

**RSU 83/M.S.A.D. #13 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2024
VALLEY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL BINGHAM, MAINE
6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER-The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Leo Hill

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Leo Hill, Bonnie Atwood, Elizabeth Brochu, Brandy Hill, Beverly Brown, Pauline Lagasse, Brian Malloy, Ann Ingersoll, Janelle Ingersoll

Absent: Karen Stevens (excused)

Also present: Sandra MacArthur, James Tyler, Wendy Belanger, Melissa Lyons-Vitalone, Carol Hines, Corey Farnham, Britani Cabassa, Cathy Foran, Drew Foran

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-Conducted

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (Regular meetings – will not be done at special meetings)

- a) Upon a motion by Bonnie Atwood and second by Ann Ingersoll the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of January 9, 2024 (regular meeting). February 6, 2024 (finance committee)

V. PUBLIC INPUT -Pauline Lagasse thanked the board for the donation in memory of Jay Rollins

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Moscow Principal's Report

WinterKids games have ended. We will receive \$500 for our efforts. We had a wonderful time at Baker Mt. for our family sledding night. Today we celebrated the 100th day of school. Tomorrow we will be celebrating Valentine's Day! We are selling raffle tickets this month for our month-long raffle in March.

- b) Valley Jr/Sr High School Report

Honor Roll Reward Trip: Our second quarter honor roll/perfect attendance trip is scheduled for March 15th, pending board approval of transitioning that to a student day to accommodate storm days this year. Students will spend the morning at the movies in Skowhegan.

Student of the Month: Our first student-of-the-month ceremony on February 2nd was successful. We held a brief ceremony with all students in the gym, and the student of the month received flowers, a certificate, a custom coffee mug, and free lunch from North Country delivered by a teacher. We are going to keep this program rolling next month.

Ice fishing trip: Mr. Davis and Mr. Atwood's ice fishing trip to Fahi pond was very successful. Mr. Davis's outdoor education class acted as guides, setting everyone up comfortably and providing hot meals. Mr. Atwood's wildlife studies class conducted field surveys and identified wildlife and wildlife sign they found. All the students involved had a great day.

Athens student tour: Athens students will tour our buildings and meet high school teachers on March 6th.

c) Director of Special Services Report

Special Education – MaineCare Update

Staff have completed the training required for them to be credentialed to bill for services and we are actively billing each week. We are trying to find out from MaineCare how long it will take for the deposits to start being made.

If we were at full strength (8 staff, and perfect daily staff/student attendance) we would be billing the following amounts for BHP services:

- Section 65 has 4 eligible students = 217,476 for the school year
- Section 28 also has 4 eligible students = 219,618 for the school year

We are currently only able to bill for the four Section 65 students. We are billing for 1 student at a 1:1 rate and three students at a 3:1 rate due to the supervising staff needing to have a bachelor's degree. We are very close to being able to start billing for Section 28, where staff will only need a high school diploma and the BHP training. We will be looking at a similar billing scenario with Section 28 in that we will have 1 student at 1:1 and 3 students at a 3:1 rate.

I will be presenting all of this in greater detail with visuals to include our current capacity, more detailed figures, and program requirements at the board meeting next month. In the presentation, I will provide recommendations for the board to consider that might maximize our ability to retain our current staff and improve recruitment efforts. I will print the PowerPoint presentation for you so you will have it to take notes on during the presentation and to have as a reference for anticipating revenue for the budget.

RFGH Training

I am on the docket to present to physicians and nursing staff who work with school-aged kids at RFGH in May as we have seen an uptick in doctors' notes ordering IEP services. This is obviously not how the IEP process works, or identification rates would be through the roof. The goal will be to educate the medical staff on the referral and eligibility processes to create a working partnership. I am fine with them ordering private evaluations, but the evaluations must conform to the state special education regulations to be accepted. The difference between the medical approach and the special education approach primarily lies in looking at things through the lens of diagnosis vs. disability. Special education teams are the only authority for determining whether a child is "disabled" or not. The process is highly regulated by state and federal law and policy, and medical professionals are not trained on this.

d) Athletic Director's Report

Basketball:

Basketball regular season is coming close to an end. Valley Varsity Boys are currently 14-4 and ranked #1 seed in Class D South Division. Valley Varsity Girls are 17-0 and have one more regular season game on 02/08/2024 against Pine Tree which will be played at Valley.

