

**REGION 8 COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING
January 26, 2022**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Cooperative Board was held on January 26, 2022

Those in attendance were:

CSD	Tori Manzi, Bob Duke, Marcus Mrowka	(69.62/ea.)
Islesboro		(11.94)
RSU 13	Loren Andrews, Bill Pearce, Joe Steinberger, Quixada Moore-Vissing	(77.82/ea.)
SAD 40	Danny Jackson, Seth Hall, Matthew Speno, Randy Kassa	(77.89/ea.)
SAD 7	Jerry White	(7.49)
SAD 8	Yvonne Thomas	(24.58)
St. George		(54.68)

Bobby Deetjen, Director; Sherry Moody, Business Mgr.; Scott Browning, Asst Director; Kristy Hastings, Student Services Coord.; Danica Wooster, Instructor; J Bakley, Instructor; Sue Stewart, Instructor; Fred Brewer, CPA

Absent – Alane Kennedy, Diego Gutierrez,

Bob Duke, Chair, opened the regular meeting at 7:00 P.M. **Total weighted votes: 863.76**

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJUSTMENTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Kassa, to approve the minutes of the regular December 15th board meeting

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 785.94

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes	Gutierrez(69.62): Absent
Hall(77.89): Yes	Jackson(77.89): Yes	Kassa(77.89): Yes
Kennedy(54.68): Absent	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Abst
Mrowka(69.62): Yes	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Speno(77.89): Yes
Steinberger(77.82): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

FY21 AUDIT REPORT

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by White, to approve the FY23 Audit Report as presented

Fred Brewer reviewed the FY21 Audit report with the board. He reviewed the revenues from last year including the extra CARES Act funds received. Last year’s budget included some construction expenses from the end of the building project. The Board approved a transfer of \$500,000 from undesignated funds to reserve accounts last year. The current fund balance was reduced to \$779,000 due to the fund transfers. The local assessments have stayed uniform as the state began funding the school about three years ago. Fred explained the three grants from last year: Department of Agriculture (School Lunch) and the federal Treasury Department (CARES Act- two rounds of funding). Danny asked about the years covered in the Audit (FY21 and FY20). Fred explained the two years are for comparison purposes.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 863.76

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes	Gutierrez(69.62): Absent
Hall(77.89): Yes	Jackson(77.89): Yes	Kassa(77.89): Yes
Kennedy(54.68): Absent	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Yes	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Speno(77.89): Yes
Steinberger(77.82): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

BOARD DISCUSSION OF WEALTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Matt advised the Finance Committee voted to recommend the board adopt the plan for investing funds. Danny asked if a proposal was sent out to other banks and Sherry reported that we had spoken to our own bank about investing excess funds and not other institutions. Bob explained that the liquidity of the funds was a component in the proposal and the fund is managed by a team at First National Bank.

MOTION by Hall, seconded by White, to approve placing funds in the wealth management plan

Loren asked if other schools invest their monies in these types of funds. Matt explained that we are using reserve funds to invest and that the monies are invested very conservatively by the wealth management team. Bobby explained other schools and municipalities have invested in the fund. Joe asked if the market crashed, would we lose money, what is the rate of return and the cost for the management of the funds. Loren expressed concerns about what other schools' have for reserve accounts and how they are managed.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 552.41

Andrews(77.82): No	Duke(69.62): Yes	Gutierrez(69.62): Absent
Hall(77.89): Yes	Jackson(77.89): No	Kassa(77.89): Yes
Kennedy(54.68): Absent	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): No
Mrowka(69.62): Yes	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Speno(77.89): Yes
Steinberger(77.82): No	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Employment [1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A)]

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by White, pursuant to Section 405(6)(A) of Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, move that the Board enter into executive session to discuss the non-negotiated staff and Director's compensation

Motion approved unanimously

Total weighted votes: 863.76

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes	Gutierrez(69.62): Absent
Hall(77.89): Yes	Jackson(77.89): Yes	Kassa(77.89): Yes
Kennedy(54.68): Absent	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Yes	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Speno(77.89): Yes
Steinberger(77.82): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

Enter: 7:33 PM

Exit: 8:02 PM

Action on Executive Session

MOTION by Manzi, seconded by White, to approve the following contract pay increases for staff not covered by the collective bargaining agreement for the 2022-23 budget

Tori read aloud the following salaries as part of the motion: Adkins \$36,309; Fox \$20.61/hr; Browning \$80,925; Hastings \$80,925; Nolan \$70,321; Hatch \$66,565; Moody \$86,273; Neely \$17.91/hr.; Pardo \$81,401; Clifford \$20.65/hr.; Clifford \$23.44/hr. (Food Svcs Dir.)

