

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
STEARNS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM
PUBLIC IN-PERSON OR BY ZOOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023
4:30 PM**

Kevin Gregory	Present
Kevin Libby	Present
Thomas Malcolm	Present
Donald Raymond	Present
Warren Steward	Present
Dr. Shelley Lane, Superintendent	Present
Sydney Campbell, Student Representative	Present
Gracyn Sanders, Student Representative	Present

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:28 PM by Warren Steward, School Board Chair.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

VIII. Northern Penobscot Region III presentation moved to agenda item V.

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Northern Penobscot Region III Presentation

Butch Arthurs and Kerri McFalls made a presentation to the Board. They have been visiting all sending schools to be more visible. Their enrollment has been increasing and they are on track to have 250 students next year. They talked about new programs: 1. Early Childhood Development to enable students to own their own childcare business or to become Ed Techs. They have 23 students signed up. 2. Finance Management/Business Management to propel the students toward business opportunities. 3. Outside Education to encourage students to get guide licenses and to tie into the sending schools' current programs. 4. Medical Office Terminology to enable students to work in a medical office. They will have an open house for the general public, the Spring Banquet to celebrate the seniors, and a Skills USA Auction. The Board is invited to all of these events and they ask the Board to pass on the information. There was discussion regarding sophomores attending Region III. The Superintendent offered Stearns to be the pilot program based on the success she has seen with sophomores in another district.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the School Board Meeting February 14, barring any errors or omissions.

Motioned by: Kevin Libby

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VII. 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 #23-17-2 in the amount of \$289.19 and #23-17D-2 in the amount of \$48.49 on February 16, 2023, #23-18 in the amount of \$114,761.14, #23-18-2 in the amount of \$579.90, #23-18D in the amount of \$34,561.43 and #23-18D-2 in the amount of \$105.89 on March 2, 2023, #23-19 in the amount of \$137,366.10 and #23-19D in the amount of \$39,518.13 on March 16, 2023.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory

Seconded by: Thomas Malcolm

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VIII. 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 #SA23-16 in the amount of \$548.92 (student account), #23-32 in the amount of \$75,555.27 and #23-33 in the amount of \$189.87 on March 2, 2023, #SA23-17 in the amount of \$500.02 and #SA23-18 in the amount of \$616.82 (student accounts), #23-34 in the amount of \$33,004.38 and #23-35 in the amount of \$149,678.85 on March 16, 2023.

Motioned by: Kevin Libby

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

IX. Adoption of Policies

Motion: It was moved to adopt the following list of policies:

BEB – Board Member Use of Social Media (New)

BEC – Executive Sessions (Revised)

BEC-R – Executive Session Procedure (New)
BEDA – Notification of Board Meetings (Revised)
BEDB – Agenda (Revised)
BEDB-R – Agenda Format (Revised)
BEDC – Quorum (New)
BEDD – Rules of Order (New)
BEDG – Minutes (New)
BEDH – Public Participation at Board Meetings (Revised)
BEDI – Board Relations with the Media (Revised)
BEDJ – Broadcasting/Taping of Board Meetings (Revised)
BEDL – Adjournment of Board Meetings (New)
BF – Joint Meetings with Town Council (Review)
BHC – Board Communications with Staff (Revised)
BIA – New Board Member Orientation (Revised)
BIB – Board Member Development Opportunities (Revised)
BIC – Board Member Freedom of Access Training (Revised)
BIC-E – Certification of Completion of Freedom of Access Training (New)
BID – Board Member Compensation and Expenses (New)

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

Board Discussion:

Proposed separate first readings to allow discussion if someone doesn't agree with them.

Voted: 4 - Yes 1 - No (Thomas Malcolm) 0 - Abs

X. To see if the Board will adopt the 2023-2024 school calendar.

Motion: To adopt the 2023-2024 school calendar.

Motioned by: Thomas Malcolm **Seconded by:** Kevin Libby

Board Discussion:

It was reviewed against the Region calendar, reviewed by the Association and reviewed by the employees before coming to the Board.

