-D like images to track enemy movements, as well as buildings.

His Computer Applications class has completed learning about PowerPoint, the 3rd application for them in Microsoft Office Suite. This is a college level course, required at most universities, and students will be able to transfer the credits they are earning from this course into college.

Mr. McLean's Business and Personal Finance class has completed the first ever virtual Financial Fitness Fair. This is usually an annual trip to Lee Academy with other area schools, however, the constraints of COVID changed the format. The Credit Union sponsored the event by providing pamphlets for each student and a professional Google Slideshow and Google Sheet that calculated monthly budgets. The Financial Fitness Fair is a real life exercise that educates our students about credit scores, living expenses, career choices and financial responsibility. The students expressed that this was a positive learning experience. The Credit Union has offered to fund an ice cream social for the class to celebrate the completion of this event.

Mr. McLean reports that Yearbook is going very well this year, especially compared to last year. It is close to completion. He would also like to publicly commend the following students for all of their hard work and efforts: Sean McGibbon, Addison Danforth, Audrey Danforth, and Amelia Morrison. Also our staff members; Ramona Cesare, Kristi Hayes, and Tammy McLaughlin who go above and beyond every year to ensure the students have a book they are proud of and enjoy.

Mr. Leathers' 8th grade Social Studies classes have been working on Project Citizen. This is a program used to teach our students about community involvement and bringing about positive change. Students had to identify a problem in the community that they wanted to solve and figure out how to solve it using public policy. One group chose a lack of structured activities for kids as their problem and wanted to solve it by creating a Youth Center. The other group thought some of the streets were too dark and wanted to add more street lights on some streets.

Both groups researched their problem and created community surveys to gauge interest.

The Youth Center group also:

1. Received a letter of support from the Recreation Department
2. Talked to the CEO of the Bangor YMCA about the process of creating a youth center

The street light group:

1. Contacted Versant and received support from the electric company
2. Received a letter of support from the Chief of Police

Senator Angus King also Zoomed into the classroom with the students to discuss their ideas and how public policy is made. Mr. Leathers states, "While there is still work to do, there is a lot of community support for both ideas and I believe there's a good chance both could become a reality, solely because of the work the students have done."

MRH held the first Pfizer COVID Vaccine Clinic on May 21st, with the second part to be held on June 11th for students 12 years and older.

NWEA testing will be taking place over the next two weeks, concentrating on Reading, Language and Math for middle and high school students.

The 8th grade will go to our Togue Pond facility on June 10th for kayaking, orienteering, and other outdoor activities. They will follow all safety guidelines.

On Thursday, June 3 and Friday, June 4, the Unified Performing Arts Department will be presenting its production of Seussical Jr.! The performances start at 7:00 PM each day, and there are still tickets available. This show is a very energetic and fun show, just what everyone needs to wrap up a very exhausting year. It is appropriate for all ages. Next week, we will host our first annual "Minuteman Cup" games during spirit week. Classes and staff will compete in a number of indoor and outdoor activities. Points will be earned for each activity and the culmination of the competition will result in a first place trophy for the winning team to be displayed in the school. The Elks Lodge is providing ice cream for all on Friday, which will be distributed by our cafeteria staff. A tremendous amount of planning has gone into this event. Special recognition to the organizers: Amanda Welch, Kristi Hayes, Heather Girsas, and Suzie Kovats. Special thanks to TJ Brown for creating the trophy and to the Elks for providing the ice cream.

The staff and students are looking forward to some fun and camaraderie after a stressful year.

Finally, the Senior Class will soon begin marching practice as they prepare for graduation on June 13th. We will also be having a Scholarship and Honors Night on June 10th. Seniors will have the opportunity to go on their Senior Class trip on Monday, June 7th. We will go to Big Jake's Go-Karts, mini-golf, Pat's Pizza, and Fielder's Choice in Holden in the morning through early afternoon. Then we will board the school busses and head for the Bangor Escape Rooms on Hammond Street in Bangor. These businesses have agreed to open for our Senior Class only and the trip is expected to be another fun opportunity for seniors to celebrate their accomplishments.

