

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD IN-PERSON; PUBLIC BY ZOOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022
4:30 PM**

Michelle Brundrett	Present
Kevin Gregory	Present
Erika Mackin	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 4:30 PM by Warren Steward, Chairperson.

II. Adjustments to the Agenda

There was discussion regarding public comment and if the Board should give the public the opportunity to comment on each item. The public comments were in favor of public comment being allowed after each agenda item, as the Town Council does.

The Board discussed sending the public comment policy back to the Policy Committee. The Superintendent relayed that the Chair can allow public comment for any item. If the Chair decides not to open comment, the Board can overrule it by a majority vote.

Motion: Moved to send the public comment policy back to the Policy Committee for a recommendation to the Board.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory

Seconded by: Erika Mackin

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

III. Public Comment

Steve Golieb expressed appreciation for the public comment policy going back to the Policy Committee. He reiterated that it has been beneficial as a Town Councilor to hear the public's views and in some cases it has influenced the outcome of a vote.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the School Board Meeting February 9, 2022, barring any errors or omissions.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

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 #22-18 in the amount of \$154,786.77 on February 24, 2022, #22-19 in the amount of \$164,888.22 on March 10, 2022 and MainePERS #22-8 in the amount of \$48,205.88 on February 7, 2022.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

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 #22-25 in the amount of \$31,931.90 and #22-26 in the amount of \$95,644.28 on February 24, 2022, and #22-27 in the amount of \$110,340.84 on March 10, 2022.

Motioned by: Donald Raymond

Seconded by: Michelle Brundrett

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VII. To see if the Board will change the Standard Operating Procedure

Motion: To approve the recommended Standard Operating Procedure as presented to begin on March 14, 2022.

Motioned by: Donald Raymond

Seconded by: Michelle Brundrett

Board Discussion:

The Superintendent relayed that the Stakeholders Group met on Monday, March 7, 2022, to review the updates from the Maine CDC regarding masking. Based on input from staff, students and parents administration heard back from and the Maine CDC and federal CDC COVID recommendations, the Stakeholders Group recommends the following:

Recommendations

Make masking optional in schools and on school buses.

Discontinue social distancing.

When our school travels to other school districts for extracurricular activities, we will honor the home school's SOP.

Meetings such as School Board, IEP, and conferences will remain virtual until further notice.

Allow staff with documented medical health conditions, per a doctor's note, to require masking within their classroom.

This would be effect on Monday, March 14, 2022, to allow parents time to return forms to school if they wish their student(s) to remain masked and allow staff time to obtain a doctor's note.

What will remain per federal and Maine CDC requirements

Outbreak status will be monitored per the CDC guidelines (greater than 15%). Stakeholder group will develop a school district-specific outbreak standard which will determine the level of cases requiring us to mask.

Quarantining for positive cases through day 5 will continue (Per US CDC).

Positive cases will be required to mask when they return to school, day 6-10 (Per US CDC).

Ongoing testing provided by the school.

Kevin Gregory stated he would like the Stakeholders Group to assign a specific number for outbreak status.

Erika Mackin stated she doesn't agree with a class having to mask due to a staff member's health. The staff member should take steps protect themselves.

Michelle Brundrett questioned if it is necessary to send forms home. It should be the responsibility of the parent to send a note if they want their student(s) to remain masked. She is in favor of sending an informational form home to parents, we just shouldn't need to have a slip returned to the school.

Donald Raymond asked for clarification regarding the staff needing students to mask if they have a doctor's note. The Superintendent relayed that as part of the expectation of providing a safe work environment, we would expect students to mask in the classroom of a staff member if they have provided a doctor's note stating their health issues require it.

Kevin Gregory asked what we do if we don't agree with all these recommendations. The Superintendent stated the Board would then vote down the motion on the table then each item will be reviewed with the Board to make a new SOP, which will then be voted on. We need a decision on this tonight.

Dustin Mackin stated that the staff should be responsible for their own health instead of expecting the students to mask.

Rachel Potvin agreed that the staff should be responsible for their health. The students have gone through enough and the kids have paid a price for wearing masks for such a long period in time.

Terry Given wanted to address only the masking optional recommendation. Students and staff have followed state and national CDC guidelines since March 2020. She finds it hard to understand why the Board might be reluctant to not follow CDC guidance now. We have done everything recommended to a "T" up until now and we have done it well.

Jessica McDonald stated the KN95 does not have to be fitted and may be a good option for staff with health issues. An N95 is a simple fitting at MRH and other places. She is not onboard with asking students to mask. We need to get rid of the masks in school.