Middle-School girls are currently undefeated, and both teams will play in the Pine Cone tournament on 02/09 and 02/10. Middle-School boys will play on 02/09 at 4:05 in Madison.

1,000 Points:

Valley has had three basketball players that have scored 1,000 points this season: Madeline Hill, Fisher Tewksbury, and Harry Louis.

Fill-The-Gym and Senior Night:

Both nights were a huge success. Thank you to the Valley Boosters and all those who participated and donated for the fill-the-gym event!

VII. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- a) IX (e) Resignation and acceptance of Diane Poulin, Food Service Supervisor/Head Cook, effective October 11, 2024
- b) IX (f) Resignation and acceptance of Sandy Carter, Food Service Assistant, Valley Jr/Sr High School effective end of school year June 2024
- c) XIII (b2) Transfer of a current employee into the Bookkeeper/Payroll Clerk position

VIII. GOOD NEWS

- a) Audit was completed-Craig will present the audit by Zoom at an upcoming board meeting
- b) Valley Jr/Sr honor roll was in the Bangor Daily News
- c) Approved for a new bus lease purchase-District has been approved for a gasoline bus by DOE. The district will make the first payment and any cost over the state approved \$116,650. The following year, the first payment will be in the district's GPA.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Financial Statement-In good standing, may have to transfer money into Central Office line.
- b) Superintendent MacArthur's March schedule
- c) Budget update-District Budget meeting will be May 21, 2024
- d) Thank you note from Humane Society Waterville Area for donation in memory of John Costello
- e) Resignation and acceptance of Diane Poulin, Food Service Supervisor/Head Cook effective October 11, 2024
- f) Resignation and acceptance of Sandy Carter, Food Service Assistant, Valley Jr/Sr High School effective end of school year June 2024

X. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

- a) Enrollment update-Enrollment remains stable.

XI. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS (Finance Committee, Policy Committee, Negotiations Committee, Transportation Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee, Personnel Committee)

Finance (Bonnie Atwood, Elizabeth Brochu, Brian Malloy)

Policy (Leo Hill, Janelle Ingersoll, Brandy Hill, Beverly Brown)

Negotiations (Janelle Ingersoll, Pauline Lagasse, Karin Stevens, (alternate) Beverly Brown)

Transportation (Leo Hill, Brian Malloy, Karin Stevens)

Buildings and Grounds (Leo Hill, Bonnie Atwood, Ann Ingersoll, Beverly Brown)

Personnel (Leo Hill, Elizabeth Brochu, Brandy Hill, (alternate) Janelle Ingersoll)

- a) Finance committee
- b) Personnel committee
- c) Negotiations committee

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- a)

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Upon a motion by Brandy Hill and second by Janelle Ingersoll the Board unanimously voted to approve the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent's contract and authorized the Superintendent to issue a contract with a rate of \$28.50 per hour and \$1,500 yearly longevity pay

- b) Voted to table the Administrative Assistant to Director of Special Services and District Data Entry Clerk's contract
- b(2) Upon a motion by Brandy Hill and second by Beverly Brown the Board unanimously voted to approve the transfer of Corey Farnham to the Bookkeeper/Payroll Clerk position and authorized the Superintendent to issue a central office contract with a rate of \$25.00/per hour. The motion passed with all voting in favor except Elizabeth Brochu who abstained.
- c) Upon a motion by Bonnie Atwood and second by Janelle Ingersoll the Board voted to approve the following co-curricular/extra-curricular position and authorized the Superintendent to issue a contract:
 - MS Softball
 - Billie Hatfield
- d) Upon a motion by Brandy Hill and second by Beverly Brown the Board unanimously voted to approve the snow removal bid, with an additional \$500 for each building, from Kennedy Construction for 2024-25
- e) Upon a motion by Pauline Lagasse and second by Ann Ingersoll the Board unanimously voted to approve the oil bid from Bob's Cash Fuel for 2024-25
- f) Upon a motion by Pauline Lagasse and second by Ann Ingersoll the Board unanimously voted to approve the adjustments to the 2023-2024 school calendar
- g) Upon a motion by Pauline Lagasse and second by Ann Ingersoll the Board unanimously voted to approve the school calendar for 2024-2025
- h) Upon a motion by Beverly Brown and second by Elizabeth Brochu the Board unanimously voted to accept the Agility Fund Grant awarded to MSAD 13 from Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine

XIV. ADJOURNMENT-The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra J MacArthur
Secretary to the Board