



Maine Region Ten Technical High School

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NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Cooperative Board. Such action, either to approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the November 16, 2015 meeting.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2015 BOARD MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Johnson, Brian Pike, Jeffrey Wolkens, James Grant, John Morang, Bill Konzal

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Janet Connors, Brenda Clough, Dee Carrier

SUPERINTENDENTS PRESENT: Paul Perzanoski, Ed McDonough, Brad Smith

PRINCIPALS PRESENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Dawson, Director; Cindy Hutchins, Assistant Director; David Giroux, Automotive Technology Instructor; Ellen Turcotte, Food Trades Instructor; Joanne McMahon, Health Occupations Instructor

1. Meeting called to order at 6:42 PM by John Morang
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Agenda Adjustments – Director Dawson took a moment to introduce Mary Ann Wilson to the Board. Ms. Wilson will be covering for Office Manager, Kellie Gardner while she is on maternity leave.
4. **Motion: Jim Grant**
Second: Brian Pike
Vote: Unanimous of members present
To: Accept the Minutes of the September 21, 2015 Board meeting as written
5. Public Comment
Phil Dionne addressed the Board regarding the potential changes to the Cooperative Agreement and the discrepancy with the red line version of the Cooperative Agreement and the separate Job Description for the Director. Superintendent Perzanoski explained the pull out of the Job Description is the proposed change to Section F of the Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Dionne questioned the change from Treasurer to Secretary of the Board. Mr. Perzanoski stated the Treasurer would be a Board member. Mr. Dionne stated that had been attempted at the school's inception and had proven difficult, especially with concern to payroll. Mr. Dionne also voiced concern that the change from Director to Superintendent/Director would significantly decrease the number of candidates for the position. Mr. Perzanoski stated only a Superintendent Certification is required as the Superintendent Certification can do all administrative positions.

Old Business:

6. Superintendent/Director Transition
Superintendent Perzanoski stated the suggested changes to the Director's Job Description is in response to moving toward a full day Comprehensive High School. The description gives an overview of the responsibilities of a Director/Superintendent in charge of the school. The changes in duties are based on a change in title and dovetail with the changes suggested by R10 Tech Attorney, Pat Dunn.
Discussion and action on agenda items 6 and 7 were moved to after discussion and action on agenda Item 8 to no objection.
8. MSAD#75 Construction Project
Chairperson Morang reminded the Board that MSAD#75 has offered to include Region Ten Tech in their new building plans. Director Dawson explained acceptance to the MSAD#75 project would mean Region Ten

would cease to be a Region and would become a Center. The Superintendents determined it is the Board's decision to make, and is in everyone's best interest to make the decision quickly.

Jim Grant stated that based on discussion of last spring, over the summer and the September meeting, there appears to be more options for programming and education if Region Ten remains separate from MSAD#75, and while the offer is appreciated, he is not in favor.

Superintendent Smith stated there is a small and quickly closing window for Region Ten to be included in the MSAD#75 plan and there is the possibility of expanding programming and changing the current model with State Funding though that option needs to be researched. The state has not promised money for a standalone Comprehensive High School, but is interested in the concept. Mr. Smith is pleased with the excitement shown by Region Ten staff regarding a standalone model but is also concerned with declining enrollment and what the current numbers mean for the future of the school.

John Morang questioned the governance change should the Board choose to be included in the MSAD#75 building project. Superintendent Smith stated changing from a Region to a Center would mean the dissolution of the Cooperative Board and the governing body would be the school district's Board of Directors. Mr. Smith said it may be possible to move toward a standalone model but remain attached to the MSAD#75 project, but that possibility would need to be discussed with Scott Brown. Superintendent Perzanoski stated it's not 100% out of the question but the chances of it happening are less than they would be should Region Ten remain separate.

John Morang questioned whether the payment would be the same with the Center model, with each district paying an assessment based on the current census. Mr. Smith said he believed it would be different in a Center model, but facts have not been gathered yet.

Mr. Grant asked if the questions of expanding programming, changing the current model, remaining a stand-alone school while still being attached to the MSAD#75 project, and payments from sending districts could be answered by the November 16, 2015 meeting.

