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Excellence in Education

Michael A. Gallagher
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Directors
Minutes
August 29, 2011

Members in attendance: M. Hodgins, J. Laux, B. Poirier, P. Snow, M. Brooks, M. Wintle, B. Basford, R. Basford

Item 1. Call to Order. M. Hodgins called the board to order at 7:00 P.M. Superintendent Gallagher explained that the first meeting of the school year is the Board's organizational meeting. He then informed the board that both Paul Williams and Michelle Hodgins were willing to continue in their roles as Chair and Vice Chair, and he asked for nominations. J. Laux moved the slate of officers. Nominations ceased and the board voted on the slate of officers as Paul Williams Board Chair and Michelle Hodgins Board Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously. M. Hodgins then continued to chair the meeting in Mr. Williams' absence.

Item 2. Adjustments to the Agenda. None

Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of June 16, 2011. On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by J. Laux, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

Item 4. Public Commentary on Agenda Items. None

Item 5. Learning Results. Mrs. Anderson began her report by providing the board with a colorful handout showing the spring DIBELS report for students at grade 1-4 on oral reading fluency, initial sound fluency, letter naming fluency, phonemic segmentation fluency, and nonsense word fluency. She pointed out the difference that existed from the fall to winter to spring at the different grade levels. Additionally she clarified that the expectations for student performance increased at each administration, therefore, gains from the winter 2011 to spring 2011 were indicative of students making gains greater than the expected growth.

She then presented the AIMSWeb spring report for the MCOMP and MCAP. These math results proved to be very positive as a larger percentage of students were above the 50th percentile at the end of the year.

Mrs. Miller shared student success, in 5% increments, for the percentage of students for grades 3-8 toward completion of the goal of reading 25 books during the school year. Overall, 73% of the entire student body from grades 3-8 read at least 21 books throughout the year, and grade 3 had 95% of the total grade level who read at least 21 books. She explained that it had not been tracked previously and that now that it is going to be tracked, she anticipates receiving better results for students meeting the expectation. It also allows teachers the opportunity to develop a better data collection process to document student success.

Mrs. Miller also shared the fall and spring below and above 50th percentile information for students at grade 5-8. There were some anomalies where there was an increase in the percentage of students at the 7th and 8th grade level who scored below the 50th percentile. However, in both grades 5 and 6 there was an increase in the percentage of students who were above the 50th percentile in the spring when compared to the fall assessment in the area of reading. In the area of math the percentile of students that fell below the 50th percentile and those who fell above the 50th percentile were not significantly changed from grade level to grade level. Mrs. Miller then shared the Title I student information on math computation fluency, math concepts and applications, the NWEA math benchmark scores, the DIBELS literacy benchmark scores and DRA literacy benchmark scores. Most Title I students made percentile gains between the winter and spring on each of these assessments.

Item 6. Administrator Reports. MCI Headmaster report was provided by Chris Hopkins. He completed his report with a written document and an oral report. He indicated that the dorms were full which is important for MCI. He also shared MCI has 14 countries represented at its campus even though the largest part of the international population is from China.

Mrs. Anderson provided the board with an update on the numbers of students per grade level that had moved into the district and those who had moved out, and gave the updated number of students enrolled. She also indicated that she suspected that it would change again prior to the start of school and likely through the first week of school.

Item 7. Committee Reports. Advisory Committee – Superintendent Gallagher indicated that the joint Advisory Committee members met to discuss a proposed contract provided by MCI. After that meeting the SAD #53 Advisory members met to review the proposal and are now looking to reschedule the next joint Advisory Committee meeting on either September 9 or 23 or October 21, all Fridays at 4:45 P.M.

Item 8. Old Business. Consideration of policies EBCA, Emergency Response; KFC, Outdoor Recreational Facilities Use; EE, Student Transportation; EEAF, Special Use of Busses; and EEAG, Use of Private Vehicles for Transporting Students. On a motion by M. Wintle, seconded by B. Poirier, the board voted unanimously to approve the policies as presented by the Policy Committee.

