

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 4th Regular School Board Meeting
for 2023-2024 was held
Monday, November 13th @ 6:30 p.m.
PRHS/WMS Cafeteria**

Use the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87038027522?pwd=Z0lzSVY4UEY3QndaRGVxL0pTR2FlZz09>

Passcode: 194909

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

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

5:30 pm - 6:15 pm

PRHS/WMS Cafeteria

(Pizza Provided @ 5:15 p.m.)

Presentation by Energy Management Consultants (EMC)

MINUTES

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

Absent:

Student Reps: Cadence Peters, Emma MacMahon

REVISED (*Bold Italic 5.0; 7.0 2.b/c; 7.0 6; 12.0 2*)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: Mary Martin, Chair

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Mission Statement
3. Moment of Silence

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: (15 minutes)

Maryanne Hawkes, - Selectboard of Poland - Acting as liaison from the Poland Selectboard and a resource for the School Board.

Whitney King-Buker, Minot - Provided thoughts on boilers, the history of Minot power loss, and the need for a maintenance plan. She talked about wanting to see mil rate numbers and values. Commented on the 2 or 3 school reconfiguration.

Robert Klar, Minot - Commented on the 2 to 3 school reconfiguration. Proposed adding a maintenance engineer, and that the district should keep spare parts on hand.

3.0 RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (5 minutes)

1. *Johnny Bsullack* qualified to compete at the State Championships Cross Country race.
2. #KnightNation hosted our first ever home football playoff game.
 - a. Local law enforcement coin flip
3. Whittier teacher, *Jamie Karaffa*, was selected by the National History Day (NHD) organization to participate in the NHD's fall 2023 professional development program.
4. Optimist Club Student of the Month - *Aurora Sands, 6th Grade - PCS*
5. Fire Safety Week Thanks - Tri-Town Fire Departments, Mechanic Falls Police, Androscoggin Sheriff
6. Congratulations Laurie Camire for passing the National Boards for School Nursing.
7. 5 middle school and 18 high school students auditioned and were accepted to participate in District II chorus and/or band. PRHS is sending one instrumentalist, **Oscar Horowitz, grade 9, piano** to All State Jazz Music Ensemble
8. BMWMS recognition of staff and students for the annual Tri-Town Family 5K.
9. Shawn Vincent was recognized and celebrated as the Maine Middle School Principal of the Year in Washington, D.C.

4.0 AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:

Motion: by Patrick Irish to make an agenda amendment and add 2 school reconfigured and 3 school option consolidation to the agenda under new business.

Seconded: by Angela Swenson

Discussion: Patrick Irish stated he believes the Board has enough information from sources to make a decision as an RSU. The meeting tomorrow would be canceled.

Vote: 8 - 7

Weighted Vote:

For (502): J. Smith, P. Irish, A. Swenson, E. Martin, S. Robinson, S. Holbrook, E. Rinchich, R. Lautz

Against (503): A. Winn, M. Martin, S. Turner, M. Downing, C. Downs, J. Parent, M. Harvey

Motion fails

5.0 PRESENTATIONS: (15 minutes)

1. Steering Committee Presentation

Reviewed overarching RSU 16 issues developed in the Spring of 2023: Open positions, elementary class sizes, Teacher-to-Student ratios and/or Per Pupil Cost (Comparability), Teacher Recruitment, Support Staff Recruitment, Transportation, Interventions or Supplemental Support, Buildings, and Capital Improvements. Amy went over the cost center side by side. Emily Rinchich feels that Title I should not be a driver of decision because the local budget meets the intervention needs of elementary students. Todd shared themes from the 1:1 staff conversations. Hopes included: keeping all three buildings and their administrative teams, positive building climates. Fears included: the timeline for transition, financial feasibility and sustainability, transportation challenges, reduction of force, staff leaving, loss of community. The administrative team was consulted and concerns were: the timeline and sustainability for long-term budget support from the towns, student first based decisions, the time for planning. Administrators are focused on a solid school year, best practices, climate and culture and wanting a decision.