Bob advised the Finance Committee can make a recommendation for the Director’s salary for budget purposes. [The Director’s salary is finalized in May.]

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 785.94

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes	Gutierrez(69.62): Absent
Hall(77.89): Yes	Jackson(77.89): Yes	Kassa(77.89): Yes
Kennedy(54.68): Absent	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Yes	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Speno(77.89): Yes
Steinberger(77.82): No	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Warrants and Budget

Matt reported the committee met and reviewed the warrants for December and January and the December 31st financial report.

MOTION by Speno, seconded by White, to accept and approve the warrants for December and January and the budget report for December.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 863.76

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes	Gutierrez(69.62): Absent
Hall(77.89): Yes	Jackson(77.89): Yes	Kassa(77.89): Yes
Kennedy(54.68): Absent	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Yes	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Speno(77.89): Yes
Steinberger(77.82): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTION by Pearce, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Policies AC – Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (Revised), ACAB – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees (Revised), ACAB-R – Employee Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures (Revised), BCC – Nepotism (Revised/Replaced with New Language), BHC – Board Relationships and Communications with Staff (New), GBEBB – Staff Conduct with Students (Revised/Replaced with New Language), GCFB – Recruiting and Hiring of Administrative Staff (Revised), JIC – Student Code of Conduct (Revised), JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety (Revised), JK – Student Discipline (Revised), JKD – Suspension of Students (Revised), JLCD – Administration of Medication to Students (Revised)

Quixada asked about the legal addition of the wording “familial status.” She asked about adding language for sexual assault and sexual violence into the policy on Weapons, Violence and School Safety. Bobby advised he will look at this language and discuss with the Policy Committee.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 863.76

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes	Gutierrez(69.62): Absent
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Hall(77.89): Yes	Jackson(77.89): Yes	Kassa(77.89): Yes
Kennedy(54.68): Absent	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Yes	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Speno(77.89): Yes
Steinberger(77.82): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Seth reported the committee met and discussed finalizing the form for the teacher’s evaluation tool with the Teacher’s Association. The committee plans to send the form to the board after their next meeting. The committee also discussed new programs and funding initiatives around the state.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Marcus reported the committee met and talked about the solar array and data/information we have or would like to collect. Danny Piper from Sundog Solar attended their last meeting and discussed ways to collect data about the solar array. There are a couple of cost effective products that can be installed to assist in this effort. Seth asked if we have received quotes about the new hardware/software.

CHAIR UPDATE

No report.

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Bobby discussed a water line break that occurred a week ago. Maine Water advised that the break could have occurred if the hydrant had been tampered with. JBI had to do an emergency patch on the line (20 feet) and spent the weekend repairing the break. The first semester wrapped up this week. We are getting ready to begin collecting student applications for next year. Kristy shared that we are working on a mutually beneficial relationship with Lyman Morse. The students toured their facility in Thomaston last week and this week representatives visited from Lyman Morse and spoke with students during a “Lunch and Learn” session. Fisher and Douglas Dynamics were on site this week and hosted a competition with students’ to evaluate their skills. Bobby reported one of our post-grad students now has a career opportunity with Fisher and will start employment in the next few weeks. Joe expressed his concerns about other potential career pathways including self-employment in areas such as plumbing. Loren applauded the staff and their focus on students and their aspirations. Matt asked about the General Dynamics apprenticeship program. Kristy advised there is a visit scheduled at the beginning of March (two day event) for about 250 students focusing on all potential careers at BIW. The Lions Clubs in Camden, Thomaston and Waldoboro met with Bobby, Kristy and Scott to discuss Scholarships and they intend to award scholarships to our students. Bobby also met with Rockland Rotary Club and described how they support our mission. He had a meeting with a Middle School stakeholders group and the DOE about funding middle school pilot programs. The CTE Directors are organizing a retreat in Rockland at the end of March.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob declared the meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Next Board Meeting: February 16, 2022 (via Zoom)

Robert Deetjen, Board Secretary