

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
STEARNS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM
PUBLIC IN-PERSON OR BY ZOOM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022
4:30 PM**

| | |
|---|---------|
| Kevin Gregory | Present |
| Julie Hewke | Present |
| Thomas Malcolm | Present |
| Donald Raymond | Present |
| Warren Steward | Excused |
| 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 4:30 PM by Donald Raymond, Vice-Chairperson.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the School Board Meeting October 25, 2022, barring any errors or omissions.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory

Seconded by: Julie Hewke

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 #23-10 in the amount of \$125,975.81, #23-10D in the amount of \$37,110.38 on November 10, 2022, #23-9B in the amount of \$599.25 and #23-9C in the amount of \$54.62 on October 27, 2022, and #23-7C in the amount of \$121.55 on September 29, 2022.

Motioned by: Julie Hewke **Seconded by:** Thomas Malcolm

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 #SA23-7 (student accounts) in the amount of \$3,709.43, Scholarship #23-1 in the amount of \$97.68 and #23-19 in the amount of \$130,136.01 on November 10, 2022.

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

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VIII. Notification of New Hires

Cammie Turcotte was hired as an Ed Tech I at Granite Street School start date of November 1, step 1, \$14.60/hour

| <u>Individual</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Step</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Alley, Emma | Girls JV Basketball Coach | 2 | 2 | \$2,000 |
| Bishop, RandiLee | MS Winter Cheering Coach | 1 | 2 | \$1,400 |
| Cullen, Nicholas | Girls Varsity Basketball Coach | 9 | 9 | \$4,600 |
| Kranich, Douglas | HS Basketball Timer | 14 | 12 | \$1,600 |
| Kranich, Douglas | MS Basketball Timer | 33 | 12 | \$1,100 |
| Mooney, Patrick | Girls MS Basketball Coach | 6 | 12 | \$2,600 |
| Shearer, Ian | Boys MS Basketball Coach | 3 | 3 | \$1,600 |
| Socoby, Michael | Boys Varsity Basketball Coach | 2 | 3 | \$4,000 |

IX. Fall Conference Discussion

The Board shared information regarding the Fall Conference and the clinics they attended. The Conference was informative and enjoyable.

X. Student Representative Reports

- Stearns Football went to the Northern Maine championship.
- The Mock Trial Team went to Harvard and has competitions coming up.

- The Performing Arts Fall Musical is Beauty and the Beast. Tickets are on sale now.

XI. Administrative Reports

Mia Charette, Food Service Manager, reported:

-This month the food service teams have prepared and served a total of 9,974 meals.

- Due to an amazing display of teamwork, students at both schools were served lunch before the early dismissal on 10/26. Office staff members were quick to notify the food service department of the dismissal, which allowed our team members the time to make last minute adjustments to our service model. The fast reaction time of our school and kitchen staffs ensured that no child went home hungry and hundreds of dollars were saved in potential food waste.

-Small changes have been made to the layout of the Stearns cafeteria in an attempt to streamline our meal service. Students are spending less time in line, and have more time to eat their meals.

-In order to better meet the needs of our program, Karen O'Loughlin will be transferring from GSS to SHS and Jessica Freeman, will be transitioning back to GSS from SHS. Effective 11/7/22.

-October has been a challenging month for our department. Our teams and their families have been hit hard with illness and are often working shorthanded. Staff members have been going far above and beyond their normal workload to ensure that students are well fed. We currently have a very limited sub pool and are working on creative solutions to help support our program and food service staff.

-On a positive note, we have been awarded the MDOE Equipment Assistance Grant in the amount of \$3,850.00. These funds will be used towards the purchase of a refrigeration unit for Granite Street School.

Cody Clinton, IT Director, reported:

The main focus of my attention and energy since back to school began, has been taking care of staff requests. As in past years, the first quarter of the school year has a heavy concentration of service requests, system setup tasks, device or software issues, supply and equipment needs, and error messages to be figured out. During this time frame there is not much opportunity to work on the big projects or infrastructure updates. I have continued to work on them when there was time and opportunity around the other tickets / work orders from teachers and staff.

The Server room / IT Office at Granite was able to have one round of clean up and organization in preparation for its migration later in the year.

The Computer Lab at Granite had been having some trouble with machines, so I have been through each one and updated and reset them. We are working on a few ideas to replace the aging rebuilt desktops with Chromebooks, which will allow for the Pre K through 2nd grade to use Chromebooks during Computer class, which is what they will be using once they get to third grade.

The data and server backup system has reached maximum storage capacity, so I have been working on adjusting the backup schedule, as well as the keep cycle of old backups to better maximize our storage space. This project has involved adjusting the backup system settings of each server machine, and PC in the system manually. Backups are currently running on all mission critical servers and PCs, but the need to add storage drives is still there.