Community Meeting reminder: November 14, 6:00-7:30 PM - to hear questions and comments from the community and provide any clarification on questions. Mary Martin discussed the format of the Community Forum. After 10 minute welcome and a 5 minute bullet point review, it is a conversational format where board members answer questions from the audience. Joe Parent commented that there hasn't been a lot of feedback from Mechanic Falls and Poland citizens. He wondered if they understand that the schools will all change. In response to Steve Holbrook's question, RSU 16 won't find out about the School Revolving Renovation Fund application until January.

Motion: by Elizabeth Martin to make an agenda amendment and add 2 school reconfigured and 3 school option vote to the agenda under new business.

Seconded: by Patrick Irish

Discussion: Concerns about lack of transparency and commitment to hearing all voices if a vote occurs before the Community Meeting scheduled for tomorrow. A lot of information has been provided to the community.

Vote: 8 - 7

Weighted Vote:

For (502): J. Smith, P. Irish, A. Swenson, E. Martin, S. Robinson, S. Holbrook, E. Rinchich, R. Lautz

Against (503): A. Winn, M. Martin, S. Turner, M. Downing, C. Downs, J. Parent, M. Harvey

Motion fails

2. Board Workshop Follow-Up

It was discussed that since the November 27 scheduled subcommittee meetings may become a Board meeting, should the Operations Subcommittee have a meeting because they would not meet again until January.

Motion: Patrick Irish to have a Special School Board meeting on November 20th at 6:30 and November 27th would remain Subcommittee Meetings.

Seconded: Angela Swenson

Vote: Unanimous

Motion carries

6.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Klar, Minot - Commented on the expected useful life, budgets and also the training of the staff to care for the equipment. He wonders how current maintenance practices influence the results of things like the air quality test.

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA INTRODUCTION: (5 minutes)

1. Approve 3rd Regular Meeting Minutes of 10/16/2023
2. Notification of Support Staff New Hire:
 - a. Allie Pratt, Food Service - MCS
 - b. Kaitlyn Wilcox, Ed Tech III - PRHS/FLS**
 - c. Zoe Covert, Ed Tech I - WMS**
3. Notification of Retirement: None
4. Notification of Resignation:
 - a. Hannah Baldinelli, Ed Tech III - PCS
5. Sub Committees Minutes - October 2023
 - a. Operations
 - b. Personnel & Finance
 - c. Education Policy (October and Revised September)
6. Friends of RSU 16 - **Minutes November 2023**
 - a. Next meeting on December 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at PRHS/WMS Auditorium

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the consent agenda taking out the 3rd Regular Meeting Minutes of 10/16/2023 for further review of section 11.0

Seconded: Patrick Irish

Discussion: Christine Downs would like the minutes under section 11.0 revisited and brought back.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion carries

8.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL SUMMARIES: (10 minutes)

1. Stacie Field

The detailed report was reviewed by the financial subcommittee.
The audit has been completed and the auditors will present to the board in January.
Food Service update: Good participation. \$102,000 cash balance will be spent on dishwasher at PCS and double oven at PRHS/WMS.
Randy Lautz asked why ESY summer school special education being \$9,000 over budget. Number of students served and numbers of teachers available to teach.

Motion: by Andrea Winn to approve the acceptance of the financial summary.

Seconded: by Steve Holbrook

Vote: Unanimous

Motion carries

9.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (10 minutes)

1. MSSA Business Meeting
 - a. Attended the Business Meeting and the presentation on Artificial Intelligence on Wednesday and the conference on Friday.
2. MSMA Fall Conference
 - a. Attendance impacted my events in Lewiston

3. Data Breach

- a. Board was informed of a data breach involving the State of Maine data. Cybercriminals were able to download files belonging to certain agencies in Maine between May 28, 2023, and May 29, 2023. The Maine Department of Education was impacted as MEIS demographic data was intersected. MEIS is the certification portal. MEIS information shared with all staff, including information to see if their personal data was breached.

