

**MILLINOCKET SCHOOL REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING  
STEARNS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM  
PUBLIC IN-PERSON OR BY ZOOM  
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024  
4:30 PM**

Kevin Gregory	Virtual – left at 5:00 PM
Julie Hewke	Present
Kevin Libby	Present
Donald Raymond	Present
Warren Steward	Virtual – 4:35 PM
Dr. Shelley Lane, Superintendent	Present
Hailey Aldridge, Junior Student Rep	Present
Gracyn Sanders, Senior Student Rep	Excused

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Donald Raymond, School Board Vice Chair.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

**IV. Public Comment**

None

**V. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the School Board Meeting February 13, 2024, barring any errors or omissions.

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

**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 24-18 in the amount of \$131,654.40 and PR24-18D in the amount of \$29,080.50 on February 29, 2024, and PR 24-19 in the amount of

\$140,641.10, PR24-19D in the amount of \$71,689.88, MainePERS 24-22 in the amount of \$8,252.63, MainePERS 24-23 in the amount of \$32,210.71 and MainePERS 24-24 in the amount of \$207.10 on March 14, 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 AP24-28 in the amount of \$100,417.51 and SA24-22 (student accounts) in the amount of \$3,038.16 on February 29, 2024, and AP24-29 in the amount of \$134,380.21 and SA24-23 (student accounts) in the amount of \$7,997.98 on March 14, 2024.

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

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 5 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**VIII. First Reading of New Policies**

**Motion:** To approve the first reading of new policy EB Environmental Safety Program.

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

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 5 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**IX. First Reading of Revised Policies**

**Motion:** To approve the first reading of revised policies:

DJC Petty Cash Accounts

EBAA Chemical Hazards

EBCA Comprehensive Health and Safety Emergency and Management Plan

EBCB Emergency Evacuation Drills

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

**Board Discussion:**

None

**Voted:** 5 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**X. Recommendation of Policies to Delete**

**Motion:** To approve the removal of the following policies:

CA Administration Goals

CD Management Team

CDA Administrative Decisions

CE Administrative Councils, Cabinets and Committees

CH Policy Implementation

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

**Board Discussion:**

These policies are not required by Maine School Management. The information is included in other policies.

**Voted:** 5 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**XI. To see Board will approve the 2024-2025 school calendar**

**Motion:** To approve the 2024-2025 school calendar as presented.

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

**Board Discussion:**

Calendar details start at the regional level because common days are required for region schools. It then goes to the Admin Team, to the union representatives, then seen by staff. We are proposing student-led conferences, but requirements and patterns have not been set. The staff will have that ability to choose.

Kyle Leathers mentioned that there are not many early release days in the calendar and asked why there are not more included. They are very useful for professional development for staff. The Superintendent stated that she is in favor of them, with a plan. There is nothing in the calendar that won't allow for some early releases, so we hope to roll them into the calendar as we get more information regarding professional development opportunities.

Kyle Leathers noted that the middle school level uses early release mornings as health curriculum days and it has been helpful and successful. The Superintendent said she applauds it.

**Voted:** 5 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**XII. To see if the Board will approve donating the out of service computer lab computers to both Millinocket and East Millinocket public libraries**

**Motion:** To approve donating the out of service computer lab computers to both Millinocket and East Millinocket public libraries.

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

**Board Discussion:**

Cody Clinton stated the computers were donated by Ruth’s Reusables in Portland while Superintendent Frank Boynton was here. We got excellent use out of them for 4 years. The public libraries stated they have a need. We don’t need them, and we won’t need them in the future.

**Voted:** 5 - Yes      0 - No      0 - Abs

**XIII. Notification of Employment**

Angela Guy – JH Softball Coach, Year 1, Step 1; \$1,000 (new coach)

David Michaud – JH Baseball Coach, Year 4, Step 4/5; \$1,600

Nicholas Cullen – Varsity Softball Coach, Year 12, Step 12; \$3,600

Donald Boyington – Varsity Baseball Coach, Year 10, Step 10/11, \$3,400

**XIV. Student Representative Reports**

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

The Performing Arts department just performed their One Act “18 More Reasons Not To Be In A Play” last Thursday to the public. The turnout was amazing.

The freshman and juniors are also preparing for a major fundraiser for the eclipse on April 8. They will be selling ISO 12312-2 international safety standard-rated glasses, so locals and visitors can safely view the eclipse.

The Softball and Baseball seasons are starting up again.

