

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
STEARNS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM
PUBLIC IN-PERSON OR BY ZOOM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023
4:30 PM**

Kevin Gregory	Present
Kevin Libby	Present
Thomas Malcolm	Present
Donald Raymond	Present
Warren Steward	Present
Dr. Shelley Lane, Superintendent	Present
Gracyn Sanders, Senior Student Rep	Absent

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Warren Steward, School Board Chair.

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 September 12 and September 26, 2023, barring any errors or omissions.

Motioned by: Kevin Libby **Seconded by:** Kevin Gregory

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - 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 PR24-6-2 in the amount of 486.30, PR24-6-3 in the amount of \$1,249.15 and PR24-6D-2 in the amount of 104.77 on September 14, 2023, PR24-7 in the amount of \$131,228.99 and PR24-7D in the amount of \$71,425.33 on September 28, 2023, and PR24-8 in the amount of \$131,957.79 and PR24-8D in the amount of \$71,079.27 on October 12, 2023.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory

Seconded by: Kevin Libby

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - 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 SA24-4 (student accounts) in the amount of \$2,986.55, AP24-9 in the amount of \$32,456.05, and AP24-10 in the amount of \$141,097.11 on September 28, 2023, and AP23-52 in the amount of \$980.77 (FY23), SA24-5 (student accounts) in the amount of \$636.08 and AP24-11 in the amount of \$94,959.28 on October 12, 2023.

Motioned by: Thomas Malcolm

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VIII. To see if the Board will approve a Junior Class School Board Representative

Motion: To see if the Board will approve Hailey Aldridge as the Junior Class School Board Student Representative.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

Board Discussion:

Principal Beth Peavey spoke about Hailey. The Board is pleased to have her on board.

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

IX. Adoption of Policy Revisions

Motion: To adopt the following revised policies:

EFD School Lunch Charging Policy

IJNDB Student Computer and Internet Use and Internet Safety

IJNDB-R Student Computer and Internet Use Rules

IJNDB-E Student Computer/Internet Use Acknowledgment Form

Motioned by: Kevin Libby

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

Board Discussion:

All students are receiving a free meal. They only pay for a la carte items.

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

X. Discussion of Resolutions for the Fall Conference Delegate

The Board reviewed the resolutions for the Fall Conference to give Kevin Libby, the Fall Conference Delegate, information regarding how the Board would like him to vote.

XI. Discussion of mileage reimbursement rates

Thomas Malcolm asked to have the rate reviewed. The area schools' rates were reviewed. There was discussion of our employees getting what the Town pays their employees, which is \$.65 per mile. There was discussion regarding how a change would affect the budget. The Superintendent will review what the difference will be for current travel amounts and report back to the Board.

XII. Student Representative Reports

Senior Class School Board Representative Gracyn Sanders reported:

- Stearns Varsity field hockey defeated PCHS in double overtime on 9/28 and tied with John Bapts, on 10/3.
- Stearns Football defeated Ellsworth 58-42 on 9/29
- NHS is putting on a veteran's breakfast after the Veterans Day program. It was also done last year, and it was a success, with NJHS also helping.
- Fall Fun Night was on 10/5.

XIII. Administrative and Program Reports

Facilities Director Louis DiFrederico reported:

- Work is now complete on the Elevator Modernization project. Both elevators have new hydraulic pump systems, all new operational controls, fire protection has been added to bring up to code as well as emergency calling. The 2nd floor elevator is now back in service for staff and student use. We are now waiting on the State Inspector to do the final inspection.
- Honeywell Digital Control heating upgrades have now all been completed. We now have 100% computer control of the buildings via web interface. No more pneumatic controls or continually running air compressors will represent electricity savings moving forward.
- New backboards hoops and nets were installed on the Granite St. Playground. Mr. Garvin and I were able to take advantage of the good weather and get this work done.

- A new set of aluminum bleachers were installed on the visiting side of the football field. This replaces the old set of wooden bleachers that were in disrepair. These were donated by Little League Baseball.
- Update on the Stearns Fire Alarm system. The new addressable system is installed and functional, we have had 2 fire drills to date. We are currently working on the last component which is a Voice Evacuation system. This is currently being installed in the Gym and Auditorium and is a new code requirement for large gathering areas.