Katie Cullen stated the State of Maine is moderate and only those who should wear a mask are those at high risk. Our kids are not at high risk. It would be reckless to not follow the recommendations of the Maine and federal CDC, especially since it has always been followed. She thanked the Board for their work and they are appreciated.

Steve Golieb wanted to thank the Board for overseeing the health and safety of the students and staff. He agrees with previous comments. The psychological and physical toll has been detrimental to their progress.

Stephanie Jamieson stated that low and medium risk is optional masking. Will we mask if we run into high risk? The Superintendent stated the Stakeholders Group will set a threshold to go back to masking. She commented that the accommodation for the school could be to assist staff members to get fitted for a mask. She thanked the Board and also appreciated the kindness of comments.

Katie Cullen asked for clarification of the percentage of outbreak. The Maine CDC sets the standard. It has moved a couple times, but it is back to 15%. She reminded them that there is science behind the outbreak status number so we should be careful regarding changing that number.

Voted: 0 - Yes 5 - No 0 - Abs

The Superintendent went through the various aspects of the SOP with the Board to get agreement.

1. Masking is optional in school and on school buses.

Vote: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 – Abs

Erika Mackin read a prepared statement thanking the public for attending and asked that they continue to attend. She talked to local health officials and staff before this meeting. She agrees with optional masking, but will want to see masking come back if conditions warrant it. Please be kind to anyone choosing to wear a mask.

2. Social distancing will be discontinued.

Vote: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 – Abs

3. When we travel to other schools for extracurricular activities we will observe their SOP, including masking if they require it.

Vote: 5 - Yes 0 -No 0 – Abs

4. Meetings such as school board, IEP, and conferences will remain virtual at this time.

Kevin Gregory asked if he could be virtual so he doesn't have to leave work. Policy is that Board Members have to be in-person unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Erika Mackin asked what the threshold to have in-person meetings again? That is a discussion for the Stakeholders Group.

Vote: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 – Abs

5. Staff who have a documented health reason with a doctor's note can require masking within their space.

Donald Raymond stated everyone should be responsible for their own health.

Erika Mackin stated she liked Stephanie Jamieson's recommendation of the school helping staff get fitted for a mask. The Superintendent stated we have masks available for staff.

Vote: 1 - Yes 4 – No (Michelle Brundrett, Kevin Gregory, 0 - Abs
Erika Mackin, Donald Raymond)

6. The start date for these recommendations to begin on Monday, March 14, 2022.

Voted: 0 - Yes 5 - No 0 – Abs

7. Start date for these recommendations to begin on Wednesday, March 9, 2022.

The Superintendent stated he would use the automated messaging system to send out a message tonight and follow-up with written information.

Vote: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 – Abs

These are requirements:

Outbreak status will be monitored per the CDC guidelines (greater than 15%). Our Stakeholder Group will develop a new school district-specific COVID-19 outbreak standard. This will determine at what number of cases we will mask up and for how long.

Quarantining for positive cases through day 5 will continue (Per US CDC).

Positive cases will be required to mask when they return to school, day 6-10 (Per US CDC).

Ongoing COVID-19 testing will be provided by the school.

Motion: To approve the amended Standard Operating Procedure as presented to begin on March 9, 2022.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

Vote: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 – Abs

VIII. Notification of New Hires

Ian Shearer – JH Softball Coach year 3, step 3

David Michaud – JH Baseball Coach year 2, step 2

Nicholas Cullen – Varsity Softball Coach year 10, step 10/11

Donald Boyington – Varsity Baseball Coach year 8, step 8/9

IX. To see if the Board will enter into Executive Session 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A) employment of officials/appointees/employees

Motion: To enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A) employment of officials/appointees/employees including Alice Hartley

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory

Seconded by: Erika Mackin

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

Time In: 5:50 PM **Time Out:** 6:30 PM.

Result of executive session:

Motion: The Negotiations Committee will meet with Alice Hartley.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Erika Mackin

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

X. To see if the Board will enter into Executive Session 1 MRSA § 405(6)(B) student discipline hearing

Motion: To enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(B) student discipline hearing including Beth Peavey

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

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

Time In: 6:32 PM **Time Out:** 6:57 PM

Result of executive session:

Motion: Parent/Guardian will request a copy of transcripts from educational institutions before a decision if a re-entry plan is appropriate.

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

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Motion by: Kevin Gregory

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

Voted: 5 - Yes

0 - No

0 - Abs

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua McNaughton, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 22, 2022

April 5, 2022

April 19, 2022

May 3, 2022

May 17, 2022

May 31, 2022