Director Dawson presented the views of the staff. The Region Ten Tech staff understands there is a high degree of risk in moving toward a comprehensive High School, and that it is a long term vision. The staff is excited to be moving toward something new and different. Mr. Dawson stated moving toward an ideal vision should not be construed as moving away from MSAD#75. A stand-alone Comprehensive High School would provide an opportunity to fix several major flaws in the current model that a Center could not: Direct integration of academics with CTE instruction and lost educational/instruction time due to transportation. The Region Ten Tech staff believes a Comprehensive High School in Maine is an idea whose time has come, and would rather move toward the ideal rather than move into a new facility with the same flaws. Superintendent Perzanoski stated he would hate for the Board to make decisions on opportunities for students based on a facility as education is not based on the building but on the staff.

Director Dawson reiterated the difficulty in replicating the benefits of integrated academic and CTE instruction in a Center. The staff and SIT committee are working on completing visits to Integrated High Schools in Maine; Oxford Hills and Mt. Blue. Mr. Dawson is not certain there is real integration happening at these schools between academic and CTE instruction, or if the integration is the proximity of students, classrooms and lab/shop areas.

David Johnson stated he likes the idea of a new building as it opens the possibility for new programming, and agreed the change in funding and governance would be daunting, and stated the purpose of education is to meet the needs of the students. He is also mindful that adding CTE to the MSAD#75 project makes it more complicated. Mr. Johnson reiterated the need to postpone action on the subject to get more answers as the Board needs to do its due diligence, and stated that if the staff's enthusiasm is in the stand-alone Comprehensive High School model, then that may be the right decision to make.

John Morang stated the need to bring the discussion to the sending school boards to get a larger prospective.

Jeff Wolkens suggested that CTE should be offered in a high school setting as that is where enrollment is. Mr. Wolkens stated CTE instruction is essential for all students and can open more doors than academics alone.

Chairperson Morang said he is excited about the stand-alone possibility as students currently lose time commuting, and the daily commute to and from Region Ten also poses a safety risk. Also exciting is the integration of academics and CTE instruction which has been attempted multiple times but has not really happened for the students.

Superintendent Smith said neither model has happened in Maine; there has never been a switch from a Region to a Center, and there is no mechanism for a Comprehensive High School. Mr. Smith will do his best to return to the Board with specific answers at the November meeting. Mr. Grant asked if delay the vote until November would put stress in the MSAD#75 project. Mr. Smith said if the enthusiasm is greater for a stand-alone school then the Board will want to pursue that option, but a delay until November would not stress the MSAD#75 project.

Motion: Jim Grant

Second: Brian Fick

Vote: Unanimous

To: Table Agenda Item 6 - Superintendent/Director Transition, Agenda Item 7 – Cooperative Agreement, and Agenda Item 8 – MSAD#75 Construction Project until the November 16, 2015 meeting.

9. Vision for Region Ten

Health Occupations Instructor, Joanne McMahon presented the Board with an update of the staff's work on developing a vision for Region 10's future. Due to the time constraints of the regularly scheduled staff meetings, the staff has added extra, voluntary meetings devoted to further fact finding. The staff is excited and energized about devoting time to what is best for Region Ten students. Two questions are currently at the forefront of discussion: "Considering the current building" and "What else is out there?" Additional staff members have volunteered to visit models for CTE to widen the number of staff who have had a firsthand opportunity to view models currently in use.

10. Insurance

The total damages from the lightning strike cost \$21,537.99. Region Ten received a check in the amount of \$19,037.99 which is complete recovery of the cost less the \$2,500 deductible. The check has been deposited back into the accounts being used to cover the cost. Director Dawson thanked Head Custodian, Mike Knoff, Assistant Director Cindy Hutchins, and the insurance company for the smooth process.

New Business

11. Budget to Actual September 30, 2015

Director Dawson reported revenues exceeding expenditures. The Director noted the low expenditure percentage in the Equipment line is due to instructors requesting the money for large pieces of equipment they expect to need during the year, but they will not spend the money on the equipment until it is absolutely necessary. Tuition and Fees will double once invoices are created and sent and those monies received.

Chairperson Morang questioned why the transportation line was at zero. Director Dawson stated he believes that is because we buy gas for all vehicles from the Town of Brunswick and have not yet been billed, but he will check on that.

12. Committee Assignments

The time and day of the SIT Committee has been changed to 5:00 PM the second Thursday of the month. John Morang will join the Policy Committee, Brian Fick will join the SIT Committee, Bill Konzal will join the Finance Committee.