Louis DiFrederico, Facilities Director, reported:

Since my last board report I am pleased to say that we finally took delivery of the Two 10 X 16 utility buildings that were built by Region III for our Lower Togue Pond Outdoor Research Facility. The two multipurpose buildings will serve as outdoor classroom space, shelter during inclement weather, as well as bunkhouse capability for overnight trips and of course additional storage space. This is a great addition to our Togue Pond property, built by local students and funded through the ESSER grant.

The last few weeks also saw the completion of the new fencing along the pool and football field that abuts the parking lot. This was actually a project under last years budget that was started in April, however due to material availability was not completed until just a few weeks ago. Due to winter snow and ice damage over the last several years the entire 600-foot fence line had to be replaced. The existing fence was 8f tall to match the new pool back when it was built. However, there was no need for a fence this high which made it more susceptible to winter damage. I had the entire fence line cut down to a standard 6' height and replaced the fencing wire with a heavier gauge black coated weave that will better withstand the winter snow load. A second gate was also added further down the fence line to accommodate the ambulance. This has already proved a good addition, keeping the emergency egress separate from the main spectator gate.

We have also been busy the last month here at Stearns hosting 6 additional vaccine booster clinics. We have held 2 shot clinics a week for a three-week period, setting up in both the Stearns gym and gym lobby.

We will be setting up the gym again next week for the November elections, followed by setup for a Veterans Day program. And, upon completion of this, we will begin preparation for the re-finishing of the gym floor just in time for basketball season. We have a narrow one-week window between Veterans Day and the official start of the winter sports season to sand, prep and recoat the 13,500sqft Stearns gym. More on that next month after completion.

Work still continues on several ongoing ESSER III projects at both buildings as supply chain shortages with materials are slowly trickling in. I will keep you updated on this progress.

November is also a busy month as we are getting all our equipment converted from summer, to winter use. With the loaders, snow blowers, plows, salters & sanders all being setup, prepped and ready to go for the oncoming winter months!

Nicholas Cullen, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, reported:

The fall athletic season has officially come to an end. The Stearns Junior High football team wrapped up their season with a victory over Orono and finished the season with a 6-2 record. The boys did an amazing job this year, improving every game. The Stearns Varsity Football team fell short in the Northern Maine Championship team to a very good Orono team and finished the season with a 7-2 record. Coach Cody Herring was phenomenal all year and we are lucky to have him. The support for the boys at the game was amazing with many old alumni wearing their jerseys and jackets from when they played.

Junior high basketball started last week. We have 12 girls and 12 boys who came out to play and look forward to a good season. Varsity basketball tryout are on November 21st.

Karla Rutherford, Instructional Interventionist at Granite Street, reported:

I would like to give the Board an overview of what my position looks like as Instructional Interventionist. I have covered lunch duty, monitored the halls, looked in on classes, helped with bus duty and answered questions from staff and parents/guardians alike. My position is to support students and staff and I am working at that to the best of my ability. Donna Cutliffe, Katie DiFrederico and Beth Peavey have been invaluable with help, support and answers to my many questions.

Wax Museum – My first day I was able to visit the wax museum put on by Grade 4. It was an amazing demonstration and the students did a great job. You had to push a button on their posters to have them start talking. They had a script prepared and either recited it from memory or read it from a paper. They were knowledgeable about the character they picked and were dressed in costume.

Trip to Fire Station – Both PreK classes attended their first field trip to the fire station to celebrate their unit on "fire safety & prevention". Eight (8) staff members walked over to the fire station with 35 students in tow. They were able to view the ambulances, fire trucks, rescue boats & even witnessed a real call for help in which our local heroes took off to save the day! We thank the fire department and staff for giving the kids take home stickers, helmets, and safety information. They loved the experience and we hope to take more field trips this year to meet more community helpers.

Halloween – This was a fun day if a little hectic. Most of the students came dressed in costume and were excited to share who they were. Staff did a great job keeping the kids on task and working while giving them time to celebrate the holiday.

Book Fair – The book fair was very successful. Every student visited the book fair and got a book.

Grade 3 students recently created the moon phases with Oreo cookies, and even better, they got to eat them! Students worked hard reading and writing about the moon phases and the delicious creation ended their unit of study.

Upcoming – A fourth grade trip to the town office for part of their social studies lesson on government.

Beth Peavey, Stearns Principal, reported:

Barry Dana, Penobscot Elder and former Chief of the Penobscot Tribe, visited select groups of our middle and high school students on Friday, Nov 4th. He spoke on a number of topics including tribal government, native identity, global warming, traditional food preparation, dog sledding, and hunting. We finished our day with a humanities department meeting with Mr. Dana; we unpacked the day and looked forward to implementing a more effective curriculum in respect to material regarding native people.

