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Burnham

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Excellence in Education

Michael A. Gallagher
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Directors

Minutes

12/6/10

Members in attendance: P. Williams, M. Wintle, J. Laux, M. Hodgins, B. Poirier, P. Snow, C. Cookson, J. Bradshaw, and M. Brooks

Absent/excused: B. Basford and R. Basford

Item 1. Call to Order. Chair Williams called the board to order at 7:02 P.M. and welcomed new board member Mike Brooks. Other members of the board introduced themselves to Mr. Brooks.

Item 2. Adjustments to the Agenda. One adjustment was made, moving the consideration of extending the contract of Superintendent Gallagher until after the Executive Session.

Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of November 1, 2010 Board Meeting. On a motion by J. Laux, seconded by B. Poirier, the board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as published.

Item 4. Public Commentary. Three employees of MSAD #53, Jen Cram, Joan Casey and Aaron McCannell, spoke to the board about their concerns with extending the length of the school day in order to provide additional staff development time. Concerns expressed included that it would reduce the amount of time that teachers had to prepare for the next day after school. Another comment was in regard to students requiring special services requiring an ed. tech. The concern was about students who would lose time with education technicians. If the district increased the time for the education technicians to be with the children it might increase their hours enough to bring them over the part time status thus costing the district more in salaries. If the district did not increase the time, students would lose approximately six days of instructional time. Final comments were about teachers already being overwhelmed now and to take more preparation time would exacerbate the situation.

M. Hodgins asked if there would be any benefit for students. There were some responses to this question i.e. young students would be very tired by the end of the day, or if the

extra time was in the morning, it would mean students would be getting on the bus 15 minutes earlier than they do now.

Item 5. Learning Results. In the absence of Principals Anderson and Nevens due to the snow storm, Curriculum Specialist Anne Miller provided an overview of the school improvement plan submitted to the Department of Education by Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Nevens. This presentation was in accordance with implementation of the strategic plan goal one, objective one, action steps one through three. Mrs. Miller shared that the first three goals were all mandated goals by the Department of Education. The fourth goal is a recommended goal and additional goals are strategically planned for the purpose of providing in-service to staff.

Item 6. Committee Reports

The Advisory Committee Report was a verbal report provided by Superintendent Gallagher regarding the ongoing negotiations with MCI to establish a new contract for grades 9-12 education.

The Budget/Finance Report was provided by B. Poirier. She shared that the Budget Committee met, reviewed expenditures and noted that there were two additional over expenditures during the month of October, one of which was significant for a tutor position. Superintendent Gallagher indicated that a change in staffing and programming has now allowed the district to pay for these services out of Local Entitlement rather than out of the district's budget. Mrs. Poirier also indicated that the district is on track with expenditures comparable to previous years', and that the committee discussed with administrators how to prepare the FY12 budget. She indicated that there would likely be increases in the amount of local funding for schools.

Building Committee Report was provided by P. Williams. Mr. Williams indicated that the committee reviewed the list of capital projects that were projected to be completed during the 2011 summer. The committee identified projects that would be necessary and complement one another. Superintendent Gallagher will obtain quotes for items to determine whether they would need to go out to bid for items that cost more than \$5,000. The committee also reviewed projects that need to be completed this school year. They included the Manson Park girls' bathroom, and the sprinkler systems at both the Manson Park and Vickery Schools. He indicated that the committee had made a decision regarding the purchase of district electricity through a renewal of the contract with Maine Power Options. The committee also reviewed a greenhouse gas emissions survey completed last year. Mr. Williams noted that the Vickery and Warsaw Schools had a very high rating in comparison to other state and national schools, and although the Manson Park School was above the average, it was not rated as high as either Warsaw or Vickery. He finished his report by indicating that the committee spoke about some traffic flow issues between Warsaw and Vickery on School Street during school hours because of students at the Vickery School having their library program at Warsaw.

Personnel Committee – J. Bradshaw provided a brief report indicating that the committee met and reviewed the evaluation document for this year with Superintendent Gallagher. She shared that the committee reviewed documentation that Superintendent Gallagher provided as evidence of meeting his goals set for the past year. She then indicated that there would be more discussion of the evaluation during the Executive Session.

The Policy Committee report was provided by M. Wintle. He provided a summary of the Policy Committee meeting held on November 8 by sharing that the committee reviewed the four policies presented for their first reading at the November 1, 2010 school board meeting. Two changes to policy BG were made based on feedback from the school board. No revisions were made to the other three policies that will be considered for adoption. He indicated that the Policy Committee then reviewed two additional policies that are on the board agenda for their first reading.

Chair Williams asked if there had been a date and time selected for the Negotiations Committee meeting. Superintendent Gallagher responded that the meeting will be held on December 9, 2010 at 5:30 P.M.

Item 7. Old Business

Consideration of policies BG, School Board Policy; EI, Insurance Programs/Risk Management; BDA, Notification of Board Meetings; and BEDD, Rules of Order. Superintendent Gallagher recommended that the board adopt the policies as presented.

On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by J. Laux, the board voted unanimously to adopt the policies as presented.