Motion: Jim Gant

Second: David Johnson

Vote: Unanimous

To: Add Janet Connors to the Finance Committee

Chairperson Morang said he would call Janet to let her know the Board would like to have her on the Finance Committee.

13. Committee Reports

Policy Committee: The committee is presenting three policies for a first reading. The policies were reviewed by committee in the spring, but not brought to the Board. Please direct all questions and comments to Director Dawson for the Policy Committee to review at their November 12, 2015 meeting.

First Reading: Student Attendance (JEAA)

Jim Grant explained the proposal being brought to the Board is the red line version. The MSMA sample is included for reference only.

First Reading: Student Re-Entry from Juvenile Justice System (JLDBG)

Jim Grant explained the proposal being brought to the Board is the shorter policy, last draft date 5/14/14. The MSMA Sample Policy is included for reference only.

First Reading: Bullying and Cyber Bullying (JICK)

Jim Grant explained both the 5/14/14 draft and the MSMA policies are being presented for consideration as a combination.

SIT Committee: The SIT Committee has changed the date of their meetings to the second Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM in an effort to broaden their membership, bringing in community members as well as a student member. The major issues addressed at the first SIT meeting were Enrollment Numbers, Vision for Region Ten Tech, and the establishment of monthly Principals meetings.

Director Search Committee: Superintendent Perzanoski stated he had heard from Instructor David Giroux that he, David Smith, Jason Darling and Greg Quinlan would be joining the committee from the staff. A community member from Brunswick and one from RSU No.5 have committed to serve on the committee and another is being considered for MSAD#75 who runs several programs in the district but is a resident of Brunswick. The community members are very involved with and invested in the school.

14. **Resignation**

David Smith submitted a letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement. Director Dawson voiced appreciation for a job well done with both the General Trades program and specifically with our special needs students. Superintendent Perzanoski said it is customary for the Board to take action on the letter and draft a letter on behalf of the Board.

Motion: Jim Grant

Second: David Johnson

Vote: Unanimous

To: Regretfully accept the resignation for retirement of David Smith, General Trades Instructor

15. **Director's Report**

a. No MSBA Delegate – No member of the Board volunteered to represent Region Ten Tech at the annual MSBA Conference and Delegate Assembly.

b. Official October 1 Enrollment – October 1 Enrollment reporting is disappointing with 234 students instead of the anticipated 260. The handout provided included graphs over a five year period. The graphs show two years of moderate increase to a peak and two years of decline, with a stronger decline than incline. The graph showing the percentage of students enrolled per sending school shows that even with decreasing enrollments at sending schools, Brunswick and Mt. Ararat are at their lowest percentage of enrollment in five years. Though most programs have strong enrollment, many are at their lowest point in five years with the steepest decline in Firefighting prompting a Program Review. The SIT Committee will be looking into reasons behind the decrease and ways to reverse it.

c. Parent Conferences Report – Instructors saw a strong turnout for conferences with approximately 60% of parents coming in for a meeting. New this year were more frequent invitations and the push to have students accompany their parents/guardians to the conference and the staff is pleased overall with student attendance.

d. Open House – Open House will be Thursday, November 5 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Board members are strongly encouraged to attend. Each program will have activities and demonstrations with many providing an item for and end of the evening raffle.

16&17. **Executive Session**

Motion: David Johnson

Second: Jim Grant

Vote: Unanimous

To: Enter into Executive Session at 8:00 PM to discuss a personnel matter, pursuant to M.R.S.A. § Section 405 (6)(A) and to discuss negotiations, pursuant to M.R.S.A. § Section 405 (6)(D). Session to include Superintendents' Advisory Committee and Director.

Return from Executive Session at 8:10 PM with no action to be taken.

18. **Communication**

Director Dawson told the Board that Al and Gail Ripa, founders of the Region Ten Tech Ripa Scholarship, recently gifted the school with a check for \$750 for a general fund to be used as administration sees fit to help a student in need. Recently, money from the Ripa general fund was used to help a student purchase a computer for college. The student had funded the first year of school entirely with scholarships, grants and loans, but had not planned for the extra cost of a computer. Region Ten had a computer that we refurbished and purchased for a nominal fee for the student. Director Dawson sent a letter of thanks and Mr. Grant suggested another be sent on behalf of the Board.

19. Adjourn
Meeting adjourned to no objection at 8:15 PM