

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
STEARNS JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014
4:00 PM**

Jeffrey Gordon	Present
Kevin Gregory	Present
Michael Jewers, Chair	Present
Margaret Manzo	Present
Warren Steward	Absent
Francis Boynton, Superintendent	Present
Christopher Brown, Student Representative	Present
Desiree MacArthur, Student Representative	Present

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Michael B. Jewers, Chairperson.

II. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the School Board Meetings on November 4 and November 18, 2014, barring any errors or omissions.

Motion by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Jeffrey Gordon

Board Discussion:

None

Vote: 4 – 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 #15-12 in the amount of \$184,320.57 on December 4, 2014.

Motioned by: Jeffrey Gordon **Seconded by:** Kevin Gregory

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 4 – 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 #15-22 in the amount of \$139,890.51 on December 4, 2014.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Jeffrey Gordon

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 4 – Yes 0 - No 0 – Abs

VII. 7-12 Art Presentation

Michele Lang, 7-12 Art Teacher, gave a Keynote presentation showing the work her students in Art 1 and Ceramics Class have accomplished so far this year. The Board was impressed with the art projects shown and thanked Ms. Lang, the students who attended the Board Meeting and Mrs. Debbie Grabber, K-6 Art Teacher, for the presentation.

VIII. To see if the Board will approve an additional teacher to the Performance Evaluation and Professional Growth Committee

Note: One more teacher will be needed for this committee

Motion: To appoint teacher Heather Girsa to the Performance Evaluation and Professional Growth Committee.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Margaret Manzo

Board Discussion:

None

Voted: 4 – Yes 0 - No 0 – Abs

IX. Trip to China Update

The cost of the trip is estimated at \$3,000. With the change in Superintendents, it has become apparent that our Dual Diploma Schools at Zibo and Li Ren require a visit to ensure our on-going commitment to their programs, as well as to generate revenue. The Superintendent will be leaving on December 17 and returning December 25.

X. Budget Update and Clarification

The Superintendent forwarded an email from the Town Manager. Mrs. Daigle's indication was that expenses are above revenues. The Superintendent relayed to the Board that the school budget is on track. It is typical in school districts to cover

beginning of the year expenses with an anticipatory note, which isn't done in our district. The school department doesn't have the luxury of dividing our budget into quarterly portions. We have budget lines that get 100% expended at the beginning of the school year. The Granite Street bond payment of \$386,000 was made, and we are also required to make purchases before we can request reimbursements from grants. All these items combined contribute to Mrs. Daigle's concerns, but the Superintendent assured the Board the budget percentages are where he would expect to see them at this point in the year. He is scrutinizing all expenses.

In reference to the Board's request for clarification of the \$216,000 in emergency funds, he will cover that in his Superintendent's Report.

XI. Student Representative Report

Chris Brown and Desiree MacArthur, Student School Board Representatives reported:

Christmas Dance

- High School Theme: Wrapped in Red
- Junior High School Theme: Christmas in Candyland
- Planning is underway by Student Council
- Date: Tuesday, December 23rd for both schools

Christmas Coffee

- Planning underway
 - Coffee, hot chocolate, and possibly cider will be served
 - Brownies and possibly muffins will be served
- Planning for it to be Tuesday, December 23rd

Performing Arts

- One Act has begun, this year we are performing "Booby Trap"
 - We are hosting States and Regionals here!!
 - Cast list will be determined and up by Wednesday
- Show choir has also begun. They are performing "Wicked".

Board Discussion:

The 6th graders will not be attending the Junior High Christmas Dance this year.

Granite Street School has had a couple of dances, and the Sophomore Class is going to host one as a fundraiser soon.

XII. Administrative Reports

Debbie Levesque, Principal of Granite Street School and Stearns Junior-Senior High School reported:

Preparations are underway for the busy month of December. The elementary concerts will be held the week of Dec. 8-11. These will be held at 12:30 in Walker Auditorium. Band concert (grades 6-12) will be on Dec. 4 and the Chorus concert (grades 4-12) will be Dec. 8 both starting at 7:00 p.m. in Walker Auditorium. The winter sports teams for basketball have been selected

and practicing has begun. Performing Art Department has started selecting members for Show Choir and One Act. Their busy schedule starts in December. The Student Council will have Junior High and Senior High Christmas Dances on Tuesday December 23.

The school department has applied for an extension regarding implementing the Proficiency Based Diploma for the graduating class of 2018 (Freshmen). We will be responsible for proficiency standards in Math and ELA but will hopefully have more time to prepare the other six content areas: Science, social studies, visual/performing arts, world language, career and education and health/physical education. After Christmas, staff will begin developing graduation standards in each area in a K-12 initiative. We will use suggested standards from the DOE and adapt them to our schools. From there each course/grade will develop learning targets that lead to the graduation standards. This work is important to do in a K-12 continuum so that the learning is progressive through the grades.

There have been discussions at Stearns Jr/Sr High School about the number of students who are failing classes. As an attempt at making sure students are using their laptops for educational purposes only, we have instituted a new protocol regarding laptop use. If a student is not passing a class, they will be leaving their laptop in one location unless it is requested by the classroom teacher. If a teacher feels the student needs it at home to complete classwork that can also be arranged. Other than those times, students will not have access to the laptop. We are hoping that this will be a way to encourage students to maintain passing grades.