Item 9. New Business. Consideration of letter of resignation from Alicia Thomas, grade 3 teacher. Superintendent Gallagher read the letter from Mrs. Thomas which was very complimentary to the staff, administration and board of MSAD #53. He then recommended that

the board approve the letter of resignation from Alicia Thomas with regret. On a motion by B. Basford, seconded by M. Wintle, the board voted unanimously to accept the letter of resignation.

Nominations of Kristen Gilbert, Warsaw Middle School Principal; Jodi Rich, Administrator of Special Services; Ashley Currier, grade 3; and Mary Ellen Johnston, School Health Coordinator. Superintendent Gallagher recommended the board approve the nominations of each of the individuals. The motion was made by J. Laux to consider the nominations as a group. The motion was seconded by B. Poirier, and the board voted unanimously to approve the nomination of each of the individuals.

Consideration of District Emergency Response Plan revised August 2011. Superintendent Gallagher pointed out the two areas in which the plan had been updated. They were emergency contact information and the addition of field trip to the Emergency Response Plan. He recommended that the board approve the newly revised Emergency Response Plan. On a motion by J. Laux, seconded by B. Basford, the board voted unanimously to approve the district Emergency Response Plan as revised.

School Health Coordinator Mary Ellen Johnston provided the board with a single page handout of the coordinated school health work plan. She shared several sections of the plan with the board. Superintendent Gallagher summarized that the one page handout was identical to the several page handout regarding the topic areas that will be addressed through the health work plan.

The Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey results were reviewed by Superintendent Gallagher and Principal Gilbert. This lead into a discussion about the health needs and risky health behavior that students in the district have. This moved into a discussion about the difficulties of maintaining a continuity of a Spanish teacher from year to year that has complicated the desired development of the Spanish program. The program has had four different teachers in the last five years. Superintendent Gallagher indicated that he had spoken with the high school Spanish teacher about whether the district program had a positive effect on what she did in the high school program. She indicated that she had not changed her curriculum at all during the time that the district has had a Spanish program. He then explained that interviews for a Spanish teacher had occurred through the summer, but no suitable candidate was found, and even after re-advertising, we had not received any new applications. Therefore, given the health needs of the student body and that the district would need to move forward with hiring a certified health teacher next school year, that maybe this is the opportune time with the school health coordinator in district to hire a health educator for the middle school rather than continuing to pursue a Spanish teacher candidate.

This lead to a more general discussion around the effectiveness of a health teacher in changing student behaviors; to change student behaviors it must involve students in making the determinations about their own decisions about use of substances, tobacco, healthy eating, etc. After a lengthy discussion Superintendent Gallagher was asked to make a recommendation for a motion and recommended that the board authorize the employment of a health instructor at the Warsaw Middle School. On a motion by B. Basford, seconded by P. Snow, the board unanimously voted to hire a health instructor for Warsaw Middle School.

It was also determined through discussion that the continuation of the Spanish program will need to be a decision made by the school board this year. Complications for an additional position include space and finding a suitable candidate.

The board then discussed the board meeting and committee meeting schedule as well as the committee assignments and the board's contact information. Mr. Brooks asked that his email address be changed on the school board listing. No other revisions were offered although some may be emailed to Superintendent Gallagher. Mrs. Hodgins indicated that she would be willing to assist on either the policy or personnel committees if needed.

Kristen Gilbert then provided a short review of her entry plan into Warsaw Middle School. Superintendent Gallagher shared that he was very impressed by Ms. Gilbert's entry plan that she had constructed through conversations with Warsaw Middle School faculty and staff during the summer. It clearly delineated a direction for the school with academics being in the fore front.

Superintendent Gallagher then provided a quick review of the district's new website by projecting it for the board to see.

Item 10. Communications. None

Item 11. Future Agenda Items. None

Item 12. Executive Session. Vice Chair M. Hodgins asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing compensation of officials pursuant to 1 MRSA §405 (6) (a). On a motion by J. Laux, seconded by B. Poirier, the board voted seven in the affirmative with one abstention, B. Basford to go into Executive Session at 9:20 P.M. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:35 P.M. Superintendent Gallagher recommended that the board set the technology technician salary at \$15.00 per hour. On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by M. Brooks, the board voted unanimously to set the technology technician's salary at \$15.00 per hour.

Item 13. Adjournment. On a motion by J. Laux, seconded by B. Poirier, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Gallagher