

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular School Board Meeting  
for 2023-2024 was held  
Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.  
PRHS/WMS LIBRARY

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)

## BOARD WORKSHOP

5:30pm - 6:15pm

5:30pm - 6:15pm    **BOARD GOAL SETTING (*Pizza Provided*)**

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

**Absent:** Melanie Harvey, Joe Parent, Sarah Robinson

**Student Reps:** Cadence Peters, Emma MacMahon

## MINUTES

6:30pm

1.0 **CALL TO ORDER:** Mary Martin, Chair

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Mission Statement

2.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT: (15 minutes)**

There were two people who signed up for public comment.

Bob Klar signed up, but waited to speak during the second public comment section of the agenda.

Whitney King-Buker shared ESS maps and a request to survey parents and taxpayers, providing the statutes about school closure in addition to electronic communication. She will forward the maps to Amy Hediger, who will share the maps with the board.

3.0 **RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (5 minutes)**

1. Welcome *Emma MacMahon*, new School Board Student Representative

4.0 **AGENDA ADJUSTMENT:**

5.0 **PRESENTATIONS: (15 minutes)**

1. Erik Anderson, PRHS Principal

Erik mentioned that there has been a positive start to the school year. Erik discussed the professional development time used on Wednesdays. He discussed: NEASC, BARR, HOW rubric, course offerings, Round Table curriculum, curriculum work- Atlas.

The high school is going through accreditation. It happens every 10 years. The timeline is Fall 2023 - Fall 2026. Erik handed out a booklet of the NEASC standards.

Randy Lautz asked if we paid to be a part of NEASC. Eric said we pay dues every year.

Student representative Emma MacMahon explained round table, what the curriculum was and went through the program from freshman to senior year.

2. **Kristin Ross** - Update on trip to Belize in April 2024 (Board approved 10/3/2022)

The paperwork has been updated for the school board to review. There are 4 chaperones, 9 adults for 16 kids. 23 tour with the tour company.

## 6.0 CONSENT AGENDA INTRODUCTION: (5 minutes)

1. Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes of 9/11/2023
2. Notification of Support Staff New Hires:
  - a. Brian Whittier, Custodian - District
  - b. Roland Bowie, Mechanic Part Time - District
  - c. Cheyenne Rowe, Food Service - District
  - d. Valarie Audet, Ed Tech 1 - PCS
  - e. **Kelly Stevens, Ed Tech 1 - ESS**
3. Notification of Retirement: None
4. Notification of Resignation:
  - a. James Nelson, Bus Driver - District
5. Sub Committees Minutes - September 2023
  - a. Operations
  - b. **Personnel & Finance (Revised)**
  - c. Education Policy: Send back and have for next month
6. Friends of RSU 16 - September 2023 Minutes
  - a. Next meeting at ESS on November 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

*Motion by Steve Holbrook to accept the Consent Agenda*

*Seconded by Mike Downing*

*Vote: Unanimous*

## 7.0 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL SUMMARIES: (10 minutes)

1. Stacie Field explained about what is happening in the finance department. Stacie said that the quarterly upload to the state is due, the workers comp renewal application has been submitted. She has sent out an RFP for the new bus, and will have a bid acceptance at the November meeting. Work has begun on salaries and benefits for the FY 25 budget.
2. Christine Downs asked about having financials to review.
3. Randy Lautz wanted to know, as well.

No Action needed

## 8.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (10 minutes)

1. Androscoggin County Emergency Management: He attended on 9/12/23.
2. WMAC Update: Administrative Certification Committee was on 9/14/23.
3. Legislative Update: Todd has the book and has all books created by DrummondWoodsum
4. Community Connections - Todd and Amy work collaboratively to capture what is happening in the schools and throughout the district. It will go out every two weeks.
  - a. Central Office Communication
    - i. 9/29/23 The first one was sent out. MSMA conference is next week. He will check to see who is registered.
5. Town Selectboard Meetings: Todd attended each town's select board meeting.
6. Enrollment as of 10-6-23
  - a. Elm Street School - 231 (up 2)
  - b. Minot Consolidated School - 216 (up 4)
  - c. Poland Community School - 432 (no change)
  - d. Bruce M. Whittier Middle School - 274 (no change)

- e. Poland Regional High School - 513 (down 11)  
Total Enrollment 1,666 (down 5 from 9-5-23)

Discussion about students who are dropping out. Todd mentioned that we should look at the number of students and that he has had conversations with Jenny Rose, Director of Adult Education.

