

AOS 96
Superintendent's Office
291 Court Street
Machias, ME 04654
(207) 255-6585

**Minutes
Machias School Committee
Thursday, January 21, 2016
Superintendent's Office
5:30 PM**

Attendance: Terry Sanborn, Gerard NeCastro, Richard Shaw.

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

I. Call to order at 5:36 p.m. by Terry Sanborn.

II. **Approval of the minutes of December 2, 2015.**

Motion by Richard Shaw to approve the minutes of December 2, 2015.
Second: Gerard NeCastro; Vote: 3-0.

III. **Agenda Adjustments:** None.

IV. **Principals' Reports:**

RMG: Enclosed.
MMHS: Enclosed.

V. **New Business:**

1. 2015/2016 Tuition Rates:

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that the new tuition rates for Machias have been released. The tuition for Machias Memorial High School is \$10,131.00. The tuition for Rose M. Gaffney School is \$6,042.00.

2. 2015/2016 Budget Update:

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that tuition revenue has exceeded projected amounts. The Superintendent also informed the School Committee that fuel costs are much less than last year due to a milder winter and much lower fuel prices.

3. Every Child Achieves Act of 2015:

The Federal Programs Manager/Curriculum Coordinator informed the School Committee that Congress passed the Every Child Achieves Act of 2015. He then gave a brief overview of the Act which includes more local control for states regarding the use of assessment data to identify schools that need improvement.

4. Maine Small Schools Coalition Meeting Report:

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that the Maine Small Schools Coalition held a meeting in Orono on December 4, 2015. Senator Brian Langley, Representative Brian Hubbell and Representative Paul Stearns were among those that attended the meeting.

5. Upcoming Legislative Session:

The Superintendent reported that he had traveled to Augusta several times to testify on education bills. He mentioned LD 1492, An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Education Standards in Maine, sponsored by Representative Will Tuell. He told the Committee that the Education Committee replaced Rep. Tuell's bill with an amendment that would provide a process for a thorough review of the Common Core Standards.

6. Funding Committee Report:

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that he serves as a member of the Maine School Superintendent Association Funding Committee. During a recent meeting, the Funding Committee learned the LD 279 (State Subsidy Report) will be on time this year (February), but there is only \$2.5 million in new money for general purpose aid.

7. Superintendents' Winter Convocation:

The Superintendent reported that he had attended the Maine Superintendents' Winter Convocation in South Portland recently. He told the Committee that Dr. George Manning, Professor of Leadership from Northern Kentucky University, provided high level professional development for Maine Superintendents. He also informed the School Committee that the Acting Commissioner, Dr. Bill Beardsley, held a question and answer session.

8. Executive Session: Negotiations: 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D):

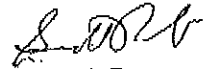
Motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:17 p.m. by Gerard NeCastro.
Second: Richard Shaw; Vote: 3-0.

Declared out of Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. by Terry Sanborn.

VI. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 6:41 p.m. by Gerard NeCastro.
Second: Richard Shaw; Vote: 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott K. Porter
Superintendent of Schools
AOS 96
Machias Bay Area School System