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

XI. To see if the Board will opt out of the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Food Program

Motion: To opt out of the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Food Program.

Motioned by: Donald Raymond **Seconded by:** Thomas Malcolm

Board Discussion:

Recommended by the Superintendent and Food Service Manager. The Board hopes to have this important program at some point in the future.

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

XII. Notification of New Hires

Chelsea Ehret was hired as an International Program Coordinator for the period of March 9 – June 30, 2023, for a stipend of \$8,000.

Michelle McGreevy will become International Program Secretary through June 30, 2023, for a stipend of \$2,000

Michelle McGreevy will change her hours as Special Ed Secretary. She will work 40 hours per week through April 21, 2023, (end of April vacation), then move to 32 hours per week and will begin as a Payroll Clerk for 8 hours per week.

Aiden Childs was hired as a Food Service Assistant flex position 3 hrs/day; \$13.80/hour

The following coaches are returning for spring sports:

Nicholas Cullen, high school softball, \$3,400, step 11, year 11

Donald Boyington, high school baseball, \$3,200, step 9, year 9

Ian Shearer, junior high softball, \$1,600, step 4, year 4

David Michaud, junior high baseball, \$1,400, step 3, year 3

XIII. Student Representative Reports

Junior Class Student Representative, Gracyn Sanders, reported:

- The Junior Class is raffling off 2 Red Sox tickets, 2 Texas Roadhouse gift cards, and 2 \$50 Walmart gift cards as a bundle.
- The Junior Class is also having a spaghetti dinner on March 15th.
- The Freshman Class recently sold Candy Grams for Valentine's Day, to raise money for their class.
- Basketball season is now over and both teams made it to prelims but were defeated. The girls varsity team played against Lincoln and the boys played against Woodland.
- Multiple basketball players were chosen for PVC all-star teams. Kelly Farber made PVC 2nd team, McDonald's all-star team, and PVC senior game, Aidan Sanders made the defensive team and PVC Senior game, Caleb Shearer made PVC 3rd team, Ethan Plourde made PVC Senior game and Gracyn Sanders made the defensive team.

Senior Class Student Representative, Sydney Campbell, reported:

- On March 7th the Unified Performing Arts performed their One Act performance "And Then There Was One"- A Spoof. Stearns won 1st Place.

- On March 9th several students who attend Region 3 were inducted into the Technical National Honor Society. These students have attended Region 3 for a minimum of 3 semesters and held a 93 or higher in each semester.
- The sophomore class will be meeting about a possible bottle drive in May to add to their total of \$4,700.

XIV. Administrative and Program Reports

Matthew Waite, Performing Arts Department, reported:

- The Unified Harmony Jr. High Show Choir, which has members from 5th Grade of Granite Street School, Stearns Jr. High School, and Medway Middle School have been rehearsing since right after Thanksgiving. On March 1st, we had our district festival and performed here at Stearns Jr./Sr. High School. The group did very well and received an average score of an 89. This gives us good momentum going into State Competition, as well as great feedback from judges for us to move forward. The show is entitled “Imagination”. State Competition is here at Stearns Jr./Sr. High School on Saturday April 1.
- The Unified Harmony Show Choir, which has members from Schenck and Stearns High Schools, have been rehearsing since right after Thanksgiving. On March 1st, we had our district festival and performed here at Stearns Jr./Sr. High School. The group did very well and received an average score of 94. This gives us good momentum going into State Competition, as well as great feedback from judges for us to move forward. The show is entitled “Weather”. State Competition is here at Stearns Jr./Sr. High School on Saturday April 1.
- The Unified Performing Arts One Act Play, which has members from Schenck and Stearns High Schools, has been rehearsing since right after Thanksgiving. On March 10 and 11th, we are hosting one of the MPA Regional Drama Festivals. The two highest scoring schools will be moving on to State Competition in Ellsworth on the weekend of March 24 and 25. We hope that we are one of those two schools. The students have been working very hard and we are proud of all of them. The show we are doing is entitled: “And Then There Was One, A Spoof”. It is a murder mystery comedy.
- The Stearns Performing Arts Department, Granite Street General Music Classes, Chorus Classes, and Band Classes have been working hard to prepare for Spring Performances. Things are progressing and those performances will be in the middle of May.
- The Unified Performing Arts Boosters are diligently working on their 501c3 Status, and we continue to appreciate the Millinocket School Departments support of our programs, students, and performing arts in the Katahdin Region. We will continue to keep you informed of our efforts to help students K-12 in the Katahdin Region.

