

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 64
Bradford Corinth Hudson Kenduskeag Stetson

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 28, 2025

The members of the Board of Directors of RSU 64 met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2025 in response to an agenda dated January 23, 2025. The agenda was distributed to members electronically.

Members Present: Rhonda Williams, James Connolly, Amy Bean, Julie Byers, Katherine Waite, Anne McLellan, Emily Henderson, Regina Creeley, Wanda St. Peter, Robert Young, Steven Ingalls, Rosalie Ainsworth, Curtis Chadbourne, Jodi Braslett

Student Representatives

Present: Aaron Dyer

Student Representatives

Absent: Madison Kenneson

Members Absent: Anne Kenneson, Tonya Wozneak, Kelsi McHugh-Speed

Members Absent

Without Excuse:

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Rhonda Sperrey, administrators, and members of the public.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rhonda Williams at 7:00 p.m. A roll call and check of attendance found a quorum of 14 members present, 3 members absent, and one vacancy (Bradford).

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second of Jodi Brasslett, the Board voted to approve the draft minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting (November 25, 2024) and the Hiring Committee Meeting (November 25, 2024) and to place the minutes on file as part of permanent Board records.

Unanimous

Petitions and Communications

The Board is in receipt of a letter of resignation from CMS/CHS Health Teacher Rebecca Batron, CMS Custodian Diana Davies, and CHS English Teacher Katie York.

Chair Williams called for Public Forum items.

Central High School students Haley Crocker, Emma Byers, and Gordon (Quin) Robinson spoke about their desire to see administration consider extending the length of lunch periods and revising the handbook language concerning the requirement that students enroll in a minimum of 6 courses in order to maintain good standing.

Christy Ouellette (Corinth), a parent of a CMS cheerleader, spoke about her desire to have the Board provide an exception to the District policy of no school sponsored activities scheduled on Sundays given her desire to see the CMS Cheer squad participate in a recreation department organized competition coming up on March 2, 2025.

Taylor McIntyre (Corinth), CMS Cheer Coach, spoke about her desire to take the Cheering team to a Sunday competition, although Board policy prohibits school sponsored activities scheduled on Sundays.

Reports

Superintendent Sperrey updated members on the following administrative topics:

Cell Phone Free School Day Update

In an effort to continue to engage students in our cell phone free day initiative, the District has been on a listening tour with students. In the month of December, Superintendent Sperrey met with a group of seniors, a group of mixed juniors and sophomores, and a group of middle school students from grades 6-8. In the meetings, students were reminded of the four foundational harms research has shown exist from extended cell phone use: Social Deprivation, Sleep Deprivation, Attention Fragmentation, and Addiction. Some of the things Superintendent Sperrey learned by listening to students:

- All students that participated in the discussions that have phones, take them to bed with them at night to scroll on social media.
- Only one student in the three groups did not have a cell phone.
- Although some parents have put controls and limits on their phone time, students know how to get around them and do.
- Although students did not like the decision at the beginning of the school year to restrict cell phone use during the school day, they are “okay” with it now.
- The students that participated in the discussion at the middle school turn their phones in or don’t bring them to school if they don’t have a need for it after school.
- Students are still more comfortable to text their parents throughout their school day than to go to the office to call home or to talk to an adult at school about what they want to talk to their parents about. Things they would text about wouldn’t necessarily require a phone call, or school adult involvement, so they would text instead and wish they still could.
- Middle school students know their parents’ or caregivers’ phone number, high school seniors do not. Note: Superintendent Sperrey gave high school students a homework assignment of learning their parents’ or caregivers’ number given they may need it in an emergency and not have access to their phone where the numbers are stored.
- Students shared with the superintendent that although the discipline data has dropped dramatically, they still feel like there is drama from social interactions online that is brought into school.
- High school students in particular shared they noticed a significant increase in social interactions with their peers during the school day.
- All students reported they felt they are more focused at school now.
- All students reported teachers are being consistent with the expectations of turning phones in and taking phones if they are out. Note: The District has experienced a significant drop in the number of phones taken this year given the consistency of the expectations.

Athletic Complex Update

Superintendent Sperrey, CHS Athletic Director Jared Foster, and Maintenance Supervisor Ryan Bickford met with a team of civil engineers and designers on Thursday, January 23, 2025 to review very initial drafts of concepts being explored for the design of improved outdoor athletic facilities and the capture of a new septic system for Central High School. The team will now use the data they collected from school staff to fine tune their proposals before bringing them back to the Building Committee for feedback. The potential of a new septic system plan will require soil analysis and further investigation before any pricing or phasing of the project can be considered. The team is looking at the entire middle and high school campus as they consider how to best use the spaces available to the District in a potential expansion and improvement to the outdoor facilities the school district may wish to pursue in the future.