Technology Director Cody Clinton reported:

- Been putting together quotes and slowly planning the network switch upgrade project from the Grant we were awarded from DOE. This will require a good bit of planning and preparation
- The influx of incoming tickets has not slowed down since the initial back to school rush. The teachers and staff are getting their technology needs addressed more quickly and this aspect of the Technology department is running much more efficiently.
- NWEA Testing technology setup and rostering has been monopolizing the majority of my time the last three weeks, but we have been able to get a clear picture of the process which has been completely changed from previous years. I have been able to update the staff members involved in any aspects of the NWEA window / preparation, with the end goal of having these regular testing windows run smoothly.

Food Service Coordinator Mia Charette reported:

- Our food service teams served 5,118 breakfasts, and 5,421 lunches in the month of September.
- We would like to thank a local business for their generous donation of food preparation gloves. They donated over 300 boxes of gloves to our program.
- The life skills class is back in the kitchen and cafeteria at Stearns practicing food safety, proper cleaning techniques, laundry tasks, and of course how to work as a team. These students bring so much energy and enthusiasm to our space and we are so incredibly thankful to have them join us.
- We are continuing to incorporate more scratch recipes into our menus. In October we are focusing on bringing in more homemade breakfast items as we move away from the pre-packaged items we have served in the past. So far this week we have tried out two new recipes. Whole grain biscuits for sausage, egg, and cheese breakfast sandwiches for Stearns students and whole grain apple cinnamon muffins for students at both schools!

Special Ed Administrator Jolene Maynard reported:

- At the end of the month of October we have the following number of students enrolled with the following:
IEP's - 112
504's - 24
Referrals - 7
Number of Meetings - 31
- The October Child Count lists have been given to each of the school secretaries and I will be finalizing that count and then giving it to the Superintendent for her to finalize.
- We have been able to schedule all of our IEP meetings for this month. We are only waiting for some evaluations to come in so we can schedule those triennial meetings.
- Michelle McGreevy is working on going through all of our inactive, graduated students and other special education files so we can organize them and work on a list of ones beyond the 26th birthday so they can be notified we will be destroying their files and if they would like them they can come and get them. This is going to be a long process, but we have begun the organizing part of this.
- We have officially hired a full-time Occupational Therapist, Elizabeth Consalvi, and things are off to a great start. She is very excited and helping us support our student's needs.
- We have put in place a toileting protocol and documentation, and this was started this week and going well so far. Our Occupational Therapist is also working with us and these students to assist in their independence.
- Finally, Ms. Jen Jandreau's class has been cooking and I was the recipient of a cake and cupcakes for my birthday on Monday as a surprise. It was a great surprise and they did an amazing job cooking!

Granite Street School Principal Jo-Anna Merry reported:

- SIPs Update:
 - The Comprehension Need Assessment has been updated and other required documents have been completed and uploaded for the first step of the approval process for fiscal year 2024. We should be hearing back within 2 weeks about this and then we can start the next phase.
 - The leadership team and I have been analyzing data, finding root causes for our areas of need, and will be creating SMART goals as part of the SIPs grant that is due October 31, 2023.
 - Team members have noticed that our current math and reading programs are not aligned to standards and have a lot of gaps which they have tried to supplement over the years.
 - Team members also found that 52% of our students are absent 17 or more days a year and 80% of our students are absent between 10 and 16 days a year.

- MMSA Professional Development Days:
 - On September 20, 21, and 22 Kate Greeley from MMSA was at Granite to provide PD about math fluency
 - The whole staff was involved on the 20th for the afternoon
 - K-5 teachers spent time in small groups with her on the 21st
 - She visited classrooms and modeled lessons at each grade level on the 22nd
 - Every staff member expressed they found the days very useful and immediately started incorporating some of what they learned into their classrooms.
 - We were given access to a lot of free resources and links for free math programs and curriculums that were put out by other school districts in the country
 - I have been working with MMSA (Maine Math and Science Alliance) to provide more math professional development in October and December during our early release and the following days. This is contingent on approval of funding for our SIPs grant.

