

AOS 96
Superintendent's Office
291 Court Street
Machias, ME 04654
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Minutes
Machias School Committee
Wednesday, January 11, 2017
Superintendent's Office
4:30 PM

Attendance: Terry Sanborn, Teresa Saddler, Richard Shaw, Joleen Nicely.

Others Present: Dr. James Whalen, Joyce Fragale, Brian Leavitt, Mitchell Look, Scott Porter.

I. Call to order at 4:26 p.m. by Terry Sanborn.

II. **Approval of the minutes of December 7, 2016.**

Motion by Joleen Nicely to approve the minutes of December 7, 2016.
Second: Teresa Saddler; Vote: 4-0.

III. **Agenda Adjustments:**

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that all water testing had been completed and a plan to resolve all issues is being implemented.

IV. **Principals' Reports:**

RMG: Enclosed.

MMHS: Enclosed.

Principal Brian Leavitt, informed the School Committee that the Spanish Teacher would like to begin fund raising for a trip to Puerto Rico in April of 2018 for Spanish students. Mr. Leavitt distributed a hand-out (enclosed) that detailed the trip, as well as, costs.

After discussing the trip details the School Committee took action.

Motion by Teresa Saddler to approve the Spanish trip to Puerto Rico.
Second: Joleen Nicely; Vote: 4-0.

V. **New Business:**

1. Updated Special Education Policy: Referral and General Education Interventions:

The Superintendent explained required changes to the Special Education Policy to the School Committee.

Motion by Richard Shaw to approve the Updated Special Education Policy: Referral and General Education Interventions.
Second: Joleen Nicely; Vote: 4-0.

2. 2017/2018 Budget Development Timeline:

The Superintendent distributed copies of the 2017/2018 Budget Development Timeline to the School Committee. He explained that the Governor's budget proposal might cause the budget process to be later than normal, particularly receiving state subsidy print-outs from the Department of Education.

3. Afterschool Program Funding (2017/2018):

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that the 21st Century Grant that currently funds the Afterschool Program will run out in January 2018. The Sea Coast Mission is running a capital campaign to continue funding the Afterschool Program at the Rose M. Gaffney School.

4. Audit Update:

The Superintendent conveyed to the School Committee that the Machias audit has been completed on time.

5. Legislative Education Bills Update:

The Superintendent reported that Representative Will Tuell will be submitting several education bills. The bills include the following: School Funding, Common Core, In Service Days, Administrator Retirement and two Unorganized Territory Bills.

6. Maine Small Schools Coalition Update:

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that the Maine Small Schools Coalition met at UMaine on December 9, 2016. He conveyed to the Committee that Legislators spoke to Superintendents about the implementation of current legislation and about the upcoming legislative session.

7. MSSA Winter Convocation:

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that he will be attending the Maine School Superintendents Association Winter Convocation in South Portland on January 12-13, 2017. He mentioned

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that the new Acting Commissioner and State Legislators would be in attendance.

At the end of the meeting Dr. James Whalen spoke to the School Committee about a fight at Machias Memorial High School. Dr. Whalen asked if Machias Memorial High School students can participate in CTE programs as freshman. In addition, he asked administration about the MMHS graduation rate.

VI. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 5:29 p.m. by Richard Shaw.
Second: Joleen Nicely; Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott K. Porter

Superintendent of Schools

AOS 96

Machias Bay Area School System

**Rose M. Gaffney Elementary School
Principal's Report
January 11, 2017**

The Principal's Desk

*We continue our work on our new teacher and principal evaluations systems, as well as proficiency based education. At RMG we have started holding weekly after school staff collaboration meetings. Teachers attend when they have a need based on topics that are covered that they are interested in learning more about.

What's Going On Around RMG?

*We held our Geography Bee on January 5th. Contestants were: Isaac Atkinson, Griffon Dedmon, Mileena Sylvia, Isabelle Lamb, Ayla Bladen, Cooper Robicheau, Jaycee Barabe, and Emily Fletcher. Isaac Atkinson was our winner, and our runner up was Isabelle Lamb.

*Bulldogs Sports – Our grade 7/8 girls' and boys' basketball teams participated in the New Year's Christmas tournament which was hosted by the MMHS on the Machias Campus. For the regular season our boys team is undefeated and our girls team won their first regular season game last night.

* We participated in, and hosted, many community events this Holiday Season. The Drama Club performed a Christmas play, we hosted three concerts, performed at Down East Community Hospital, Helens, caroled around town, and performed multiple times at the local nursing facilities.