XII. Superintendent's Report

Completed through June 30, 2015, 260/210

Completed Work days July 1, 2015 to June 30, 261/210

Work days July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 293/210

Work Days July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018: 263/220

Work Days July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 267/220

Work days July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 259/220

Work days July 1, 2021 to June 1, 2021 238/220

I would estimate about 10 additional work days through June 30.

Vacation days remaining: 30/30

I continue to be pleased with the cooperation of our students and staff in maintaining the safety requirements of wearing masks and the other safety factors. This has led to a safe school environment that is conducive to the process of education. The Department of Education and the Governor have reported the expectation that masks will be worn in school and for most of the school activities.

The following is a summary of the administrative conversation as a follow-up given the comments at the last Board meeting. We took the comments seriously and came to the following conclusions and shared them with Board members:

We do not plan to rework the schedule for the following reasons:

1. I would take a week or two to rework the schedules at the Middle and High School levels.
2. We would have to review bussing and lunch schedules.
3. Workshops have been built into the Friday afternoon times and teachers are still building curriculum into the CANVAS program.
4. Athletic schedules would have to be adjusted.
5. The DOE has recommended that we stay with the mask mandate in school, therefore students would be required to wear masks for a longer period of time.
Note: Students in pre-K to Grade 5 cannot be vaccinated yet and students 12 and up are receiving their first shot on May 21 and second shot on June 11.
6. The High School is engaging in the year end activities which have already been planned leading to graduation

7. All seniors have received significant support for graduation. Please remember that staff (teachers and techs) are available from 1:30 to 2:30 to provide support for all students.
8. We have had more in person days than most of the schools in the county and the state.
9. Some schools in our area are having COVID situations. This means that at any point we could have to go remote. Changing the schedule would complicate this given our routines

A significant amount of preparation and committee work has gone into the development of the plan. To change the plan now would require significant work and time that we simply do not have given the short schedule to the end of the year.

We held a vaccination clinic for our students on May 21 and will complete the 2-shot cycle on June 11. The opportunity was given to all of our students at Granite and Stearns who were 12 or older. Approximately 65 students participated, as a number of our students have had the series at other location. Additional adults were vaccinated as well at the end of the clinic.

I will be out of the office for the week of June 7. Due to the availability of certain personnel and facilities this was the only time that I could schedule this procedure and the quarantine required. Please be aware that this is not my preference, but I have been waiting for more than a year for this to be done and the opportunity will vanish if I do not do this. I will be available by phone and by zoom during the week and have arranged coverage and consultation with the administrators.

I have been working on the transition with Josh. I will do all I can to make this as smooth as possible. He has been willing to get involved in the process and make it work well.

We are working on the school budget for next year. Most of the items are in as we work the final numbers for presentation. Our state funding dropped by about \$36,000 which is disappointing but expected. The state has proposed to increase the state share to an increase of \$105,000. This increase was included in your packets at the last meeting.

The legislature is moving through a variety of actions and bills that will impact schools. We are awaiting decisions on a number of bills that will impact schools.

XIII. Budget Discussion and Possible Approval

Board Discussion:

The Superintendent presented the budget without any changes from the previous version. It includes the same staffing as last year. It is \$75,781 more to the tax payer. The Board was asked to point out any additions or deletions they would like to see.

Motion: To approve the 2021-2022 school budget and the 11 cost centers as presented.

Motioned by: Warren Steward

Seconded by: Matthew Ayotte

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

XIV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Motion by: Matthew Ayotte **Seconded by:** Hilary Emery

Voted: 5 – Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Tuesday, June 15, 2021
- Tuesday, June 29, 2021
- Tuesday, July 13, 2021
- Tuesday, July 27, 2021
- Tuesday, August 10, 2021
- Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Francis N. Boynton
Superintendent of Schools