Susan Buzzell, Guidance, Reported:

- Peer counselors collected 60 items for our birthday cake drive including cake mixes, frosting, sprinkles, cake pans, decorations, plates and vegetable oil. We arranged them in the Stearns food pantry on their own shelf.
- Peer Counselors are scheduled to help facilitate a discussion on cyberbullying in the Life Skills room on Thursday, March 2.
- We had good participation in the Maine Integrated Youth Health (MIYHS) survey on Feb. 14. Only 1 junior high student and 15 high school students were absent or at Region. Three (3) junior high and 3 high school students were exempted by their parents.

Mia Charette, Food Service Manager, reported:

- Mrs. Oakes' Middle School Home Ec. class visited the Stearns kitchen to learn about food safety and proper food handling techniques.
- Food service staff members packaged over 300 shelf-stable meal kits for distribution to our students. The meals are intended to be kept on hand for a future unplanned school closure and meet NSLP nutritional guidelines. Distributing these meals with the intention of having them saved for a closure qualifies us for waivers that will allow our school to host virtual days in the event of an unplanned closure. So far 241 meals have been distributed and both schools have meals on hand for students who did not receive one.
- Our department was able to offer concessions during the District 5 Vocal Jazz Festival held on 3/1. All foods offered were smart snack compliant and met our school lunch nutritional standards, ensuring that students and families had access to a variety of healthy foods while visiting our school.
- Our Food Service teams served 3,488 breakfast, and 3,778 lunches this month.

Josh Deakin, Business Manager, reported:

- The past month has been a focus on budgeting and negotiations, this includes researching other districts and compiling findings into a useful tool.
- We are in the process of meeting with the MEA for negotiations, things are progressing well and in a professional manner.
- The FY24 budget process is currently underway, a draft has been completed for initial review by myself and Dr. Lane.
- Currently, we have expended 54.5% of our total budget and are 69.25% of the way through FY23.

Louis DiFrederico, Facilities Director, reported:

- It has been a busy month hosting Music Festivals, High School and Middle School Basketball as well as a weekend long regional Junior Pro Basketball Tournament. With community Pickel Ball in the gyms on weekends, walkers enjoying exercise in the corridors during the evenings and Rec Department open gyms, there is always something going on in our buildings!
- With regards to fuel consumption we are still trending in a positive direction with nearly 3000 gallons less fuel burned due to the milder winter temps.
- During the February break the custodial staff worked hard at getting into all the empty classrooms with a focus on cleaning and disinfecting of the touch surfaces and student desks to help ward off the winter flu season.

Cody Clinton, Technology Director, reported:

- Ticketing system is still working well. The initial flood of incoming tickets has slowed and the systematic response developed by the people using it seems to indicate that it is being deployed successfully by both administrators and users.
- Over the winter break I was able to install the new hardware for the backup file server to reestablish the regular backup plans. This took three days for the newly installed drives to re-write the RAID configuration with the new hardware. Once completed, I was able to reset the regular schedule of server and PC backups, which is a major cornerstone of our security plan.
- The Granite Street Office move has been completed with the exception of the server and firewall equipment. These mission-critical pieces will require more time to prepare and troubleshoot before moving. This process could take down all phone and internet at Granite Street, so I am being extra cautious and waiting for a time that best suits the potential needs of this project.
- Mr. McLean has been using the newly acquired Lego kits from the CS Carts granted to us from the DOE. His students have recently completed an entire STEM unit building functional Lego machines that can be programmed to complete tasks.

