

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING  
STEARNS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM  
PUBLIC IN-PERSON OR BY ZOOM  
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024  
4:30 PM**

Kevin Gregory	Present
Julie Hewke	Present
Kevin Libby	Present
Donald Raymond	Excused
Warren Steward	Present
Dr. Shelley Lane, Superintendent	Present
Hailey Aldridge, Junior Student Rep	Present
Gracyn Sanders, Senior Student Rep	Present

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Warren Steward, School Board Chair.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Adjustments to the Agenda**

**IV. Public Comment**

The Superintendent read a statement from the Millinocket Education Association President Matthew Waite in support of keeping the Spanish teacher and Gifted and Talented positions.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the School Board Meeting March 12 (Special Meeting), March 12 (Regular Meeting), and March 26, 2024, barring any errors or omissions.

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory

**Seconded by:** Kevin Libby

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 4 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**VI. Payroll Warrant**

**Motion:** It was moved to direct the Superintendent of Schools to authorize payment by the Town Treasurer to each party listed herein, the sum set against each name contained in School Payroll Warrant PR 24-20 in the amount of \$129,329.37, PR24-20D in the amount of \$69,644.10, MainePERS 24-25 in the amount of \$166.24, MainePERS 24-26 in the amount of \$13,186.46 and MainePERS 24-27 in the amount of 50,462.82 on March

28, 2024, and PR24-21 in the amount of \$132,922.89 and PR24-21D in the amount of \$71,096.28 on April 11, 2024.

**Motioned by:** Kevin Libby

**Seconded by:** Julie Hewke

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 4 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**VII. Payable Warrant**

**Motion:** It was moved to direct the Superintendent of Schools to authorize payment by the Town Treasurer to each party listed herein, the sum set against each name contained in School Payable Warrant AP24-30 in the amount of \$29,264.50, AP24-31 in the amount of \$113,368.88, and SA24-24 (student accounts) in the amount of \$476.29 on March 28, 2024, and AP24-32 in the amount of \$78,667.99 and SA24-25 (student accounts) in the amount of \$2,460.03 on April 11, 2024.

**Motioned by:** Julie Hewke

**Seconded by:** Kevin Gregory

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 4 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**VIII. Adoption of New Policies**

**Motion:** To adopt the new policy EB Environmental Safety Program.

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory

**Seconded by:** Kevin Libby

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 4 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**IX. Adoption of Revised Policies**

**Motion:** To adopt the following revised policies:

DJC Petty Cash Accounts

EBAA Chemical Hazards

EBCA Comprehensive Health and Safety Emergency and Management Plan

EBCB Emergency Evacuation Drills

**Motioned by:** Kevin Libby

**Seconded by:** Julie Hewke

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 0 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**X. To see if the Board will eliminate the full-time Director of Technology position due to changes in local conditions**

**Motion:** To eliminate the full-time Director of Technology position due to changes in local conditions.

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory

**Seconded by:** Julie Hewke

**Board Discussion:**

The Superintendent noted there are multiple people doing different portions of technology so there isn't a need for a full-time position. Kevin Gregory asked about the specific changes to the position. Cody Clinton stated he was not involved in the elimination of the full-time position.

**Voted:** 0 - Yes      3 - No (Kevin Gregory, Kevin Libby, Julie Hewke)      1 - Abs (Warren Steward)

**XI. To see if the Board will create a part-time Director of Technology position**

Due to vote above, this agenda item was skipped

**XII. To see if the Board will eliminate the Spanish teaching position due to changes in local conditions.**

**Motion:** To eliminate the Spanish teacher position due to changes in local conditions.

**Motioned by:** Julie Hewke

**Seconded by:** Kevin Gregory

**Board Discussion:**

Discussion regarding how foreign language will be done without a teacher. Enrollment for next year is 5 students.

**Voted:** 3 - Yes      1 - No (Kevin Gregory)      0 - Abs

**XIII. Budget Discussion**

**Board Discussion:**

The Superintendent updated the Board on version 5 changes for the 2024-2025 budget. The increase is \$144,609, which is a 4.99% increase. With action of tonight of not reducing the Director of Technology position to part-time, that will change. The IT savings will go back into the budget.

**XIV. To see if the Board will approve the 2024-2025 school budget.**

**Motion:** To approve the 2024-2025 budget as amended, including restoring the full-time Director of Technology position.

