

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
STEARNS JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015
4:00 PM**

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

Also present: Town Council Members Richard Angotti, Michael Madore, Gilda Stratton, Anita Mueller, and Richard Theriault. Town Manager Peggy Daigle and Town Treasurer Peggy Elliott were also in attendance.

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

The Superintendent introduced Adam Edgerton Vice President of Academics and Operations at Vermont International Academy. We have signed an agreement that includes 6 schools in China, through VIA. We look forward to a long-term relationship.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the School Board Meetings on January 13, 2015, barring any errors or omissions.

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

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 #15-16 in the amount of \$173,332.17 on January 29, 2015, and #15-17 in the amount of \$154,908.86 on February 12, 2015.

Motioned by: Kevin Gregory **Seconded by:** Warren Steward

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 #15-26 in the amount of \$46,975.82 on January 29, 2015, and #15-27 in the amount of \$159,366.96 on February 12, 2015.

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

Board Discussion:

The January 29, 2015, warrants were signed by the Board on Monday, January 26, 2015, but due to the cancellation of the Warrant Meeting because of the storm, they are officially being approved.

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

VII. Auditor's presentation

Board Discussion:

Roger Lebreux from Runyon Kersteen Ouellette presented an overview of the School and Town audit ending June 30, 2014.

VIII. Discussion of international contracts

Board Discussion:

The Superintendent presented an overview of the current international contracts, as well as a financial overview of the international revenue and expenses since its inception.

IX. Discussion regarding make-up days for storm days

Motion: To change graduation from Sunday, June 7, 2015, to Sunday, June 14, 2015.

Motioned by: Warren Steward **Seconded by:** Margaret Manzo

Board Discussion:

Due to the number of storms days and the possibility of more, the seniors will not meet Maine law requirements for number of school days. Options were presented to teachers and seniors, with the majority opting for a graduation date change.

A parent stated he doesn't agree with changing the date of graduation and a waiver should be explored.

Voted: 3 - Yes 1 – No (Kevin Gregory) 0 - Abs

X. To see if the Board will approve a performing arts trip to Washington DC during April vacation

Motion: To approve a performing arts trip to Washington DC during April vacation.

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

Board Discussion:

Matt Waite, Music Teacher at Stearns, gave an overview of the trip. Twenty to twenty-five students and six chaperones will be going. There will be no funds used from the budget to fund this trip and no school will be missed.

Voted: 3 - Yes 1 – No (Warren Steward) 0 - Abs

XI. To see if the Board will authorize the Superintendent to set Class Day as an early release on an appropriate day, given the storm day situation, after consultation with other administrators and staff.

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to set Class Day as an early release on an appropriate day, after consultation with other administrators and staff.

Motioned by: Warren Steward **Seconded by:** Kevin Gregory

Board Discussion:

The Superintendent will plan to make a decision on the date by the end of March.

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

XII. To see if the Board will approve reimbursing \$300 to Schenck for cooperative tennis costs

Motion: To approve reimbursing Schenck up to \$300 for cooperative tennis costs.

Motioned by: Warren Steward **Seconded by:** Kevin Gregory

Board Discussion:

The matches will need to be extended to accommodate the Stearns' students, which will require the use of lights on the courts. Schenck personnel estimated the cost would be up to \$300.

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

XIII. First reading of policies

- ADC – Tobacco Free Schools (Revised)
- BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics (Revised)
- EEA – Bus Transportation for Children (Revised)
- EFD – School Lunch Charging Policy (Revised)
- GBEC – Drug-Free Workplace (New)
- JICG – Tobacco Use by Students (Revised)
- JL – Student Wellness (Revised)
- JLCB – Immunization of Students (New)

JLCCA – Communicable/Infectious Diseases (New)
KFD – Use of Vocational/Technical Shops (Revised)

Motion: To table the first reading of these policies

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

Board Discussion:

The first policy readings are tabled due to the length of the meeting.