**Rose M. Gaffney Elementary School
Principal's Report
January 21, 2016**

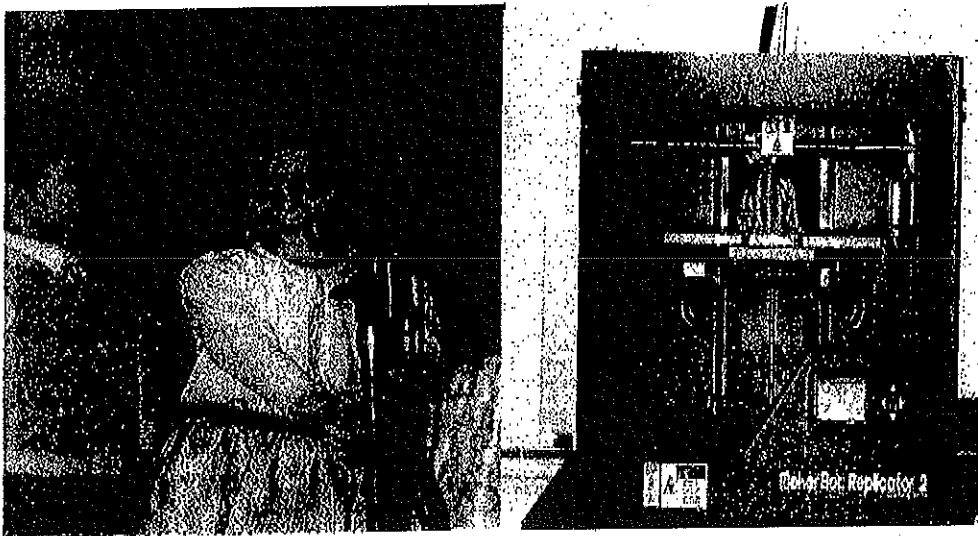
The Principals Desk

***RMG is pleased to be part of the partnership formed with Sunrise Counseling Services. The services provided by Sunrise will be separate from our school services. We will provide the space as well as information to parents. Parents will contact Sunrise directly. If a teacher would like to refer, those referrals will be vetted through Mr. Rottersman.**

*** Mr. Fitzsimmons, RMG Assistant Principal, has had level 1, 2, and 3, School Safety Training with Greg Mitchell. This training encompasses protocol pertaining to a school intruder and safety.**

***RMG faculty made a \$50 donation to the Machias Fire Department in memory of Clyde Bernhardt.**

What's going on around RMG



Christmas

Music - The select chorus performed on Friday December 4th at Helen's Restaurant from 5-7p.m. The Winter Concert for grades 5-8 chorus and 5-12 band took place on Dec. 9th, followed by the 7th and 8th grade chorus visiting the Nursing home to sing Christmas Carols to the residents on December 10th. Grades K-4 caroled around town the afternoon of the 18th, and our PreK-4 concert was held on the evening of the 21st.

NJHS - National Junior Honor Society held a Holiday formal, the Sno-Ball, on December 11th to begin fundraising efforts for recreation equipment for students with disabilities.

PAWS - The annual Christmas Tree Shop was held on December 15th, and a Christmas Appreciation Luncheon was held for the staff on the 16th. During the PAWS meeting held on Tuesday fundraisers were discussed. They include the monthly bake sale and a community Zombie run slated for May.

Staff Christmas Party - Our staff Christmas party was held on the afternoon of the 22nd at Pat's Pizza. We had a large turn out, and enjoyed good food and good company.

Christmas Spirit - The PAWS Mitten Tree is in the front lobby. Individuals donate hats and mittens that can be given to students in need. We also had anonymous donations of 50 dollar Hannaford gift cards to be given to families most in need.

Happy New Year - Rose M. Gaffney participated in the planning for, and hosted several children's activities for the community New Year Celebrations.

Sports - Boys Basketball are 6 wins and 1 loss, Girls Basketball 2 wins and 5 losses.

Geography Bee - The annual RMG Geography Bee was held on December 17th. Zain Fitzsimmons won first place, Breckin Gooch came in second, and Josh Norman came in 3rd.

Robotics - On January 12th Dave and Sandy Perloff visited Mrs. Maker's grade 6 Robotics class to see how well the NXT kits that they granted us were being utilized. They were so impressed that they bought the school a 3D printer to be used as part of Mrs. Maker's Science curriculum.

EDGE - Started back up on January 4 with our return to school.

GEAR UP - Teacher hosted after school help, and GEAR UP Tutoring, along with EDGE study hall, continues to provide students with constructive after school environments. These opportunities have proven to be valuable services for all students, and especially for our student athletes who must keep their grades up in order to participate.

i-Observation - Mr. Fitzsimmons and myself are working to implement the trial for the new teacher evaluation law, through i-observation. We are well into this process and have recently completed our first round of observations with the RMG teacher pilot group.