Governor's Commission on School Construction

The Commission has dug into their work on analyzing the critical place the State is in with regard to the current condition of school facilities, construction policy, and funding. The Commission has divided into three sub groups to consider funding, policy and design, specifically. One of the charges before the Commission is to consider the idea of a separate authority for school construction. Other concepts being considered include the idea of a dedicated revenue stream for funding given all projects are currently constructed using borrowed money and consistent designs that could reduce the monies spent on architects. The Commission has created a very robust website with additional information pertaining to their work.

UTC Crosswalks

UTC leadership has been working with high school principals, curriculum coordinators, and superintendents around curriculum crosswalks that identify content area learning that occurs in the CTE programs and that is in alignment with core curriculum that is taught at the local high school. These crosswalks are being refined in an attempt to support the removal of barriers for high school students who participate in CTE programs. For example, a student whose learning pathway includes specially designed instruction may not have the room in their class schedule to attend UTC and also receive appropriate services at their local high school. The opportunity for that student to earn math, English or science credits through their CTE experience will allow them to continue in CTE and earn the credits necessary for graduation from their local high school. This work has been challenging for high school principals and is significantly important for our students. This work is in response to LD 436: An Act to Provide Career and Technical Education Students with Credit Toward High School Graduation for Work Completed in Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions.

Budget Update

The District has begun financial planning for FY26. Building principals and department supervisors are working on budget requests and central office staff are working on entering salary and benefits data for FY26 into the current budget draft. The ED279 was released on Monday, January 27, 2025. This report projects preliminary anticipated revenue funding from state subsidy. The report is based on recommended funding levels in the Governor's 2025-2027 biennial budget. Changes may occur after the budget is enacted through the legislative process. This report provides districts with data on which to make their budget plans. According to the ED279, RSU 64 is expected to receive an additional \$190,970.35 in subsidy and \$34,484.87 less in debt service in FY26. The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, February 3, 2025.

District Enrollment (As compared to December 1, 2024)

CCES - 488 (+1)

CMS - 221 (+1)

CHS - 296 (-1)

Total = 1005 (+1)

Administrator Reports

Administrator reports are distributed to Board members prior to the monthly meeting.

CHS Principal Dr. Rad Mayfield – Dr. Mayfield shared Student of the Quarter and Staff of the Quarter. Dr. Mayfield also highlighted music competition students.

CHS Assistant Principal/AD Jared Foster – Mr. Foster updated members on several athletic accomplishments from the winter sports season.

CMS Principal Dr. Sandra Cookson – Dr. Cookson had nothing to add to her previously distributed report.

CCES Principal Michael Glynn – Mr. Glynn shared a correction from his Board Report noting the 100th Day of School will be celebrated on February 12th. Mr. Glynn also thanked Home Roofing Solutions for the donation of funds for students in need.

CCES Assistant Principal Nicole Evans – Mrs. Evans highlighted the staff “Underground Theme Week” taking place at CCES.

Curriculum Coordinator Monica Sabine – Mrs. Sabine had nothing to add to her previously distributed report.

Special Education Director David Nason – Mr. Nason thanked building principals for their assistance in facilitating IEP and 504 meetings when the scheduled meetings were disrupted with school cancellations.

New Business

Attendance and Absenteeism Presentation

Administrators presented timely information about student attendance and absenteeism rates. Member Steven Ingalls requested Chronic Absenteeism rates for each school be reported each month along with the enrollment report.

Executive Session 1 MRSA §405(6)(A)

In absence of the need, and upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Jodi Brasslett, members voted to table this item.

Unanimous

Personnel Approvals and Acknowledgements

Upon the motion of Wanda St. Peter and second by Katherine Waite, members approved Superintendent Sperrey’s Professional Staff appointments for 2024-2025:

CHS English Teacher – Natalie Young
CHS Science Teacher – Matthew Shawyer

Unanimous

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey’s Support Staff transfer for 2024-2025:

CMS Custodian – Michael Reynolds

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey’s Support Staff appointments for 2024-2025:

CMS Educational Technician – Skyler Ferrie
District Maintenance – Dennis Bean

Members acknowledged Superintendent Sperrey’s Schedule B appointments for 2024-2025:

CHS Assistant Track Coach – Chris Cook
CHS Varsity Baseball Coach – Daniel Hall
CMS Intramurals Co-Advisor – Ashleigh Capelle
CMS Intramurals Co-Advisor – Sonta Weymouth

Upon the motion of Steven Ingalls and second by Curtis Chadbourne, members approved the addition of Item VII: Discussion in Response to Public Comment.

Unanimous

Members directed the Superintendent of Schools to include policies related to the public comment items on the next agenda of the Policy Committee.

Upon the motion of Katherine Waite and second by Jodi Brasslett, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted by,



Rhonda Sperrey
Secretary