Voted: 3 - Yes 1 - No (Warren Steward) 0 - Abs

XIV. Student Representative Report

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

Student Council Fundraising

- Candy Grams on sale this week.
- Funds to go towards future events, such as Spring Fling

Prom

- Theme: White Lights
- Preparations underway

College Preparations Have Begun

- Many students have begun receiving college acceptances
- Some have even paid their deposits for their programs
- Student Auditions with USM
- One of our seniors had an audition with USM
- Musical Theatre program
- Feels it went well

District V

- Districts were this weekend
- 13 students went
- All had a great time

XV. Administrative Reports

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

Plans for the 4-year-old program at Granite Street are underway. Mr. Boynton and I met with representatives from Head Start and CDS last week. The teaching position has been posted and candidates are beginning to apply. We will meet at Granite later this week to look at the space we have in order to determine the best placement for the program. To date, we have 13 students on a potential list for next year. We have yet to finalize the procedure for eligibility (recommended 16 students max).

It appears that laptop restrictions for students at the high school level have made an impact. There were fewer students who did not pass classes for Quarter 2. Of continued concern are

grades 7 and 8. Staff is working to provide those students with opportunities to receive additional support. Students are reluctant to access opportunities after school. I plan to send letters to parents of students who are not passing more than one class so they are aware that their student may not be promoted to the next grade.

Granite Street School Leadership Team met with Steve Catrell from the Department of Education about our status as a Focus School. This categorization is due to the fact that there is a discrepancy between the Caucasian population and Students with Disabilities goals. Math has a 28 point gap and reading is a 35 gap in the percentage of students who meet/exceed the standards. The school will receive \$10,000 to provide additional professional development aimed at addressing this discrepancy.

Plans for Prom 2015 are moving along and we should have an update for you next month. We are coming up on a busy but exciting Performing Arts season. Prior to the next school committee meeting Millinocket will be hosting the MMEA District V Vocal Jazz Festival on Wednesday February 25.

Tuesday March 3- public performance of One Act Drama 7:00 p.m.

Friday March 6 and Saturday March 7-Stearns is hosting the Northern Regional Drama Festival

More to come later in March.

Athletic Director's Report presented by Ms. Levesque:

The Regular season for winter sports ended this past Saturday at Mattanawcook Academy. The varsity girls basketball team finished with a record of 7-11 and the varsity boys basketball team finished with a record of 6-12. Both teams earned a playoff preliminary game this week. The Girls will travel to East Grand High School on Tuesday night for a 6:00 game. The boys will travel to Easton High School to play on Wednesday for a 6:00 game start.

I spoke with both coaches and they are very hopeful with these games and feel the match up well with these teams. If the Girls win they will play on Saturday at the Cross Center at 7:35 pm. If the boys win they will play on Monday at the Cross Center at 7:05.

XVI. Superintendent's Report

Report of time:

Days Worked: 150/210

Vacation days remaining: 10/10

Sick Days remaining: 8.5/10

Days worked prior to 7-1-2014: 10

I am pleased to report that we had a very positive meeting last week with MEMIC, our workers compensation provider. They indicated that we have had a very low injury rate for the past couple of years and they were very pleased with our reports.

You have each received the letter from Quenten Clark concerning the offer we made to East Millinocket and Medway. I am disappointed in the fact that we did not have the opportunity to have any dialogue regarding the offer. I think both schools have much to gain with the appropriate agreement.

On January 22, 2015, I presented the details of the trip to China to the Town Council. The presentation was well received and I was able to answer a significant number of questions. I was very appreciative of the response from the Council Members.

We received a letter from Janice Breton regarding the \$338,000 subsidy reduction due to a lack of Maintenance of Effort for Special Education. As a result of our visit to Augusta, our research into costs and subsidy for the last 5 years, and our description of details, the reduction to the subsidy for FY16 will be ZERO. I was very pleased to receive this in writing.

At this time we are working on a trip to China to begin April 11, 2015 through April 24, 2015. The trip will be a bit longer than the last one, due to the addition of several schools. I will be visiting more than a dozen schools during the trip.

Board Discussion:

It was announced that whoufm.com is streaming basketball games, including preliminary games, that are not being broadcast, in case the public is interested in watching them on-line.

XVII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

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

Voted: 4 - Yes 0 - No 0 - Abs

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, February 24, 2015 – Warrant Meeting in Stearns Junior-Senior High School Library at 4:00 PM.

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Regular Meeting in Stearns Junior-Senior High School Library at 4:00 PM.

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 - Warrant Meeting in Stearns Junior-Senior High School Library at 4:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis N. Boynton
Superintendent of Schools