4. Enrollment as of 11-1-23

- a. Elm Street School - 232 (up 1)
- b. Minot Consolidated School - 216 (no change)
- c. Poland Community School - 429 (down 3)
- d. Bruce M. Whittier Middle School - 278 (up 4)
- e. Poland Regional High School - 510 (down 3)

Total Enrollment - 1,665 (down 1 from 10/16/23)

10.0 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: (10 minutes)

A reminder of our overarching goals for this year. Amy Hediger provided a review on the RSU 16 process after the tragedy in Lewiston. Amy recognized the building administrators, SEL teams, our School Resource Officer, Berni Westleigh, Ellen Dore and the Food Service Team and everyone that jumped into action. The K-6 Math Leadership Team has met to begin to develop their vision of mathematics teaching and learning. The Western Maine Curriculum team is working with the MDOE about social studies curriculum updates. It is great to welcome John Hawley back and thank Gary Purington for his continued support and service.

11.0 NEW BUSINESS: (5 minutes)

1. Accept bank bid to finance new bus.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook, after Mary Martin read the formal motion, to authorize the amount of \$114,390 to accept the bank bid to finance the new bus.

Formal Motion: *I move that the Resolution entitled, "Resolution to Authorize Lease Purchase of a New School Bus in the Principal Amount of \$114,390" be adopted in form presented at this meeting.*

Seconded: by Emily Rinchich

Vote: Unanimous

Motion carries

2. Change the November 27 Subcommittee meetings to a School Board meeting
Already decided previously by motion from Patrick Irish in agenda item 5.0.

3. School Day Waiver Request

Todd Sanders read the letter requesting the Commissioner of Education waive the 3 days of missed instruction due to the Lewiston tragedy that would be signed by the Board Chair.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the letter to be signed by Mary Martin and sent to the Commissioner of Education.

Seconded: Andrea Winn

Discussion: Todd Sanders said two of the three days should be easily approved since Androscoggin County was in "shelter in place" while the suspect was at large, but the third one is a possibility of not being waived even though we offered a hot lunch and counseling and activities were provided to students and their families.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion carries

12.0 OLD BUSINESS: (45 minutes)

1. Snow plow bid for Elm Street School

John Hawley shared the winning bid for Elm Street School withdrew. John recommended action was to award the ESS contract to Mike Washburn, as he was the next lowest bidder and awarded the other schools.

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to approve the Snow plow bid for Elm Street School

Seconded: by Emily Rinchich

Vote: Unanimous

Motion carries

2. Board Goals Approval

Board goals were worked on at the October 16 Board Workshop and revised based on feedback at the Educational Policy sub committee to bring to the full Board for approval.

Motion: by Joe Parent to approve the Board Goals

Seconded: by Elizabeth Martin

Discussion Jessica Smith stated she would have preferred to see the final goals in advance.

Vote: 13 - 2

For: P. Irish, A. Swenson, E. Martin, S. Robinson, S. Holbrook, E. Rinchich, A. Winn, M. Martin, S. Turner, M. Downing, C. Downs, J. Parent, M. Harvey

Against: J. Smith and R. Lautz

Motion carries

13.0 **POLICIES:** None

14.0 **REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:**

1. Student Representatives: (5 minutes)

a. At PRHS, conferences are occurring, the basketball schedule is out, colleges visited last week, an SRB update on their curricular policy was given including their structure. There is a craft fair and Hoops for Hallie. Prom will be held in Agassiz.

2. Report of the School Board Chair: (5 minutes)

a. MSMA Fall Conference Update - Mary attended Friday, sessions on teacher training and retention, State of Maine long term assessment, School Board transparency, electric school bus, new construction project of South Portland Middle School. Mary Martin reminded Board members that any FOAA/FOIA requests go to the Superintendent. Andrea Winn attended a session on Artificial Intelligence on Thursday. Emma MacMahon shared her experience using AI as a useful tool for studying. Andrea Winn represented the board at the delegate assembly.

3. Attendance

15.0 **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:**

1. ATeam Reports

16.0 **COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Correspondence from Town of Minot Board of Selectmen

17.0 **HANDOUTS:**

18.0 **EXECUTIVE SESSION: None**

19.0 **REMINDERS:**

20.0 **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 8:41PM

Seconded: by Andrea Winn

Vote: Unanimous

Motion carries

Respectfully submitted,

Todd E. Sanders