

REGION 8 COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING
March 22, 2023

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Cooperative Board was held on March 22, 2023.

Those in attendance were:

CSD	Tori Manzi, Bob Duke, Marcus Mrowka, Lori Perez*	(69.62/ea.)
Islesboro		(11.94)
RSU 13	Bill Pearce, Loren Andrews, Quixada Moore-Vissing	(77.82/ea.)
SAD 40	Matthew Speno, Seth Hall, Randy Kassa, Danny Jackson*	(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.

*Attended via Zoom

Absent – Alane Kennedy, Joe Steinberger

Bob Duke, Chair, opened the regular meeting at 6:04 P.M. **Total weighted votes: 855.56**

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJUSTMENTS – Remove audit report from the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by White, seconded by Hall, to approve the minutes of the regular February 15th board meeting

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 777.74

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes	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	Perez(69.62): Yes	Speno(77.89): Yes
Steinberger(77.82): Abs.	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT (moved before the budget on the agenda)
 Matt presented a PowerPoint presentation to the board outlining the Ad Hoc committee’s work, including their effort to focus on students’ unmet needs in the classroom. Two surveys were sent out; one to MCST staff and one to sending school staff. Many MCST teachers felt that there was inadequate special education capacity for special needs students. Also, half of the teaching staff felt there was not sufficient support for special education students. MCST teachers felt there was a communication gap between MCST and our partner schools. 75% of MCST staff rarely or never interact with sending schools about their special needs students according to the survey. The teachers were asked if they felt it would be useful to have a special education staff member on site and the majority of staff agreed with this statement. Quixada urged board members to review the entire report that was handed out. The committee is recommending the creation of a new special education teaching position at MCST. The board discussed the fact that no CTE school statewide has a special education staff member. Bobby spoke about the MEPRI survey surrounding special education in CTE schools. Unfortunately, the MEPRI survey did not get accurate data surrounding special education needs statewide. Bobby is advocating for

special education to be added to the EPS funding model at the state level. Scott clarified that there are 18% of Region 8 students with an IEP and 11% of students have 504 plans in the current school year.

FY24 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Sherry discussed the CTE EPS funding formula and how CTE schools receive funding. Bobby discussed the potential of adding a special education position in the following year’s budget (FY25).

MOTION by Pearce, seconded by White, to approve the FY24 budget as presented totaling \$6,135,015

Seth asked about a special education position for the upcoming school year. Bobby felt that there is a need for support for this position before adding into the budget. There is still work to be done and time is needed to develop a plan. Matt agreed with Bobby’s assessment. Quixada asked if funds would be needed to assist in the process.

Motion approved
Total weighted votes: 777.67

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes	Hall(77.89): No
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	Perez(69.62): Yes	Speno(77.89): Yes
Steinberger(77.82): Abs.	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Hall, seconded by Jackson, pursuant to Section 405(6)(d) of Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, move that the Board enter into executive session to discuss labor contract pursuant to negotiations

Motion approved
Total weighted votes: 855.56

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes	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	Perez(69.62): Yes	Speno(77.89): Yes
Steinberger(77.82): Abs	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

Enter: 7:31 PM
Exit: 7:44 PM

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Warrants and Budget

Matt reported the committee met to sign warrants and discussed the February financial report. [Perez left meeting at 7:45 PM]

MOTION by Speno, seconded by Jackson, to accept and approve the warrants for February and March.

Motion approved
Total weighted votes: 785.94

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes	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	Perez(69.62): Absent	Speno(77.89): Yes
Steinberger(77.82): Abs	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Marcus Mrowka advised the committee met and discussed building and transportation issues. One of the buses had some expensive repairs. New school zone lights will be installed soon—funded by a DOT grant. Also, some new equipment is being purchased by the equipment grant. Next meeting will be to discuss solar panels.

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Bobby reported the Pen Bay Chamber approached us for a workforce development meeting. Senator King will be addressing the members. 134 student shadows have come through the building in the past month. Bobby just returned from Washington DC. He attended the National Policy Seminar and was able to meet with some of our US Senators and Representatives. Affordable housing was discussed with our delegates as well as getting rid of Maine’s Windfall Elimination provision. Last week was the Skills USA competition in Bangor. We took 40 students to the event and 27 students ended up with medals. Several students qualified for the national competition in Atlanta. The event was a lot of fun for both staff and students. Tori applauded Kristy on her Facebook and Instagram postings of our students.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Next Board Meeting: April 26, 2023

Robert Deetjen, Board Secretary