Jolene Maynard, Assistant Special Ed Director, reported:

- We had the following meetings the month of February:
IEP – 16
 - 1 new student moved into the district
 - 1 student moved to homeschooling and they are leaving the state
 - 1 504 to an IEP
 - 1 student referral qualified for services and has an IEPReferral – 1 for initial testing
504 – 0
- We had 1 student that was tested and didn't qualify for speech and language services.

- We have the following totals of IEP students at each school:
Granite: 60
Stearns: 62
- We still have the following positions open:
 - Speech Therapist full-time
 - Occupational Therapist full-time
 - Granite Special Education Teacher (my position last year)
 - Stearns Special Education Teacher – We moved staff and combined caseloads to make sure all students are getting services.
- For both speech and language therapists, they are at full caseloads and our tele-therapist's company is looking for another speech therapist to fill our needs.

Karla Rutherford, Instructional Interventionist, reported:

- Thursday, March 2 was Read Across America Day. We celebrated all week with spirit week.
- We are working with Masonic Lodge, Nollesemic #205 to encourage reading for students with bikes for books. The program is running March through May.
- The Millinocket Literary Club is sponsoring an illustration contest for Granite with the theme of the Appalachian Trail. In February, Mrs. Reece read books to all the students in the library and Mrs. Campbell assisted students with their illustrations in art class.
- Ms. DeSilva, Mrs. Mooney, and Ms. Wheaton have created a monthly newsletter and a web page to help their parents stay updated with what is going on in the classroom.
- Art - Students in Pre K - 5 are currently working on a cross curricular and community project on the Appalachian Trail. This project is connected with the Literary Club here in Millinocket for their Book Illustration Contest. Rose Raymond is our liaison for this project. Each year they pick a theme for students to read & learn about. In Library students are introduced to the topic, read various books, access print resources, and so on, then Mrs. Campbell takes over the art and illustration portion of this with students. Students are illustrating various aspects of the AT with everything from AT sign designs, maps of the AT, various landscapes, Mt. Katahdin and Millinocket connects to the AT, and more. This project typically takes close to or to the end of March to complete. Once the students work is completed the artworks will be collected by the club and winners picked from each grade level class. The winners' artworks will go on display as well as others possible in the school or in various locations around the community.
- Fourth grade just started their math unit on division, unit on opinion writing and they have been reading and learning about Native Americans. In science, they just learned about states of matter. They did an experiment where students worked together to see if the mixture of baking soda and vinegar could blow up a balloon. Students poured vinegar into a water bottle, then put baking soda into a balloon. Next, students put the

balloon over the water bottle and shook the baking soda out from the balloon into the bottle. Finally, they watched the magic happen. Turns out, yes the mixture of baking soda and vinegar can blow up a balloon! Now they are learning about Newton's laws of motion. In Social Studies, students are learning about Maine and Millinocket history and constructing timelines. Students are nervous about division but also excited to take on the challenge. They are very excited about opinion writing. They get to write an essay and try to persuade Mrs. Rutherford to allow them to have a soccer ball at recess. They need to support their opinion with reasons and evidence that will show Mrs. Rutherford why having a soccer ball at recess is a good choice.

- In sports, eight of the 3rd and 4th grade all-star basketball players are in fourth grade. This 14-2 squad won the championship by beating Orrington. They brought home the gold ball for the first time in Millinocket history. Stop by the Granite Street trophy cases in the lobby to check it out. Congratulations boys!!

Nicholas Cullen, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, reported:

- The Junior Class will be holding a spaghetti dinner on March 15th at the Elks from 4:30-6:30 pm. This event will be eat in or take out. They will be raffling off a Red Sox ticket package that includes the following: 2 Red Sox Tickets, \$100 dollar Walmart gift card, \$50 dollar Circle K gift card, and 2 vouchers to Texas Roadhouse for \$40 dollar each. Tickets are 1 for \$5, or 3 for \$10. The winner will be drawn on April 13th and will be live on Facebook!
- Stearns Junior Senior High School focus group has been working diligently on next year's schedule. We have been looking at data and our students' needs to incorporate into our schedule to meet all students' needs.
- Softball and Baseball season officially starts on March 20th. We are looking forward to a great spring sports season.
- With the help of Boosters and Millinocket Little Pro, we will be purchasing a new scorer's table for Wentworth Gymnasium. This will be a great addition to our fantastic facility and really make the gym pop for the games.
- Four students will be representing Stearns at the PVC Joe Paul Scholarship banquet on March 15th at Jeff's Catering in Brewer: Kelly Farber, Rhiannon Gardner, Aidan Sanders, and Ethan Plourde. They will have a chance to win 1,000 dollar scholarships.
- The following winter athletes were recognized for their achievements: Kelly Farber named to the McDonald's All Star team and second team PVC; Gracyn Sanders PVC Defensive Team; Kelly Faber and Rhiannon Gardner played in the PVC Senior game on March 8th at Mattanawcook Academy; Caleb Shearer Third team PVC; Aidan Sanders PVC Defensive Team; Ethen Plourde played in the PVC Senior game on March 8th at Mattanawcook Academy.
- We will be holding our Winter Sports Banquet on March 14th at 6:00 pm in Wentworth Gymnasium. This will be a great opportunity for coaches to reflect on the season and honor our student athletes and celebrate all of their accomplishments

throughout the season. After every sports season we hold an awards ceremony to reflect on the past season. The public is welcome to attend and once your school board meeting is done, we would love to have you join us.

Beth Peavey, Principal, reported:

- Stearns Junior Senior High School Class of 2023:
 - Valedictorian: **Cote Briggs**
 - Salutatorian: **Jamie Yang**
 - **Kelly Farber**
 - **Daniel Hallett**
 - **Victoria Blanchette**
- Maine Principal's Award: **Sydney Campbell**
- Grant opportunities CDS (Congressionally Directed Spending)
- Dual Enrollment Classes for high school students

XV. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Shelley Lane reported:

- Thank you to *Magic City Monthly* for hi-lighting great things happening at Granite and Stearns. Together we are creating opportunities to share exciting information. You can find it (to see us and town information too) each month. Contact Amber Wheaton to get signed up.
- Recently I have met with both the Stearns and Granite staff to do a recap of what has been happening in the Central Office in the past five months. I was able to convey areas of interest, express my support for innovation, areas of improvement, etc.... I also shared a story about the difference one person can make. It was the story about a young senator who sat in the back of the chambers and listened intently who eventually became president and was heard by millions. One person can make a difference. I challenge everyone to pursue things that they are passionate about, that they feel supports learning, improves the educational environment, etc...
- As we look ahead to next year we are considering everything from who we need to perform what tasks, to how we make them "part of the Millinocket School family". We have developed a Welcome to Millinocket School Onboarding form to capture all the items one might need as they are in a new environment. Part of this effort is to update and create forms that serve our needs. We are developing time and attendance forms, FMLA checklists, etc...along with school related forms such as student tracking, identification for services, etc... We are looking for efficiency and need.
- The technology committee met this month and is making a plan to help us manage and sustain our equipment. As you know, technology becomes obsolete very quickly so we need to find ways to be cutting-edge and responsible at the same time.
- The Town has created a scholarship fund subsidized by a local businesses. They have recently met to establish the criteria for this scholarship. We are excited to have 2 additional opportunities for our students. This award is open to students pursuing traditional secondary education, military service, vocational school or starting a small business.

- I want to welcome Chelsea Ehret to our team. I have met with her a couple times. She is enthusiastic and ready to jump in. In December Michelle McGreevy held a meeting regarding the direction of the International Program. At that meeting suggestions were made and now Chelsea and Michelle were working to make it happen. There will be a “Host Family” informational session in April, a summer program is in the works, which hasn't happened since COVID, and together we will breathe life into this program.
- The budget is well under way. We have inputted a number of fixed expenses while we wait on subsidy amounts from the state, as well as other figures that we do not have access to at this early point in the process.
- As has been previously stated, the school has been very busy with sports, entertainment and outside visitors. We have a wonderful facility to host events!!

XVI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 PM

Motion by: Thomas Malcolm

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

Voted: 5 – Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

April 11, 2023

May 9, 2023

June 6, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shelley Lane
Superintendent of Schools