Minutes
Machias School Committee
Wednesday, October 18, 2017
Superintendent's Office
4:30 PM


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

I. Call to order at 4:30 p.m. by Terry Sanborn.

II. Approval of the minutes of September 20, 2017.

Motion by Richard Shaw to approve the minutes of September 20, 2017. Second: Joleen Nicely; Vote: 5-0.

III. Agenda Adjustments: None.

IV. Principals' Reports:

RMG: Enclosed.
MMHS: Enclosed.

V. New Business:

1. Building Use Policy:

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that he recently spoke to AOS 96 administrators about the importance of all outside groups having liability insurance when using school facilities. The Superintendent explained that our school liability insurance will not cover accidents or damage to the building that is caused by outside groups.

2. Update on School Management and Leadership Centers:

The Superintendent distributed a handout that summarized the School Management and Leadership Center law. The Superintendent informed
the School Committee that a bill has been submitted that will repeal penalties for not joining a School Management and Leadership Center.


Motion to enter into Executive Session at 5:05 p.m. by Teresa Saddler. Second: Joleen Nicely; Vote: 5-0.

Declared out of Executive Session at 5:23 p.m. by Terry Sanborn.

VI. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 5:24 p.m. by Richard Shaw. Second: Joleen Nicely; Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott K. Porter
Superintendent of Schools
AOS 96
Machias Bay Area School System
Principals Report October 18, 2017

Out and About

On Friday, the Rose M. Gaffney students in Kindergarten-8th grade will be participating in National Walk to School Day. With parent permission, bus students will be picked up at their usual locations, but will be dropped off on the corner of Court Street and Broadway. Students that are driven by car to school can be dropped off at the Hemingway Annex (The Old Town Office) across the street from the Healthy Acadia office on Court Street. Volunteers will be walking with the students up Court Street on the sidewalk and then turning onto the soccer field and continue to school.

Students in Grade 6, as well as JMG students in grades 7 and 8, visited the Down East Salmon Federation in East Machias to participate in the fin clipping program. We are fortunate to have local learning opportunities that allow students to participate in hands on field experiences.

Mr. Shaw’s homeroom practiced their team building skills at EDGE Leadership camp. Mrs. Sexton’s homeroom attended earlier in the fall. This is another wonderful opportunity offered to us by the EDGE program.

Students in Grade 2 enjoyed a field trip to Roosevelt Campobello International Park.

Everyone looked gorgeous for picture day!

The “Big Map of Maine” was on display on the gym floor on last Thursday. Students had an opportunity to “walk around Maine”, as well as practice other map skill building activities.

Fall Sports

Sports Physicals were conducted by Alf Wakeman P.A. for those students who plan to play sports this year. As part of student physicals, Physical Therapists from DECH’s rehabilitation department screened students for injury prevention. The therapists conducted concussion pre-screening, flexibility screening screening for injury prevention, postural assessments for risk prevention, and vital sign assessment. An individual student report will be provided to parents. The physicals, and screenings were provided free of charge this year. Our Volleyball, Soccer and Cross Country teams continue to practice or compete daily. The Cross-Country Championship race and awards are being held this afternoon.

Veteran’s Program

We will be honoring our Veteran’s with our annual program which will take place on November 9th this year. The day will begin with breakfast at RMG beginning at 8 a.m., followed by the ceremony which will be held at the MMHS Gymnasium at 9:00.

PAWS

The PAWS group has been meeting, and planning many fundraising and fun activities which will benefit our students and school this year. Snack sales are held on a regular basis. The fall book fair is taking place this week. This will be followed by “gourd grams” instead of candy grams for Halloween. Parents will be able to buy a gourd for 50 cents to be delivered to their child. Gourd kits will include eyes, and other features which will allow the students to give their gourds personalities. There is a plan in place to make sure that each student in the lower grades receives a gourd.

EDGE

The EDGE after-school program began on Monday, October 2nd. Students in K-8 will benefit from study hall for half of the program day, and alternate between STEM, art, and recreational activities for the other half. We have 225 students signed up for EDGE this fall.

GEAR UP

We are fortunate to benefit from after school tutoring for our 7th and 8th grade students again this year as part of the GEAR UP Grant. Tutoring sessions will be available from 2:30-3:30 Monday – Thursday.
Machias Memorial High School
Principal's Report
October 2017

Proficiency Based Education
The AOS 96 Shared Leadership Team met at the Lee Pellon Center on September 21 to work on our district-wide plan. This is difficult work to coordinate for the whole AOS as each school has different philosophies regarding PBE and is in different places with PBE. One outcome of the meeting was a list of items we could agree to work on this year. The group left the day long workshop with specific goals for the year.

Maine Cohort for Customized Learning Workshop
I attended a two day workshop in Waterville with other schools trying to implement Mass Customized Learning. My purpose for attending the workshop was to see how the MCCL group can help the Machias Schools transition to Proficiency Based Education. MCCL has many resources to assist in moving towards PBE, and eventually Mass Customized Learning, but my focus was on PBE.

PowerSchool Unified Classroom
Ms. Moore and I met with a PowerSchool representative on September 21. The representative presented the features of PowerSchool Unified Classroom an application that compliments PowerSchool. My interest is in using one software system for student information, grades, and tracking progress on standards. The presentation was encouraging and PowerSchool will do what we need it to do. However, it will be an added cost.

The representative gave me a contact in Maine who has implemented PowerSchool Unified Classroom. After talking with him he told me that they weren’t using it to full implementation and that it was geared more towards large schools. He recommended using PowerTeacher Pro in conjunction with Google Suite. Several of our teachers are already using both applications. I am still looking at other solutions for tracking graduation standards.

Bulldog Pride Weekend
This year’s weekend went very well. The alumni turnout was the best it has been in the five years that we have been holding this event. The Bulldog Pride Road Race continues to have a high turnout. Cindy Rossi and Mike Carter organized and ran the event. The first Bulldog Golf Classic, held at Barren View Golf Course, raised over $2,300 for the Boosters Club. A huge thank you to Lenny Espiling, a MMHS Alumnus, for allowing us to hold the event at Barren View and to Mr. Sinford for organizing the event.

Downeast Athletic Conference Cross Country Championship
On Monday the DAC held it’s cross country championship race on the campus of Machias Memorial High School. The course is one of the best in Washington County and runners really enjoy it. Mike Carter and Cindy Rossi, along with numerous volunteers, made this event a big success.