

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
STEARNS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM
PUBLIC IN-PERSON OR BY ZOOM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022
4:30 PM**

Kevin Gregory	Present – by Zoom
Julie Hewke	Present
Thomas Malcolm	Present
Donald Raymond	Present
Warren Steward	Present
Shelley Lane, Superintendent	Present

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adjustments to the Agenda

Remove XII. Executive Session.

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the School Board Meeting September 27, 2022, barring any errors or omissions.

Motioned by: Donald Raymond

Seconded by: Julie Hewke

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 #23-8 in the amount of \$122,497.43, #23-8C in the amount of \$455.99 and #23-8D in the amount of \$34,419.69 on October 13, 2022.

Motioned by: Julie Hewke

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

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 #SA23-5 (student accounts) in the amount of \$2,032.14 and #23-16 in the amount of \$147,675.22 on October 13, 2022.

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

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VIII. Discussion of Resolutions for the Fall Conference

The Board discussed the proposed resolutions and gave direction to Fall Conference Delegate Julie Hewke.

IX. Administrative Reports

Food Service Manager, Mia Charette reported:

The beginning of this school year has brought about many changes for our school lunch program.

- We have 4 new members of our food service team. Tyler O'Brien, Karen Birmingham, and Kendra Cummings were hired on at Stearns and Karen Oloughlin is our newest team member at Granite Street. All are doing a great job learning their new roles.

-Many of the federal waivers that were in effect during COVID-19 have expired and child nutrition programs are required to operate in their traditional format for the 2022-2023 school year. Some immediate changes needed to take place to ensure that we are compliant with regulations. One such regulation is that all meals are required to be eaten on site to be considered reimbursable. This effects the way we offer meals to our students on Early Release days. Bagged lunches for these days must be eaten at the school before dismissal. A big thank you is due to the staff and administration at both schools for successfully making scheduling changes to accommodate these new requirements in time for our first ER day of 9/21.

-We have applied for an Equipment Assistance grant through the MDOE Department of Child Nutrition. If awarded the grant, it will be used to purchase a new refrigeration unit for Granite Street.

-This month we have served a total of 5,728 breakfasts and 5,714 lunches to the students in our district.

-Menus created for September had limited offerings in anticipation of being short staffed. Fortunately, we are now fully staffed at both schools and are now able to offer more options to our students on a daily basis. We have also added more items to our A La Carte offerings at Stearns.

-Lori Arsenault has retired from her position as a food service assistant after serving the children of our community for nearly 20 years. We cannot thank her enough for her service to our students and the experience she has shared with our new hires. She will be greatly missed.

Technology Director, Cody Clinton reported:

No report

Facilities Director, Louis DiFrederico reported:

The past few months, right up to the start of school have been busy ones indeed. During the summer break the custodial staff at both schools kick into overdrive. The deep summer cleaning includes emptying every single room in both building, washing walls, lights, furniture and desks. Once this is complete and the rooms are emptied the work begins on the classroom floors. Every square inch of floor at both Stearns and Granite is scrubbed and abraded removing the top layers of wax then 3 to 5 coats of new wax applied. This is a very labor-intensive process conducted during the warmest months of summer with a narrow 9-week window for completion. We have an amazing crew of hard-working individuals that take a lot of pride in keeping our buildings clean and looking GREAT!

We have now effectively completed the upgrades to the classroom heating and ventilation systems at both buildings. This year long & nearly half million-dollar project paid for under the ESSER II funding converted and replaced the nearly 60-year-old equipment with new energy efficient heating units and controls. The new upgrades not only increase our energy efficiency with both heating oil and electricity but also provide strict monitoring of indoor air quality. This gives us the ability to not only meet but exceed the new indoor air quality standards set forth by the federal government in response to the pandemic. This provides for a safer healthier learning environment not only for our students and staff but also the public, as the buildings are used to hold many community events.

September also saw the completion of the auditorium seating project. This is another great accomplishment spanning several years and largely accomplished through community funding and support. Hussey seating installed the 3rd and final section of seating last month. This now provides us brand new seating for 400+ people in our Stearns auditorium. In conjunction with the seating upgrade, the main stage curtains as well as the Proscenium behind the main stage were also replaced, not only looking great but bringing all auditorium draperies up to fire code.

ESSER III building related projects that are under contract and ongoing are the replacement of both elevator pump systems and elevator door controls as well as the upgrade to the fire alarm system at Stearns. Both of these projects are slow moving due to supply chain issues especially the microchip shortage.

I am currently working on roof repairs at both Stearns and Granite, a continuation of the re-roofing over the vocational wing that I did last year at Stearns and repairs to the Granite gym roof. I have also had to rebuild our Key Card access system that was lost due to a freak power brown out disabling key card access here at Stearns.

I also was able to rebuild the security camera system at Granite and restore camera access to that building. The camera server failed during the end of the summer break and needed a major overhaul to get back up and running. The camera systems at both schools are getting up there in age and will need replacement / upgrading in the near future.

