

Our Mission is to prepare and support all students within a culture of excellence to do their best and to be their best, so that each can be a successful contributing citizen, able to adapt to change and to successfully respond to the future.

RSU 16

Mechanic Falls - Minot - Poland
The 7th Regular School Board Meeting
for 2023-2024 was held
Monday, February 12, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.
PRHS/WMS AUDITORIUM

Use the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87038027522?pwd=Z0lzSVY4UEY3QndaRGVxL0pTR2FIZz09>

Passcode: 194909

Or watch the livestream on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@PolandKnights/streams> (LIVE tab)

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

PRHS/WMS AUDITORIUM

**** *Elementary School HVAC and Heating* ****

MINUTES

Present: Mary Martin, Joe Parent, Steve Turner, Christine Downs, Emily Rinchich, Mike Downing, Steve Holbrook, Angela Swenson, Randy Lutz, Patrick Irish, Andrea Winn, Jessica Smith, Elizabeth Martin

Absent: Sarah Robinson, Melanie Harvey,

Student Rep: Emma MacMahon, Cadence Peters

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: Mary Martin, Chair

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Mission Statement

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: (15 minutes)

No Public Comment

3.0 RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

1. Congratulations to *Ava Banaitis* - Maine Music Educators District II Middle School Honors Band.
2. Congratulations to *D'Arcy Robinson* for receiving the Diamond Coach Excellence in Speech and Debate Award.
3. National School Counseling Week is Feb. 5-9, 2024, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors.
4. RSU 16 brought 17 students to the MMEA District II Honors Vocal Festival. The Whittier students who were selected to the Middle School Chorus were *Bella Hartman (8)*, *Scarlett Quimi (8)*, *Wyatt Scribner (8)*, and *Liam Whitney (7)*. The PRHS students selected to the Treble Chorus (grades 9 & 11 upper voices) were *Ayla Dyer (11)*, *Irelyn Smith (9)*, *Olivia Snowman (9)*, and *Aurora Holden (11)*. Students from PRHS selected to the Mixed Chorus (grades 9-12 lower voices and grades 10 & 12 upper voices) were *Emma Daigneault (12)*, *Faith Bustamante (10)*, *Audrey Fryda (12)*, *Cheyenne Toth (12)*, *Max Benton (10)*, *Jack Desrosiers (11)*, *Jason Garneau (11)*, *Andrew Mitchell (9)*, and *Cayden Michaud (10)*.
5. *Oscar Horowitz (10)* performed at the All-State Honors Jazz Band.

4.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

5.0 PRESENTATION:

1. Auditor's Report: Summary of the Audit results indicates that they issued an unmodified audit report. The financial statements are recorded in accordance with the proper procedures. No weaknesses in the internal controls for the financial statements were found. There were no examples of non-compliance noted in the audit. The ESSER Grant funds were also tested through this audit. Again, they issued an unmodified audit report showing compliance with the grant. Financial statements were prepared through the report. A data report was filed that is made available to the public stating the findings. The board is also provided a letter that would provide additional suggestions if there were any. A report is also prepared to provide for the State of Maine. Fund Balance: \$3,244,473.00. This fund balance is within the range of under 9% that the state would look for you to be under. The management document that was issued provided a couple of items that were shared. This included some feedback on the Student Activity Account practices. This also included a suggestion of providing staff training on cyber security having to do with phishing scams.
2. Shawn Vincent - Principal, WMS: Mr. Vincent started by recognizing the hard work of staff and students for Whittier National History Day. He shared what skills the students need to put into practice to complete the project. There are only three competitions in the state, and Whittier is one of those competitions. Shawn introduced staff and students who shared their experience with the competition.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA INTRODUCTION:

1. Approve Meeting Minutes
 - a. Approve 6th Regular Meeting Minutes of 1/8/2024
2. Notification of Support Staff New Hire:
 - a. David Tyler, Ed Tech III - ESS
 - b. Caleb Nottingham, Ed Tech III - PRHS
 - c. Andrea Forbush, Coach Varsity Softball - PRHS
 - d. Andrew Cantone, Asst. Coach Outdoor Track - PRHS
 - e. Dan Roy, Indoor Track Coach - WMS
 - f. Eric Hall, Asst. Indoor Track Coach - WMS
3. Notification of Retirements:
 - a. Racine Bruce, Teacher - MCS
 - b. Catherine Wood, Teacher - WMS
 - c. Gerald Pray, Custodian - MCS
 - d. Lauren Hendry, Admin Assistant to the Superintendent - Central Office
 - e. Al Connolly, Van Driver - District
 - f. Judith Rowe, Ed Tech III, MCS
4. Notification of Resignation:
 - a. Elizabeth Davis, Bus Driver - District
5. Sub Committee Minutes - January 2024
 - a. Operations
 - b. Operations & Finance Workshop
 - c. Personnel & Finance
 - d. Education Policy - No Meeting
6. Friends of RSU 16 Minutes - January 12th
 - a. Next meeting at ESS on March 22nd in the ESS Conference Room