- My SIPs coach, Susan Lamoreau, has been meeting with me on a regular basis as well as joining the leadership team meetings, and monthly coach and principal meetings. She has been instrumental in helping me learn how the grant works and making sure we have everything completed by due dates.

- I have been attending the professional learning community (PLC) meetings with each grade level group each morning. We discuss celebrations, student data, student needs, areas of instructional focus, changes that need to be made, concerns they have about their classrooms, students, materials, etc. On Fridays, I meet with title 1 staff and have started leading some professional development on reading. I also join the special education PLC on Fridays.

- Tammy McLaughlin has spent some time with Shawna Boyer teaching her various aspects of the education system and how to complete required reports to the state. Slowly Shawna and I are finding a rhythm to the work we are doing and getting to know everyone (staff, students, families) so we can better meet their needs.

Stearns Jr/Sr High School Asst Principal/Athletic Director Nick Cullen reported:

- I am very pleased with the progress that we have made great progress with our Advisor Advisee program as well as our Stearns Time. Comparing data from this year to last we had a total of 64 classes being failed for students in grades 9-12. This year that number is down to 30. It is still not where we want it to be but with some more tweaking we are working in the right direction. We are looking to add more enrichment activities to entice students to perform well in their classes and have the opportunity to partake in these activities.

- I am happy to report that overall our school attendance at Stearns Junior Senior High School has improved drastically from last year. Due to a later start time and help from the local authorities in getting kids to school, our students are at school getting the educational services that they need.

- Fall sports are winding down and playoff season will be here soon. Varsity Field Hockey regular season will wrap up on 10/17 and Varsity Football will travel to Madawaska for our final regular season game on 10/14. Both teams are making a strong push for the playoffs in hopes of hosting a playoff game. Junior High Football is playing well and has 3 more games left and Junior High Field Hockey will be looking at playing in the playoffs on 10/14.

Stearns Jr/Sr High School Principal Beth Peavey reported:

- Through Year Testing – she will have results to share in the future
- Curriculum
- Mentor Training – Heather Girsa developed and 16 staff members participated
- Veterans Day Celebration date change – November 9, 2023
- Outdoor Education classes for High School



XIV. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Shelley Lane reported:

- Continue to work on “tightening up” both schools. We have an “In an Emergency” practice that has been happening. Just like a fire drill we are doing HOLD, SECURE, LOCKDOWN, EVACUATE, SHELTER. With practice our staff, students and families will become more comfortable with these terms and practices.
- We have included Matt Cyr as a consultant for our emergency work. He is instrumental in setting our practice in motion, evaluating the effectiveness, and moving us forward with solid practices. You may remember that Matt joined us last fall.
- An auditor from RHR Smith was in our building last Wednesday and Thursday reviewing material for the FY 23 school year. This is a long process, if you recall last year, I will keep you updated as time goes by.

- I met with the Regional Superintendent last Thursday along with Region III director Curt Ring. The Culinary students cooked a delicious meal for us.
- Later this month I will be meeting with our local superintendents as we look to see if there are programs, people, policies or practices that we can share to save our communities money. Covid pushed the “reset” button on how we administer programs.
- The State of Maine is Piloting a new program designed to “Prevent” homelessness. The program will become effective on October 25th. Millinocket will receive \$750.00 (the average minimum). At the recent Penquis meeting there were a number of logistical questions.
- Also, at the Penquis meeting the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner talked about the increasing number of State Board overturning decisions of Superintendent agreements. The “lens” of who knows best has often been brought up. We have not experienced this as an issue this year.
- I attended a public hearing on EPS (Essential Programs and Services) with the Education Committee. There are a LOT of questions about how the formula works, on how the “pot” is divided, what a minimum receiver is, how one change affects each and every line.... Informative. Bottom line... this is a very complex formula and to make changes is slow.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 PM

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

Voted: 5 – Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

November 7, 2023

December 5, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shelley Lane
Superintendent of Schools