#### 9.0 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: (10 minutes)

Amy shared 3 district goals for the year. Amy also shared updates: "State" Testing window is open for Maine Through the Year/NWEA in grades 3-8 and grade 10, the last Future's Task Force Meeting Reflection/Debrief, attendance at the Threat Advisory Safety Committee, the development of a "New to RSU 16" Teacher Cohort, attendance at PRHS State of the School Day. Todd, Amy and Berni (Resource Officer) have read to PCS and ESS students. A substitute teacher training was held - 15 people in attendance. Amy is working with K-6 Math Leaders to create a vision for math to complete a program review and 15 RSU 16 staff attended a math conference last week.

#### 10.0 NEW BUSINESS: (5 minutes)

1. Approval Request: Minivan bid for the 2024 Chrysler Pacifica from MacDonal Motors, as was recommended by the Operations Committee at their September 26, 2023 meeting.

*Motion by Mike Downing to approve the Minivan bid.*

*Seconded by Steve Holbrook*

*Discussion:* Angela Swenson asked if the board got the quotes? Mary reviewed 3 companies that made a bid.

Christine Downs asked if this was in the budget for this year. Amy said that the savings from not chartering buses will cover the loan.

Vote: Unanimous

2. It was recommended by the Operations Committee at their September 26, 2023 meeting to bring the Electric Bus Grant to the Board for more discussion. **We are not eligible.**

3. Revolving Renovation Grant

- i. Mary shared that they recommend going with EMC to submit the grant. It is due Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. The cost is in the project, if we don't get it there is no cost, there are 3 projects we could submit for. It is \$2 million per school. Ventilation and ADA can be applied for. EMC knows what the RSU has and what we need. Vote for EMC to submit an application for each elementary school on our behalf.

*Motion by Mike Downing to have EMC submit a grant application on the district's behalf.*

*Seconded by Steve Holbrook*

*Vote: Unanimous.*

*Discussion:* Jess Smith listed that EMC would identify what they would apply for. Emily asked if they had our report of what needs to be fixed.

4. Don King - Swim Team: One student has participated with EL. Don is proposing that we join as a co-op team so that they can have a better experience.

*Motion by Emily Rinchich to join EL as a co-op team.*

*Seconded by Andrea Winn*

*Vote: Unanimous.*

*Discussion:* Randy Lautz asked where the funds would come from. Don thought he could use official money.

5. *Approve Grade 2 Teacher Nomination, Kim Green - ESS*

*Motion by Mike Downing to approve Grade 2 Teacher Nomination, Kim Green - ESS*

*Seconded by Steve Holbrook*

*Vote: Unanimous*

#### 11.0 OLD BUSINESS: (45 minutes)

1. Steering Committee Presentation

Amy presented slides regarding the 2 school reconfigured option or 3 school option. Included were AEI Assessment information, costs to fix the HVAC, 2 school costs to renovate for this option, potential budget impacts for FY25 and FY26, information on 6th grade placement from the Task Force, and reminded about the October 19 Community Forum.

a. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob Klar: The concern is that the people we are hiring might not be paying attention to detail. He feels they are in the business to make money.

Randy Lautz had concerns about contractors we are paying.

Angela Swenson wonders if Bob Klar could help out or consult.

***Motion by Emily Rinchich to keep Grade 6 at elementary schools.***

***Secinded: Mike Downing***

***Vote: Motion carries. 10-2***

***Discussion:*** Patrick Irish and Christine Downs feel that it is too soon to vote on the issue.

Elizabeth Martin made a request to have ATeam make a recommendation at the next school board meeting.

12.0 **POLICIES: (10 minutes)** None

13.0 **REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD:**

1. Student Representatives: (5 minutes)
2. Report of the School Board Chair: (5 minutes)
  - a. MSBA Resolutions

Andrea Winn will represent the board. She reviewed the new resolutions. There was no feedback for her.

***Motion by Angela Swenson to have Andrea Winn represent the board.***

***Secinded by Mike Downing***

***Vote: Unanimous***

14.0 **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:**

1. ATeam Reports (bc mins)

15.0 **COMMUNICATIONS:**

16.0 **HANDOUTS:**

17.0 **EXECUTIVE SESSION: None**

18.0 **REMINDERS:**

19.0 **ADJOURNMENT:**

***Motion: by Steve Holbrook to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.***

***Secinded by Mike Downing***

***Vote: Unanimous***

Respectfully submitted,

Todd E. Sanders