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory

**Seconded by:** Kevin Libby

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 4 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**XV. Notification of New Hires**

Mark Lyons was hired as a replacement in the Food Service Department for a recent resignation. He started April 2, at step 1 with an hourly rate of \$14.35.

**XVI. Student Representative Reports**

**Junior Class Student Representative Hailey Aldridge reported:**

None

**Senior Class Student Representative Gracyn Sanders reported:**

High school baseball and softball have started back up again this year. Their first pre-season game will be in Bucksport on April. 13th.

The National Honor Society will clean up trash outside the school after the eclipse on April 12th. This event is open to anyone in the school and counts as community service.

**XVII. Administrative Reports**

**Director of Technology Cody Clinton reported:**

After Months of troubleshooting and back and forth with Apple and JAMF, we were able to resolve the 2 major issues we had been having with management of the 1st and 2nd grade iPads. Thank you to the 1st and 2nd grade teams for working around this issue!

A rough draft of our Incident Response Plan is in the works. I am collaborating with our CISA agents, and some of my fellow Tech Directors in order to have this plan in place.

With the team work of one of my Maker Space students, we have completed the replacement of over 30 MacBook Air screens.

With the setup and installation of the Network Switches, which had just been completed at the last board meeting, and the rollover of the Wireless Smart Zone that completed the following week, the comprehensive upgrade and renewal of our entire Technology Infrastructure has been completed. Six (6) network servers have been updated and virtualized, and then reduced 8 physical machines to 2, Network Firewalls have been upgraded along with configuration changes that improve security and connectivity, backup utility has been installed on all physical mission critical systems, a backup server and system has been installed, WiFi system has been completely replaced, all Network Switches have been replaced, all desktop computers have been replaced. Computer labs at both schools have been upgraded and rebuilt twice. Student devices have all been upgraded, Granite has been assigned one to one student devices and have been upgraded, teacher devices have all been upgraded, staff devices have now been assigned and upgraded, our main internet connection has doubled in bandwidth volume. A redundant direct fiber connection has been established with our ISP to decrease outages, direct fiber optic connectivity between both buildings has been established in order to further reduce physical servers, and equipment management costs.

**Food Service Coordinator Mia Charette reported:**

We served 5,653 breakfasts, and 5,098 lunches in the month of March.

The cafeteria and breakfast carts at Granite were decked out with colorful luau decorations to celebrate this years National School Breakfast Week. Surf’s Up!

A big thank you is due to the team members who stayed to help prepare and serve food during the last performing arts event. Special thanks go out to Donna Seamans and Jessica Freeman. They volunteer to work nearly every PA event that utilizes our kitchen.

Mia had a busy month meeting with different businesses to further implement the changes necessary to meet the HMI Grant goals. Pine Tree Equipment reps visited Granite Street to begin the process of replacing the double convection oven and steamer unit with a double combi oven and tilt skillet. She also met with a rep from Heartland Solutions to plan the move to an updated nutrition software program. If all goes as planned, we will have these updates completed by the start of the new school year.

Reps from W.B Masons are assisting with a new cafeteria layout at Stearns. The new layout will consist of both new and old tables.

The MDOE approved the Non-Congregate Meal Waiver for the snow day on 3/21.



**Facilities Director Louis DiFrederico reported:**

None

**Granite Street School Principal Jo-Anna Merry reported:**

We had 79% of our students return completed packets for the virtual day on March 21, 2024.

Our attendance for parent teacher conferences was 87%.

We've had a few students leave our school over the last few months. Our enrollment is now 206 students.

Our staff continues to help out when we have staff members out and no subs. Shawna and I are so appreciative of those who are willing to take on an extra duty, cover for classroom teachers, combine classes, etc.

Two of our staff members, Nikki Fairbairn-Hensley, one of our PK education technicians, and Ciera D'Alessandro, one of our 5th grader teachers, have resigned. Nikki's last day was April 5th and she will be greatly missed. Cierra will be leaving at the end of the school year as she is moving to Minnesota. She will also be greatly missed by us.

We have added some subs to our list, but one of our regular subs will not be returning until fall due to some health complications.

Kate Greely from Maine Math and Science Alliance spent the March 17th workshop day with us analyzing two math programs used by many Maine schools with aligned state standards. The staff chose Reveal Math as their preferred math program. Eight teachers volunteered to pilot a unit from it this spring. Since then Kate set up a meeting with the sales representative, Carole, and me to discuss prices and such. We have been given digit access to the platform and she has shipped materials for the teachers to use for the unit they want to pilot for free. She also coordinated a two-hour virtual training for staff on April 8th.