Motion by Steve Holbrook to approve the Consent Agenda

Seconded by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

7.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL SUMMARIES:

1. Stacie Field
 - a. Approve Financials as recommended by the Personnel & Finance Subcommittee at their meeting on 1/22/2024.
 - b. CIP Information

Motion by Steve Holbrook to approve the Financial Summary

Seconded by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

8.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

1. Winter Convocation
 2. AI Summit
 3. Speech and Debate
 4. Budget Work
 5. Current Last Student Day (6/12/24)
 6. Enrollment as of 1-30-24
 - a. Elm Street School - 234 (up 2) (5th grade up 2; 6th grade up 2; KG down 2)
 - b. Minot Consolidated School - 216 (down 1) (5th grade)
 - c. Poland Community School - 422 (down 1) (6th grade)
 - d. Bruce M. Whittier Middle School - 283 (no change)
 - e. Poland Regional High School - 499 (down 5) (9th grade down 2; 10th grade down 1; 11th grade down 2)
- Total Enrollment 1654 (down 5 from 1-2-24)

9.0 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Amy Hediger shared the overarching goals of Tier I Curriculum, SEL, and Staff Retention. She shared about the 2nd annual "Expert Down the Hall" workshop in January planned by the teacher group within the district. The feedback from the event was really positive from staff. Tri-Town Education Fund is providing funding for the "Get Everyone Outside" initiative at the three elementary schools within the district to support outdoor learning. Amy celebrated the school counselors within the district. Puberty Education classes started for 5th and 6th grade students by district nurse, Jessica Taylor. Sophomore Exhibition and Senior Celebrations are coming up at the high school and they are looking for scorers. The Strategic Planning Team has met twice and have looked at targeted skills for students, changes in society, and what skills are needed for the future.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS:

1. School Revolving Renovation Fund - We put in an extensive proposal for some funds for projects at all three elementary schools. The only project that was approved was a small project at Minot Consolidated School for about \$110,000 to allow for some ADA updates. We would have to match about \$40,000. Todd Sanders's recommendation is to accept that funding and roll the costs into the budget.

Motion by Steve Holbrook to approve the acceptance of the Revolving Renovation Fund for the ADA project at Minot

Seconded by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

11.0 OLD BUSINESS:

1. Recommendation on Bond Proposal- Moving forward with the \$7.4 million with the interest to allow for all three elementary buildings to have their heating systems updated.

Motion by Jessica Smith to budget and plan for funding to fix the identified heating, distribution, ventilation, electrical, automation projects at ESS, MCS and PCS at approx \$10.2 million dollars.

Seconded by Angela Swenson

Vote: 11 -2 (opposed Steve Holbrook and Randy Lautz)

Discussion: Randy shared concerns about putting forth all three buildings considering the budget issues the district is facing this budget year. In addition, he would like to focus on Minot Consolidated School and revisit the other schools in the future. Andrea shared concerns with fixing only one school when the community just shared that they would like to fix all three schools. Emily agreed with this view. Emily asked what would happen if we reapplied for the RRF and did get approved for the funding prior to the work being done, and would we be locked in. Patrick shared his concerns around only doing one town's school and the community losing stamina for supporting the other schools in the future. Angela shared the importance of being committed to the three buildings and not hitting the towns each year, but getting it all done at once. Patrick would like the final decision to still go out to the community to vote even if it isn't a bond that would require a vote.

12.0 POLICIES: NONE

13.0 REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:

1. Student Representatives:

Cadence shared that the Winter Carnival is coming up this week and the theme is Biomes. Activities and a dance is planned. Girls Basketball has made it to the playoffs. Boys Hockey is currently in 1st place. Senior trip will be an overnight trip with whitewater rafting. Senior Celebrations are in motion. College acceptances are coming in.

Emma shared the Rock, Paper, Scissors competition that will be taking place. There is a new voting process for representatives, as well as new class officer titles that better represent their roles. School Counselors are meeting with juniors to ensure they have everything they need moving into their senior year. Cheering has had a strong competition season. Unified basketball is playing and is a great event to watch and support.

2. Report of the School Board Chair
 - a. Establish Evaluation Committee and Timeline: The initial meeting will be the first week of March. They will look at the process and determine a timeline. Members who are interested will inform Mary Martin.
 - b. Robert's Rules of Order Training Update: Todd has reached out to Maine School Management and a workshop has been scheduled for the May meeting.
 - c. Mary reviewed the current members of the budget meeting.
3. Attendance

14.0 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

1. ATeam Reports: Mary showed appreciation for the details provided in the reports.

15.0 COMMUNICATIONS:

16.0 HANDOUTS:

17.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. None

18.0 REMINDERS:

19.0 ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Steve Holbrook to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Seconded by Mike Downing

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Todd E. Sanders