As some of you are familiar with, we typically do our fuel bid through Maine Power Options which is an offshoot of the Maine Bond Bank. They bid on over 8 million gallons of fuel oil and has always been a great resource. Typically, this bid is done in the spring, however due to market volatility it was pushed to the fall this year. Unfortunately MPO had one bidder which provided a pricing for us @ \$3.88/gal. I was not satisfied with just the one bid so I reached out to all the other vendors that have typically bid in the past and got pricing from them as well... RH Foster came in with the lowest price of \$3.42 which was .46 cents lower than the MPO Bid and saving us an additional \$33,000 in fuel cost. This puts us well below the \$4.50/gal we budgeted last spring when heating fuel was in the \$6 range.

Lastly the fall sports season has kept us extremely busy with the continual maintaining of the 2 football fields as well as the field hockey field. Many hours during the week are spent lining the fields and mowing, as well as setup and tear down for games. This is all still in conjunction with maintaining the 47 acres of school grounds on a regular basis. Thankfully this is a beautiful time of year to be outdoors working! Happy Fall!

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Nicholas Cullen reported:

Field Hockey season is winding down. Our varsity girls' team is currently 5-8 and working on fighting for a playoff spot. Coach Heather Girsa and her girls have been working extremely hard and improving every game.

Junior High Field Hockey currently has a record of 2-6-1 and have also been showing great improvement every game. The coaches are working hard to improve their skills and it is showing on the field.

Junior High Football is off to a good start posting a 4-2 record. Coaches Dave Michaud and Pat Mooney are doing an amazing job and the boys are playing great.

Varsity Football is off to an amazing start with a 5-0 record. This Saturday we have a big matchup with 5-0 Dexter. It has not always been pretty, but the boys have done an amazing job. Coach Cody Herring has done an amazing job with our football program we are really lucky to have him.

We have 6 junior high student who are playing soccer for Medway Middle School. They are enjoying their experience and having a wonderful time.

Principal Beth Peavey reported:

The staff and student flu shot clinic will be held on Friday, October 14th with the help of Millinocket Regional Hospital.

At the Granite Street School Library, they are starting the year off spectacularly with 86% of our students having 100% book return! The Fall Book fair will be October 24th-28th in the Conference room. We are excited to welcome parents back in!

In fourth grade, Ms. DeSilva and Ms. Alley are working on Living Wax Museum projects. This project is integrated between literacy, library and computer specials. The students are reading and writing a biography, creating a page on canvas to put together as a book, researching and presenting a 30-60 second speech on their historical figure. On October 18th they will go to the gym, with a backdrop that they will be creating and dressed up as their historical figure. The other classes will get to come around and hear the speeches and see the hard work the 4th graders have been doing since the beginning of the school year. The students are excited that in the afternoon their grownups have been invited to come see their presentations that day.

In Mrs. Campbell's Art Classes

Pre K-2: Directed Drawings

Over the past few weeks they have looked at the art of Wayne Thiebaud & created drawings of donuts, cupcakes, & other food items like his. They are moving into pumpkin drawings & looking at the works of artist Yayoi Kusama. Students will be focusing on use of patterns & using a technique called watercolor resist.

3-5: Watercolor Landscapes

Students are currently wrapping up a landscape unit. Students learned the various parts of an artwork to make a landscape & integrated the change of season into the project. They discussed what we experience this time of year as the seasons change & how to represent that visually such as tree changes to warm colors, fall specific activities, etc. Students are using watercolors to complete their artworks.

The ESEA Grant process is in the works and some projects surrounding curriculum and technology are being discussed.

JRH: JRH art is currently finishing up their first painting project focusing on use of watercolor & techniques. They are beginning a short project on Dia de Los Muertos/Day of the Dead in which we discuss the holiday, its culture significance, & have some fun with designing their own Day of the Dead movable skeletons. The skeletons are created using paper, fasteners, & other materials of their choice.

Art I & II: Students have wrapped up their Color Theory & Color Mixing unit. This is where students learn how & are challenged to mix all other colors using only the primary colors. We did a color wheel & color chart then students progressed to creating their own artwork mixing all their own colors. Both Art I & II are working on a Medieval Art unit currently. Art I students learned about illuminated letters & created one using traditional

lettering styles & techniques. Art II took this a step further by creating their own original artworks but using the same illuminating & painting process. They will be wrapping this up sometime this week & moving into a Pop Art unit.

The 6th graders participated in a workshop with the Katahdin Learning Project. They learned about edible plants and foraging and about animal adaptations. It was a great day spent outside learning about the environment. It was on the football field and on the walking trail. The 7th grade will participate in a program as well and the 8th grade will travel to Katahdin Woods and Waters later this month.

Stearns Karate class is going strong and has been well received by the students. Mrs. Hayes and Mr. McGibbon presented the 12 students with their own Stearns Karate Team T-Shirts. Mr. McGibbon is hoping to challenge them to gain their 8th level grading or Yellow belt level certificate by Thanksgiving. Students are having a great time in this class while they are learning self-discipline and the art of Karate.

We are currently taking the NWEA. The new High School English department is working together with the seniors to write their college essays, personal essays, and resumes.