This fall, our Outdoor Education teachers joined the Northern Maine Outdoor Education Consortium, a group of outdoor education teachers from the region; we are working with this group to deepen and further develop our outdoor ed curriculum. We hosted the group's fall meeting at our Togue Pond facilities and are participating in monthly professional development Zoom meetings with the group. We also have four teachers currently undergoing training to earn Maine's new Educational Trip Leader Permit, which will help support our outdoor programming with students.

The Junior class will be having a spaghetti supper on Wed. Nov 9th from 4:30-6:30 at the Elks. They are also selling raffle tickets for a \$400 gift card to Preble Oil. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10.

The performance of Beauty and the Beast will be held next week.

Performances are Thursday November 17 at 7:00, Friday November 18 at 7:00, and Saturday November 19 at 3:00.

The Veterans Day celebration will be held on Thursday morning, starting with breakfast for the area Veterans and moving into the High School gym for the ceremony. Granite Street staff and students will be joining us for the first hour. The ceremony itself is expected to run until shortly after 10:00. Again, a special thank you to Terry Given who is organizing the event.

The Seniors have received their official gear, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and sweatpants. They are very excited to be able to wear their gear throughout their senior year.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, the 21st of November from 12:00-7:00 at the Junior-Senior High School. We strongly encourage parents to meet with teachers to continue to foster positive relationships.

Granite Street School will host Parent-Teacher Conferences in December.

XII. Superintendent's Report

- The Board members and I attended the MSMA two day board training in Augusta on October 27 & 28. We learned about trust, CTE programs, innovation in public schools, board policies and practices, negotiations and more. This was very informative for us all.
- Ron Smith from HRH has begun our annual audit as required by Maine law. I view audits as a time to review what we've done and guide the direction we are heading. It is a time to take a look at practices and learn from the process.
- We will be meeting in November as an Admin Team to discuss various topics. We will meet every two weeks as a team. These meetings will be a time to review what we do, develop goals for where we want to head and share ideas of new and innovative practices that might serve our community well. This team will begin the work towards a strategic plan.
- I put out the first District Announcements in OctoberMy effort is to hi-light some of the great things happening in the Millinocket Schools. I know there were a few issues like not everyone got the call or email, the call repeated itself, etc... I am seeking guidance on how to clean it up. Thanks for your patience as we figure it out. Going forward please notice that the announcement system will say either "General announcement" or "Emergency" announcement. General will contain hi-lights, celebrations, etc... Emergency will be early dismissal, snow or power matters, etc.... If you did not receive the call or email please reach out to Cody Clinton and he will make sure you are in the system.
- At the last Board Meeting a member of the public inquired about the transition at Granite School in the leadership position. I responded that night to her and I would add as a point of clarification that we have hired Karla Rutherford as an Instructional Interventionist. Her role is to support day-to-day happenings at Granite Street. This includes interactions with staff, students, and families. As an Interventionist she will support, support, support, everything that is needed to have the school run smoothly. If there is an issue that requires more detailed work Ms. Peavey will be there to offer assistance.
- While it wasn't a welcomed experience, we did learn that both Granite and Stearns are, in most cases, ready for virtual learning. The Millinocket calendar has 2 snow days and 3 virtual days approved for this year. Now we know virtual days can work. We acknowledge that they are not ideal and do create struggles for some students and families. We will never have a quiz or test following a virtual day. That is not to say assignments and projects won't be expected to be complete especially if they were previously assigned.
- Last week, as you know from earlier communications, we had the K-9 unit from Augusta sweep the Stearns building as a precautionary measure. It was precautionary because on Tuesday multiple interviews were conducted by both school personnel and law enforcement personnel. The situation was deemed "unviable". On Wednesday through conversation with the state K-9 unit team we were able to take that next step and have our building swept. I am thrilled to report it was deemed unviable by this team as well. I am glad parents and students were successful on a virtual day, as best as a first day could be. We at school appreciate your support in allowing us to make decisions that keep our community safe.

- I continue to meet with new people in the school/town. There is a very large supportive base of people interested in the success of our programs. I have met with a representative from Kids Peace, the Town Manager, and various individuals from within our schools.
- We have started regular “chats” with the principals to discuss practices, directions and to develop areas of growth and potential. The first meeting went great and we look forward to continued weekly work together.

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5: 34 PM

Motion by: Thomas Malcolm

Seconded by: Julie Hewke

Voted: 4 – Yes

0 - No

0 - Abs

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

November 22, 2022

December 6, 2022

December 20, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shelley Lane
Superintendent of Schools