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

None

**XV. Administrative Reports**

**Cody Clinton, Director of Technology reported:**

Network switch / Cybersecurity Grant project is currently being installed and troubleshot. Some of the new switches are already in place!

We have been participating in a Statewide Cybersecurity event hosted by the CISA and the DOE. I have attended two sessions so far and am working on our cyber threat awareness and state of affairs.

We have received and set up the New MacBook Airs for the Granite Computer lab, from the MacKenzie Grant that Ms. Taylor Sulander wrote.

Mr. Bruce McLean and I are working with our regional CISA agents in creating our Cybersecurity Incident response plan. As a part of this we participated in a site survey and readiness survey.

**Louis DiFrederico, Facilities Director reported:**

None

**Mia Charette, Food Service Coordinator reported:**

We served 4,324 breakfasts, and 4,854 lunches in the month of February.

Three members of our team helped to prepare and serve students and their families during the Performing Arts event on 2/28.

Karen Birmingham attended a two day serve safe training held by the MDOE's Child Nutrition team and now holds her Serve Safe Manager certification.

Granite Street cook John Bouchard has been making specialty pizzas for the staff. They have enjoyed Hawaiian, Buffalo Chicken, and Supreme pizzas.

Mia Charette met with members of the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), a nonprofit advocacy organization, and the communications firm, Seven November to discuss the anticipated final rule on updates to the school nutrition standards. Their mission is to elevate positive stories about school nutrition, and to generate positive press about the proposed updates. They are looking to highlight school nutrition programs that are making positive changes.

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

The 2nd trimester ended on March 8th and report cards will be sent home Monday, March 18th.

Absence and tardy letters are being sent out to parents this week. We had 69 students with 10% or higher absences (5 or more days) over the 52 school day time period of December 1st-February 29th. We had 13 students with 10 or more days of excused and/or unexcused absences.

We have been provided another \$14,000 towards professional development as part of the SIGs grant based on being on a tier III School Improvement Plan (SIP) plan as of May 2023. This needs to be spent by 9/30/24. I am adjusting the application budget to include professional development for the IXL program we are transitioning to in place of iReady.

The Maine DOE is still waiting for information from the USDOE before telling us if we are still a tier III school.

A child find form has been sent home with each student, emailed to parents, and posted on the Granite Facebook page. This is to gather enrollment information for PK and Kindergarten for next year.

We have started using IXL assessments in reading and math. This allows us to compare it to the iReady assessments that's been used the last few years, triangulate data across assessments, and help us make decisions about who needs interventions and who needs enrichment groups provided by the classroom teachers and title 1 staff. It also provides lessons that teachers have been integrating into their teaching. Now that we are utilizing the assessments, we can create individual targets, lessons and practice for the students.

We received approval for a \$50,000 literacy grant through the MDOE. This will be used to buy decodable books for phonics instruction K-3 and for short read texts for comprehension instruction K-5.

The bi-annual coin drive has started and will end in April right before the vacation week. The money that is raised goes towards ensuring every student can have a book bought for them during the May book fair. This year the staff member that has the most coins added to their bucket will get a bucket full of ice and cold water dumped on them during field day.

The Boreal Theater sponsored a UMaine Jazz Quintet that visited and played music for students at Granite Street on March 1st.

March 6th Louie, Bruce, and I met to discuss the driveway and the pick-up lane for both buses and parents. Due to recommendations made by engineers a few years ago and liability, no changes to pick up area lanes will be made. When the driveway is painted this spring, changes will be made to better designated parking areas vs. the area where students will be during pick up time.

**Nicholas Cullen, Stearns Assistant Principal/Athletic Director reported:**

National Honors Society Inductions ceremony will take place on March 14th in the Stearns Library.

We will be hosting the State One Act on March 22nd and 23rd.

The Junior High Science Fair will be taking place on March 27th in the middle school gym from 6-7pm.

Region Step up Day will be March 26th.

PVC Scholarship Luncheon will take place on March 12th. Gracyn Sanders, Kyla Welch, Kennedy Emerson, and Braidey Girsas will represent Stearns.

We had some of our basketball players receive some recognition for their accomplishments. Gracyn Sanders received First Team All PVC, Kennedy Emerson received PVC Spirit of the game award, and Braidey Girsra was named to the All PVC defensive team. Caden Raymond received 2nd team All-PVC and All PVC defensive team. Caleb Shearer was named All PVC first team and received the PVC spirit of the game award. Caleb, Caden and Gracyn will be playing in the PVC Senior All Star game at PVHS on March 6th.

Baseball and Softball season will start on Monday March 18th.

