Minutes
Machias School Committee
Wednesday, April 8, 2020
Zoom Video Conference
4:00 PM


Others Present: Mitchell Look, Mary Maker, Brian Leavitt, Joyce Fragale, Scott Porter.

I. Call to order at 4:07 p.m. by Teresa Saddler.

II. Approval of the minutes of March 16, 2020.

Motion by Carolyn Nadeau to approve the minutes of March 16, 2020. Second: Richard Shaw; Vote: Teresa Saddler (yes), Richard Shaw (yes), Joleen Nicely (yes), Carolyn Nadeau (yes), Will Weaver (yes); Vote: 5-0.

III. Agenda Adjustments:

April Break as Item #8.

IV. Public Comment: None.

V. New Business:

1. Covid-19 Update:

The Superintendent reported that the Maine Department of Education has been giving Coronavirus recommendations for all school employees to follow. These recommendations include social distancing (6 feet minimum), hand washing and safe protocols for delivering and receiving school lunches and distance learning materials.

2. School Closure Dates:

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that he extended the school closure date until May 4, 2020 due to the Governor’s “Stay Healthy at Home Mandate”.
3. Distance Learning Update:

The Rose M. Gaffney and Machias Memorial High School Principals each described their distance learning plans. The plans included sending packets home, as well as, using technology to deliver education programming.

4. Student Grading During Closure:

The Machias School System will be using their normal grading procedures throughout the school closure period.

5. School Lunch Program Update:

The Rose M. Gaffney Principal described the lunch program pick up process that is being used during the school closure period.

6. 20/21 Budget Process Update:

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that the Maine Legislature passed an emergency bill that will allow school budgets to be voted on beyond the June 30 fiscal year if the Covid-19 crisis delays school budget votes. The Superintendent also informed the School Committee that much work had already been completed on the 20/21 school budgets.

7. Field Improvement Update:

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that the Field Improvement Committee has not met since the school closure. He anticipates developing an article for the voters of Machias regarding using fund balance to complete the first phase of the field improvements.

8. April Vacation:

The Principals and Superintendent recommended providing meals and distance learning services to the students throughout the April break period.

Motion by Richard Shaw to provide meals and distance learning throughout the April break period.
Second: Carolyn Nadeau; Vote: Teresa Saddler (yes), Richard Shaw (yes), Joleen Nicely (yes), Carolyn Nadeau (yes), Will Weaver (yes); Vote: 5-0.

VII. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 4:48 p.m. by Carolyn Nadeau.
Second: Will Weaver; Vote: 5-0.
Respectfully Submitted,

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