The High School Mock Trial Team is gearing up for competition at the Bangor Courthouse on November 19th. There are nine promising legal enthusiasts on the team! Elina White, Gracyn Sanders, Isaac Hakes, Cote Briggs, Skylar Alegria, Kevlin Goulet, Alessia Rannucchi, Andrew Hallett, and Vanessa Morrow. The team hopes to participate in a High School training with the Harvard Mock Trial team in Massachusetts next month. This is a unique opportunity for the team!

The Talent Development/Extended Learning Program (formally G&T) has a new [website](https://dwyeralaura.wixsite.com/my-site). <https://dwyeralaura.wixsite.com/my-site>

The middle school Humanities is studying the Holocaust through the eyes of Anne Frank and will be performing a one-act production in January.

The middle school STEM class is beginning preparation for the Future City Engineering Contest. The Stearns team placed second in the regional competition two years ago and won Best Model! Not an easy task during the height of COVID. They will also compete in the BSCES - Boston Society of Civil Engineers Bridge Building Contest. In addition to their work as part of the First Lego League designing and programming their robot to perform autonomous missions.

The Liberal Arts class will work on the *Stearns Ink* newspaper and explore the law through Mock Trials.

The High School Street Law class will be competing in a state *We The People Showcase* in March, in addition to their case law studies.

French II classes Rosetta Stone with Mrs. Brooker are going well. There is a leaderboard in the Library and students are enjoying the competition while they continue learning French.

Millinocket Schools will host a Veterans Day program on Thursday, November 10, 2022. The day will begin with a breakfast for our veterans and invited guests/speakers at 7:30 - 8:30 am in the Middle School gym. The Student Council will cover the cost of the breakfast and members of the National Honor Society will serve the breakfast.

The program will begin shortly after 8:30 am in the Stearns gym. Band and chorus students are hard at work to provide special music for that day!

Invitations have been extended to previous presenters and Congressional offices have been contacted.

Granite Street School students will be bussed to and from the high school. More information will follow.

Some special “Thank You’s” need to be extended:

The first Thank You goes to Terry Given. Although Terry has retired, we haven’t allowed her much rest. She has volunteered to coordinate our Veteran’s Day program as she has in the past. This is a tremendous amount of work to put this program together and execute it. It will be a beautiful program and as always, a great way to honor our area Veterans allow our students to experience seeing and hearing from real heroes in their own community.

John Myshrall has donated books and a framed picture to the school (see photo) and the display is in the Library. I am sending John a formal thank you, along with a picture of the display. John wrote the book about his father, John Joseph Roderick Myshrall, and his military career, particularly, his deployment during WWII.

The elder Mr. Myshrall grew up in Millinocket and was an alumni of Stearns High School, which is included in the book. John told me that his father had fond memories of growing up in this community and that he was very proud of attending Stearns.

John Myshrall contacted me and offered this very generous donation to the school. He began writing the book for his family originally, and then it grew into a much larger project. I would like to issue a public thank you to John Myshrall for his generosity and thoughtfulness.



X. Superintendent's Report

I have been in this system for 16 days and I find it is filled with dedicated, hardworking individuals who love to support students! It is refreshing to work with so many people who "just get it done". While this may have been a necessity, they do it well.

I have had the opportunity to see students arrive and leave Granite School, a pep rally at Stearns, a retirement celebration, and have met many, many people.

Student Representatives - I am excited to have student voice join our board as soon as the nomination process is complete.

Attended a School Violence webinar- more and more planning around prevention and awareness. Suggested a threat assessment team. Not sure if we have one so will be looking into that.

Participated in the Penquis Superintendent group via zoom. A lot of information shared and no travel or added expense.

I want to express my appreciation for inviting me to serve your school and community. I will be an advocate and listener as we move small and large projects, programs and policies forward. Together we will review, test, agree and disagree but we will make each day better than the last. You will find I am a positive solution seeker and will invite interested persons to work alongside me.

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

Motion: To enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A) information in confidential records including Karla Rutherford

Motioned by: Thomas Malcolm

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

Time In: 5:18 PM **Time Out:** 5:32 PM

Result of executive session

Motion: Moved to rescind the contract for Karla Rutherford as Interim Principal.

Motion by: Kevin Gregory

Seconded by: Julie Hewke

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

Motion: To offer a contract to Karla Rutherford as an Instructional Interventionist for Granite Street School starting Tuesday, October 18, for the remainder of the school year.

Motion by: Donald Raymond

Seconded by: Julie Hewke

Board Discussion:

Thomas Malcolm stated we need to address where the money is coming from for the community to understand.

The Superintendent stated administration has looked at ways to support the students at Granite Street School. The money for this position has been in the ESSER grant for some time but the Interventionist positions had not been filled. The Stakeholders Committee for the ESSER grant will meet this week to also approve this before a contract is awarded. This hiring will support the students and staff as well as be a benefit for the tax payer.

Voted: 5 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

XII. To see if the Board will enter into Executive Session 1 MRSA § 405(6)(F) information in confidential records

Removed

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM

Motion by: Thomas Malcolm

Seconded by: Donald Raymond

Voted: 5 – Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

October 25, 2022

November 8, 2022

November 22, 2022

December 6, 2022

December 20, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Lane
Superintendent of Schools