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

Official Announcements

Valedictorian: Braidey Girsra

Salutatorian : Jack DiFrederico

Maine Principal's Award: Gracyn Sanders

Unified Performing Arts (UPA)

Both the Jr. High Show Choir and High School Show Choir performed at the District 5 Vocal Jazz and Show Choir Festival on February 28. Both groups qualified for States. Jr. High received a score of 89 out of 100 and the high school received a score of 90 out of 100. Both groups will be part of the MMEA State Vocal Jazz and Show Choir Festival on April 6 in Ellsworth.

One Act Play will be competing on March 8 and 9 at the MPA Regional One Act Drama Festival in Brewer with the hopes of qualifying to go onto the State Class B competition, which we are hosting on March 22 and 23 here at Stearns Jr. /Sr. High School.

The High School Musical, Legally Blonde, has been working hard to prepare for their upcoming performance in the beginning of April. There have been some issues with scheduling due to the Eclipse and some other factors, but we are on schedule to perform on April 9 and 10.

Zach McEwen had a University of Maine Jazz Combo perform for students at Granite Street School on March 1. It was very successful, and it was great to see students inspired by the group and hopefully it will inspire more interest in the Elementary Level for more instrumental lessons.

The Travel the World students will be touring the Bangor International Airport, on March 26th. They are preparing questions for the TSA officers, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, Bangor Police Department K9 offices, and other presenters. (and that age-old mystery - Where did my luggage go?). They are looking forward to the tour of the museum, seeing Maine Troop Greeters, and hope the weather will allow for them to take a drive on the runway! The class is also discussing and considering options for safety on their visit such as; what's the "Buddy System"? What does it mean to be "representatives" of the Millinocket Schools and in general, what is proper tour etiquette? They are excited and hope the weather cooperates.

JRH Art - Currently we are wrapping up our Value Drawing unit. Students have improved greatly with their drawing skills and shading techniques over the past few weeks. Heading into the next few weeks students will begin a unit on Vincent Van Gogh in honor of his birthday on March 30th. They will be analyzing and recreating his famous Bedroom at Arles painting which also ties in a perspective drawing review.

Art I - Art I classes are currently working on designing and painting traditional Celtic Knots. Students learn the history of Celtic knots, how to draw various traditional designs, and are now in the painting phase and wrapping up. Moving forward students will be going into a unit on the artist Gustav Klimt and portraiture.

Art II - Art II students are working on independent projects currently for the end of Q3. They have a variety of paintings and drawings happening. They are doing an amazing job on these. Mrs. Campbell cannot wait to see the finished pieces.

Anna Loomer continues to make learning fun in the outdoors, while our students learn new skills, including safety and survival. TJ Brown wanted to add his commendation and appreciation to Mrs. Loomer. He went with Mrs. Loomer's class on their Umaine Trip, and the kids had a blast. He states that she is extremely organized and conscientious. She puts in a TON of time. The bridges and connections she's fostered with the outdoor community here in Millinocket are amazing. Our students benefit everyday from all of her efforts.







## **XVI. Superintendent's Report**

### **Superintendent Dr. Shelley Lane reported:**

My days are filled with budget work and revisions! We are making progress as we identify areas of consideration for refining the budget lines.

I met with the superintendents from Medway and East Millinocket schools last week. We continue to talk about efficiencies and possibilities for collaborating. Possibilities include staff, teacher, administration and program level sharing. There are many road blocks however, we consider each conversation from the view of our students' needs and effect on our tax payers.

There is a lot of legislation being debated at this time in Augusta. Several would result in unfunded mandates. We will be continuing to monitor these and make plans for any FY25 impact. EX: FMLA, CDS, 125% support staff pay, etc.

Making progress with increasing effective communication with the public. Our Communication Committee supports the development of a new Millinocket School System app and this contract includes a mirror image for an updated and intuitive website.

On February 16th a District Announcement went out via the Swift system. We had spent time with the organization and hopefully it was smooth for our families. We didn't hear that it wasn't.

It was great to see so many in Bangor at the tournament game for our Stearns Minutemen.

District 5 was a successful day for our district schools. Our Middle school and High productions scored well and are using the feedback to grow.

A reminder that April 8th, the day of the Eclipse, will count as a regular student day. Students are expected to complete the work assigned by their teachers.

March 15th- this Friday is a workshop day for staff. This is NOT a student day. Enjoy the long weekend!

## **XVII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM

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

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

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

April 9, 2024

May 7, 2024

June 4, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shelley Lane  
Superintendent of Schools