Several service learning projects are being planned for the month of December at Granite Street School. The first grade students will be visiting the Katahdin Nursing Home to carol for the residents. The Elementary Chorus will be caroling at the Assisted Living Home and Grade 2 students will perform a Reader's Theater for the people residing there. Mrs. Lincoln's students will be collecting Pennies for Pets to donate to the Lincoln Humane Center. Grade five is busy planning their Granite Street Holiday Store. The staff donates small items that all students may purchase for a family member. The fifth graders help wrap the gifts and read stories to the younger students. The proceeds are donated to a local charity.

Congratulations to the cast and crew that performed White Christmas earlier in November. It was a wonderful show that highlighted evidence of the talented students we have in our community.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held in both building on Thursday December 4th. It is an Early Release Day and we are hoping for a strong turn-out of parents visiting our schools.

Board Discussion:

Ms. Leveque again noted the great Veteran's Day Program put on by staff and students. Special thanks were given to Terry Given and Denise Page for organizing the event.

The reasons for students failing classes revolve around uncompleted work, not redoing assessments, attendance, and tardiness. Taking away laptops will be looked at in the coming weeks to assess the success of this disciplinary action. Administration is in the process of taking a hard look at attendance and tardiness.

Fredy Lazo, 7-12 Assistant Principal/AD reported:

On Monday, November 24 the Head Football Coach John Jamo attended the Little Ten Conference(LTC) All-Conference nomination meeting. Several of our student athletes were recognized and received all-conference selections.

First Team Selections:

Brunno Martino – Kicker
Nick Dumas – Linebacker

Second Team Selections:

Nick Dumas – Half back
Marc Morneault – Halfback
Justin Santere – Guard
Kacey McVey – Cornerback
Dimitri Carrier – Defensive Tackle
Jordan Cullen – Defensive End

Honorable Mention nominees: Damien Newberry-QB, Brunno Martino- DE, Jordan Cullen-C, Marc Morneault-CB, Kacey McVey-WR, and Zack Bouchard-LB.

The winter sports season is underway. I have met with both Head Coaches of the basketball teams and they are very excited for the season. Both teams have determined their official roster and the winter schedule has been updated and finalized. Attached you should have received a copy of the basketball schedule and a pocket sized one as well for your convenience. I have observed practice for both teams, and the coaches have high expectation for the players.

This past weekend both the Boys and Girls went to Orono to play in their annual round robin. The girls played against Orono and John Bapts while the boys played against Hermon and Orono. Both teams had an outstanding effort competing at a high level. Yesterday, Monday the teams faced Penquis in a per-season scrimmage. I spoke with both coaches and they were proud of their team. Both teams won the games and demonstrated improvements. The next pre-season scrimmage is today Girls at 5:00 and the Boys at 6:30 against Katahdin.

Board Discussion:

The same group of officials is being used for both basketball games, which saves the cost of one official and travel for the second group. It will be a substantial savings over the course of the season.

John Jamo, Varsity Football Coach, noted to Mr. Lazo that our football players are highly respected by other coaches in the LTC. We have the least number of players ever recorded in our conference, and the players are respected for their talents and their ability to compete against schools with much larger numbers.

Louie DiFrederico, Facilities Director reported:

None

XIII. Superintendent's Report

The actuarial audit arrived today from the company out west. They were slowed by volume at this time since they are one of only two companies that do this type of audit (insurance benefits for retirees). With this accomplished, the local audit can continue. I did have a discussion with the town manager who indicated that any carry forward will not be put toward the budget next year, but toward the short fall from several years ago. I also asked about the \$216,000 in emergency funds. These funds were not received by the town even after a court challenge. Other sources have indicated that a deadline was not met as well which resulted in the loss of funds. Regardless, the funds are not available to us.

We continue to explore possibilities for increasing the International Program. Funding from the program is close to our prediction. The trip planned to China hopefully will encourage one of our partners in the dual diploma program to complete their financial obligation. My research has indicated that we a visit to China has not happened for over a year. This is an essential part of maintaining the program and keeping on task with the expectations.

I continue to monitor our budget closely. We are in good shape with regard to salary percentages. Other lines in the budget have been expended as expected. With regards to the questions asked at the last meeting, the major issues in the budget are loan payments, supply lines and other annual expenditures. Unexpected expenditures include the legal bills from the work with the retirees which were anticipated to be paid from another source, but \$6,000+ was taken from the Superintendent legal line. Another example of unanticipated costs includes the pay-off of the lease for the postage machine which amounted to about \$1,000 along with the first quarter lease. We also had emergency costs for the electrical issues at Stearns. The first bill of about \$9,000 has been paid, while the other possible bills from the vendors remain outstanding.

Coming this week we have a review of our lunch program, two days devoted to the TIF program and our normal run of events, including the start of the basketball season.

Board Discussion:

The Food Service review was completed today, which went very well. They made a couple of suggestions of programs to add, such as after school snacks, but the programs will be reviewed and brought before the Board if necessary.

We have not heard from the insurance company yet as to whether they will cover the blown transformer.

The temperature in the buildings is being kept lower as an effort to conserve oil. The oil use seems to be on track.

XIV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM

Motion by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Margaret Manzo

Voted: 4 – Yes 0 - No 0 – Abs

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 – Warrant Meeting in Stearns Junior-Senior High School Library at 4:00 PM.

Tuesday, December 30, 2014 – Warrant Meeting in Stearns Junior-Senior High School Library at 4:00 PM.

Tuesday, January 13, 2015 - Regular Meeting in Stearns Junior-Senior High School Library at 4:00PM.

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 – Warrant Meeting in Stearns Junior-Senior High School Library at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis N. Boynton
Superintendent of Schools