*We also partied a little bit. JMG sponsored a Christmas semi-formal for grades 7 and 8. The Puppeteers made a holiday visit to perform the Grinch. Classrooms held holiday parties, younger students wore pajamas to a viewing of The Polar Express, and the staff enjoyed a gathering at Pat's Pizza.

*PAWS – The PAWS Christmas Shop was a success again this year. Students enjoyed having the opportunity to purchase gifts for their families at a reasonable price. The PAWS fundraising focus continues to be a digital sign to replace the current school sign.



Machias Memorial High School
Principal's Report
January 2017

Proficiency-Based Diploma

Teachers have been working diligently on selecting standards for the PBE diploma. English, math, science, physical education and health, as well as visual and performing arts have been selected. The standards will be put into a document that will eventually be available to the public. Teachers will now begin the process of analyzing the Guiding Principles to determine how they fit into a PBE diploma. The current thought is that they will be touched on in the regular curriculum and be emphasized in our HomeBase advisory.

Spanish Trip

Mrs. Anderson has requested permission, as part of her Spanish class experience, to take students on a week long trip to Puerto Rico. The trip would require extensive fundraising and take place next spring.

Career & Technical Education

Coastal Washington CIT has received another Maine State Mini-Grant. This grant is in addition to the Perkins money received from the federal government. The mini-grant amount is \$21, 608 and will be used to purchase equipment for the Building Trades program, the Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement program, and to provide training for the Use of Force Simulator that was recently purchased.

Recently I created and distributed an interest survey as part of the CNA application process. I asked that all students, regardless of interest in CTE programming, participate in the survey. Please see handout for results.

MMHS Cheering

The team will be competing in the Downeast Athletic Conference Cheering Championship this Saturday beginning at 9:00 am at the gym. The doors open at 8:00 am. They will also be competing in the Penobscot Valley Conference Cheering Championship on January 21, the MPA Regional Cheering Championship on January 28, and hopefully the Northern Maine State Cheering Championship on February 11.

Chad Perry Benefit

On Thursday, January 12 Machias Memorial High School will be hosting Narraguagus High School girls, JV boys, and varsity boys basketball teams. The school will be donating the revenue from admission and the MMHS Boosters the 50/50 raffle to the Chad Perry family. Chad has been diagnosed with bone cancer. A donation jar will also be available at the door.



Puerto Rico 2018
Cultural Exchange Travel Request

Mrs. Amanda Anderson, Spanish teacher at Machias Memorial High School, is seeking permission to arrange an enrichment travel opportunity for students enrolled in Spanish I and Spanish II at MMHS. This field trip would broaden students' understanding of other cultures as well as facilitate target language usage in a real-world setting.

The proposed trip would travel to Puerto Rico in April 2018 for six days, potentially overlapping with the school vacation time. The tour would be arranged through Explorica, which is a travel company that specializes in educational group travel. Mrs. Anderson has traveled with this company three times, including two times as tour leader - once to Cuba and once to Spain. The tour would visit the cities of San Juan and Ponce, Puerto Rico, to enjoy the historical and cultural sites such as fortresses, museums, churches, and plazas. Students would also get to enjoy time outdoors visiting the national rainforest, kayaking, and snorkeling.

The estimated costs for this tour would be \$2,300 (depending on which excursions were selected) per person. Costs include airfare from Bangor, 5 nights of hotel, breakfast and dinner daily, a personal tour guide and bus in Puerto Rico, all admission costs to the sites, tips, and travel insurance. Not included in the cost is lunch and souvenirs. Student-led fundraising would need to occur to cover the trip fee. If students choose not to fundraise, they could pay out-of-pocket. Explorica does offer a personal fundraising page for each participant, which students can use to seek financial assistance from family and friends. Also available are small scholarships that can reduce the costs. Exact fundraising measures will be decided by the students, but could include merchandise sales, concession stands, or events.

Although many potential destinations were researched, Puerto Rico was selected due to its proximity to the United States, as well as it being a US territory. Puerto Rico requires no passports or visas for US citizens and uses the US dollar as currency.

Students who are enrolled in a Spanish course at MMHS will be invited to participate. Students and guardians must agree to a behavior contract both during the trip and prior to the trip. Chaperones will be requested at a ratio of 1 chaperone to 6 students. Explorica offers complimentary chaperone spots at the 1:6 ratio.