Events

Mrs. Kayla Burke, Pre-K teacher, gave birth to a baby boy on December 20th. We had hoped that she would make it until Christmas but Grayson was excited to join us for the holidays.

Mrs. Jones has recently had back surgery. Mrs. Susan Sexton is filling in for her, and we have hired Stephanie Heller to take Susan's place as Title 1 person.



National Junior Honor Society Update

So far this year has been very busy for the members of the Rose M. Gaffney National Junior Honor Society. In September we started working on the planning for our Halloween Party for grades PK to 4. We planned games with prizes and helped the younger students play the games and guided them through Haunted stage set up by the MMHS National Honor Society.

In November we conducted our annual Induction Ceremony for our new members. We celebrated this event at the Machias Savings Bank Community Room with approximately 75 friends and family members.

Also in November, we participated in the Machias Veterans Program. What an honor to present roses to our veterans and get to thank them for their service.

That month we also participated in a Focus Group session with the Porter Memorial Library. We were able to discuss the needs of any library, the purpose of a library at this time, what we thought a library of the future should look like, and gave suggestions on how the Porter Library could be improved. We enjoyed talking with the people who seemed very interested in our ideas.

December started our annual Penny Drive for the Machias Food Pantry. This is our 6th year doing this. In those years we have raised over \$6,000 for them. Our students get very involved in this activity as each class works to be the class that raises the most. This year our 4th grades had a completion going to see which class could raise the most. Mrs. Jones' class won, raising \$278, with Mrs. Singh's class right behind with \$272. Altogether our students raised over \$1,100 for the food pantry.

Just before Christmas, we were able to help out our PAWS group again at their annual Christmas. We love escorting the little people to the shop and helping them buy gifts for their family. Then we take them to help them wrap their treasures.

As soon as school starts after Christmas we will meet and plan our activities for the rest of the year.

Machias Memorial High School

Principal's Report

January 2016

Substance Abuse Education

During the month of December Machias Memorial High School hosted two education events focused on substance abuse. The first was "Substance Abuse Awareness Day" on December 7. The day featured the viewing of a short video followed by small group discussions. The second was a visit by Skip Gates. Skip lost his son to an opiate overdose and now tours schools to tell his story.

Standards Based Diplomas

The Class of 2020 will be the first group of high school students at Machias Memorial High School that will receive a diploma based on meeting academic standards. Mr. Look and I met with Julie Meltzer who is a curriculum coordinator at MDI High School. Julie helped MDI establish their standards based diploma and will share her experience and expertise with Machias.

Brain Bee at UMM

Mrs. Jaques and her students competed in the UMM Brian Bee. During this event students tested they knowledge of the human brain and participated in some fun educational activities.

Winter Concerts

Machias Schools held their Christmas Band & Choral Concert at Rose M. Gaffney. The gym was packed and the music festive. The high school chorus hosted a Choral Night. The Culinary Arts Department prepared dinner for the parents and guests and then the students serenaded them with holiday songs. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Machias Chorus students were also invited to sing Christmas carols at Melen's.

MMHS Christmas Student Dinner

The day before break Ms. Fitzsimmons, the Culinary students, Mrs. Getchell, and Ms. Mack prepared and served our students an incredible holiday meal. Many of the teachers brought in desserts for our students. The students and teachers enjoy and appreciate this annual special meal

**School Spirit at Machias Memorial High School**

The Machias Pep Band has been playing the school song and national anthem at the home basketball games. The small but mighty mighty pep band sound great this year and their contribution is appreciated.

The Machias Memorial High School Cheering Team will be competing in the Downeast Athletic Conference Cheering Championship this Saturday. Machias Memorial High School is hosting the event this year. It begins at 9:00 am.