Presentation of format for the school board's/legislator's forum – Superintendent Gallagher quickly reviewed the format with the board referencing a handout included in the board packet.

Presentation of alternative method of developing a school year calendar – Superintendent Gallagher shared with the board that he had spoken with the Maine Department of Education Deputy Commissioner. She indicated that currently no other districts were using the idea of creating a calendar based on time in school as opposed to number of days in school. He said that the Deputy Commissioner was intrigued by the idea and understood the rationale for wishing to do so. She also suggested that if the district should continue to pursue the idea that the Department of Education would be happy to work with the district for consideration of approval of such a calendar. The board had a short discussion regarding the concept, particularly around issues that would occur as the result of increasing the length of the day on either end of the day. Issues included late day dismissal of athletes going to away games and the length of the day for younger students being more difficult. The board indicated neither their support for nor against the idea. Chair Williams suggested that it be discussed by the Curriculum Committee.

Item 8. New Business

Presentation of policies BE, School Board Meetings and BEDB, Agenda – M. Wintle provided a quick summary of the committee’s work to modify the two policies.

Presentation of results of November board workshop and board self evaluation – Superintendent Gallagher referenced the document in the board packet. He had requested that board members select two or three items for discussion purposes at the meeting. Mr. Wintle suggested the board consider the idea of providing a mailing or questionnaire seeking input from the public. Chair Williams suggested that it be a homework assignment for the next board to select a couple of the items. Superintendent Gallagher suggested that board members email items to him and that he would collate them for further consideration and implementation.

Presentation of prioritizing district expenditures (zero based budgeting) – Superintendent Gallagher referenced a four page document included in the board packet. He first reviewed the work completed last year by the school board and the district improvement team with the administrators during the month of December 2009. Next he shared a spreadsheet and graph which showed the state and local funding history since 2000-2001. He pointed out the significant increase of the state funding in the 2005-2006 fiscal year the first year of EPS funding and the decrease in state funding beginning in the 2008-2009 school year. The current year’s budget is actually less than the amount of local funding raised for the 2000-2001 fiscal year. After a review of the bar graph showing the history of local funding for education, he shared that building the fiscal year 2012 budget would be extremely difficult given the reductions of revenue from the America Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Federal Stabilization Funds used by the Department of Education to fund the EPS model. The reduction of ARRA funds totals approximately \$250,000 in Title I and approximately \$150,000 in Local Entitlement for Special Services, and a reduction of \$195,000 in stabilization funds. These reductions in revenue sources, along with the anticipated reduction of current state and Medicaid funding, provides a significant challenge for maintaining all programming that the district currently has.

Presentation of two draft calendars provided by the Department of Education – Because the print on the calendars provided in the board packets was not clear, it was difficult to make comparisons of the two calendars. The draft calendars published by the Department of Education for the central part of the state included one that was very similar to the traditional calendar. The other calendar did not have a February or an April break but had the first two weeks of March for a vacation. The reason the DOE is pursuing a common calendar is to accommodate the career and technical centers. M. Hodgins pointed out that if the legislature were to adopt either one of these calendars that it would still be complicated since MCI would not need to follow the calendar for their school. Additional discussion occurred about the difficulty of legislating a common calendar.

Presentation of Healthy Maine Partnership School Health Coordinator Grant Opportunity – Superintendent Gallagher shared that MSAD #53 has a great opportunity to apply for

and be funded to have a school health coordinator position. This individual would coordinate all district health and wellness activities. The grant provides \$66,500 for the salary and benefits of one school health coordinator position. An additional \$3,500 is provided for incidentals such as mileage and materials. He finished his presentation by sharing a handout highlighting the eight components of a coordinated school health program.

Item 9. Superintendent's Report. MCI Headmaster report – Headmaster Chris Hopkins provided the board with an overview of the hearing process being used this year at MCI. He wished to make sure that the board recognizes that the differences this year from previous years is only in process and not in a tightening up of rules and regulations. He indicated that MCI has had approximately 40 hearings regarding student behavior. The hearings are attended by the student, several administrators, the student's advisor, any other adult at MCI that the student would wish to invite and the student's parents. Most of the hearings this year have been because of tobacco, drug and alcohol issues; although not the norm two of the hearings this year have been for fighting. He believes the process will lead to better student awareness and more effectively deals with behaviors than there previous processes.

Item 10. Communications. Superintendent Gallagher distributed a newspaper article entitled "Math That Goes the Distance" regarding Jean Bradshaw's daughter Josie and her use of video conferencing technology to participate in a Madison High School algebra II class.

Item 11. Future Agenda Items. None

Item 12. Executive Session. Chair Williams asked the board for a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent of Schools' evaluation pursuant to 1 MRSA §4056 A. On a motion by J. Laux, seconded by B. Poirier, the board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:04 P.M. The board came out of Executive Session at 10:10 P.M. J. Laux made the motion to table any action on the extension of the contract for Superintendent Gallagher until the January board meeting. The motion was seconded by P. Snow and the board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Item 13. Adjournment. On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by P. Snow, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Gallagher