The MDOE grant team is submitting a waiver to the USDOE to try to provide us an extension beyond 9/30/24 to use our remaining SIPs funding from 2024. Fifty-one (51) schools in the state are projected to go off the SIPs list. Hopefully in a few weeks we will know if we are one of those schools.

The 5th graders completed a unit on Native American tribes by researching a tribe, creating a diorama, and presenting this with related information to their classmates. I was able to attend a few of these presentations and they did an excellent job. Pictures of the diorama are on our Facebook page.

Elizabeth Consalvi, our Occupational Therapist, is forming a team that includes Katie Carr, Jessica Leach, and members of our special education staff to bring more physical movement and inclusion into our school environment. This is through Special Olympics Maine Unified Champion Schools program. She has applied for a \$1,000 grant through them to buy play/movement equipment that everyone can use in their classrooms and outside as well as healthy snacks for special events.

## **Stearns Jr/Sr High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Nick Cullen reported:**

Our Virtual Snow day was a success. We had 85% attendance at Stearns Junior Senior High School.

Baseball and Softball season have started. We are practicing inside in hopes that we can get out on the fields soon.

Stearns hosted a career on Tuesday April 2nd. We had 6 schools, as well as Stearns, attend. I would like to thank Sue Buzzell and Kyle Leathers for setting this wonderful opportunity up for our students. We had over 40 businesses attend.

Mrs. Loome's outdoor ed class did an outdoor cooking day. It was a wonderful experience for our outdoor ed students as they learned how to cook outside on an open fire!

Students of the month was named for the March. Congratulations to the following students: 6th- Nolan Brundrett, 7th- Gianna Gurewicz, 8th- Lily Archibald 9th- Eric Nobles, 10th- Eva Blanchette, 11th- Blake Campbell, 12th- Kennedy Emerson

## **Stearns Jr/Sr High School Principal Beth Peavey reported:**

### MELMAC Grant Update

- Sophomore Step-Up night 3/26/2024
  - 24 students and their families came for course sign-ups, course descriptions, and a Region III presentation. Pizza, chips and water was provided.
- 8th Grade Step-Up Night is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2024. May be rescheduled due to the impending storm.
- College Tour 3/19/24: We took 16 students on the college tour. Our tour of EMCC was brief but our student guides were great. The tour at UMO was 1.5 hours and showed a good variety of many aspects of college life including residential, academic and athletic. The tour guides were great. We had lunch at the Bears Den.
- Graduation Board: Our new Graduation sign has arrived and been installed by Louie DiFrederico and Ronnie McInnis. The sign is gorgeous, and it is a huge upgrade from the old one. It will feature all of our seniors; college bound, workforce, and military. It is right across from the main office. It was purchased through Bangor Neon Signs and designed by our own alum, Edward Tapley. He has done a great job.
- Career Fair 4/2/2024-6 visiting schools. (Schenck, Katahdin, PVHS, MA, Lee and Region III.) Tremendous success!
- Note: A very sincere and special thank you needs to be said to Sue Buzzell, Kyle Leathers, Amanda Welch, and Katie DiFrederico, members of the MELMAC committee. They plan, organize and execute these events and purchases for students, as well as attend conferences that are a requirement for this grant. They put in countless hours of their time and have been amazing.

- Maine Mobile Biolab
- NHS-School Clean-up
- Curriculum

**XVIII. Superintendent’s Report**

None

**XIX. Executive Session**

**Motion:** To enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(F) information in confidential records including Jan Neureuther.

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory    **Seconded by:** Julie Hewke

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 4 - Yes    0 - No    0 - Abs

**Time In:** 6:03 PM    **Time Out:** 6:31 PM

**XX. Result of Executive Session**

**Motion:** To hire Jan Neureuther as Special Ed Director for the 2024-2025 school year and instruct the Superintendent to create a Memorandum of Understanding with the East Millinocket School Department and the Medway School Department for the Katahdin region to share Special Education administrative services for school year 2024-2025.

**Motioned by:** Kevin Gregory                      **Seconded by:** Kevin Libby

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 4 - Yes    0 - No    0 - Abs

**XXI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM

**Motion by:** Julie Hewke                      **Seconded by:** Kevin Gregory

**Voted:** 4 – Yes    0 - No    0 - Abs



**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

May 7, 2024

June 4, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shelley Lane  
Superintendent of Schools