

**REGION 8 COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING  
October 25, 2023**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Cooperative Board was held on October 25, 2023.

**Those in attendance were:**

CSD	Bob Duke, Tori Manzi, Amelia Grant, Marcus Mrowka	(69.62/ea.)
Islesboro		(11.94)
RSU 13	Loren Andrews*, Bill Pearce, Joe Steinberger	(77.82/ea.)
SAD 40	Matthew Speno*, Seth Hall, Joshua Blackman	(77.89/ea.)
SAD 7	Jerry White	( 7.49)
SAD 8		(24.58)
St. George		(54.68)

Bobby Deetjen, Director; Sherry Moody, Business Mgr.; Scott Browning, Asst Director; Kristy Hastings, Student Services Coord., J C Bakley, Teacher; Danica Wooster, Teacher; Sue Stewart, Teacher; Nora Wilson, Teacher

\*Attended via Zoom

**Absent –** Danny Jackson, Yvonne Thomas, Quixada Moore-Vissing

Bob Duke, Chair, opened the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. **Total weighted votes: 519.56**

**PUBLIC COMMENT –** Seth reported on a meeting being held on the Pine Tree Power initiative in Waldoboro

**ADJUSTMENTS –** Add request to transfer funds from Debt Service Reserve to the General Fund

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION by White, seconded by Hall, to approve the minutes of the regular September 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting

Motion approved

**Total weighted votes: 519.56**

<b>Andrews(77.82): Abs</b>	<b>Blackman(77.89): Abs</b>	<b>Duke(69.62): Yes</b>
<b>Grant(69.62): Yes</b>	<b>Hall(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Jackson(77.89): Absent</b>
<b>Manzi(69.61): Yes</b>	<b>Moore-Vissing(77.82): Abs</b>	<b>Mrowka(69.62): Yes</b>
<b>Pearce(77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Speno(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Steinberger(77.82): Abs</b>
<b>Thomas(24.58): Abs</b>	<b>White(7.49): Yes</b>	

**CTE TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Bobby advised that Nora Wilson, our CTE Exploratory teacher, has won the Maine CTE Teacher of the Year. Nora will represent New England in the regional teacher of the year competition in New York. [L. Andrews joined the meeting at 6:04 PM] Nora spoke to the board about the importance of CTE and how it has impacted her career in a positive way. [J. Steinberger joined the meeting at 6:06 PM] Nora hopes to represent the State of Maine well when she goes to New York. Bobby spoke about Nora’s creativity during the Covid epidemic and how she taught robotics remotely to her students. Nora spoke about how she feels her program is supported by supplies and equipment in her annual budget. She likes the flexibility of being allowed to propose content for her program and spoke about the importance of professional development for CTE teachers.

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT REPORT

Scott reported we have submitted our student enrollment report to the Maine Department of Education. Region-wide, our total enrollment is 478 students. He shared a grid with the last six years of student enrollments. This year's enrollment is slightly lower than prior years but Scott feels that the process has been streamlined (interviews and shadows for every student) to enroll students who are a good fit for a program. Scott shared some highlights. This year we have second year Baking and Pastry and Culinary Arts students. The Outdoor Leadership program has a solid group of 12 first year students. We also have 12 island students attending – the biggest showing in recent years. 41% of students take an academic class at our school. Some of the classes give students credits through KVCC, as well. Looking forward, the selection of students includes focusing on retention and encouraging students to stay for the two year programs. There is a slight dip in the Exploratory programs enrollment but student readiness has been a consideration when meeting with students for these programs. Seth asked about how many students switch from one program to another program in the first few weeks of school. Scott reported that it's a rare occurrence because students have shadowed their program of choice. Teachers are reporting that this year's group of students have been great and engagement is high.

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

MOTION by White, seconded by Hall, pursuant to Section 405(6)(D) of Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, move that the Board enter into executive session to discuss and approve the negotiated agreement with the Region 8 Employees Association

Motion approved

**Total weighted votes: 675.2**

<b>Andrews(77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Blackman(77.89): Abs</b>	<b>Duke(69.62): Yes</b>
<b>Grant(69.62): Yes</b>	<b>Hall(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Jackson(77.89): Absent</b>
<b>Manzi(69.61): Yes</b>	<b>Moore-Vissing(77.82): Abs</b>	<b>Mrowka(69.62): Yes</b>
<b>Pearce(77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Speno(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Steinberger(77.82): Yes</b>
<b>Thomas(24.58): Abs</b>	<b>White(7.49): Yes</b>	

Enter: 6:50 PM

Exit: 7:05 PM

Josh Blackman joined the meeting at 6:57 PM during Executive Session

MOTION by White, seconded by Hall, to approve the Negotiated Agreement with the Region 8 Employees Association for September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026

Motion approved

**Total weighted votes: 675.2**

<b>Andrews(77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Blackman(77.89): Abst</b>	<b>Duke(69.62): Yes</b>
<b>Grant(69.62): Yes</b>	<b>Hall(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Jackson(77.89): Absent</b>
<b>Manzi(69.61): Yes</b>	<b>Moore-Vissing(77.82): Abs</b>	<b>Mrowka(69.62): Yes</b>
<b>Pearce(77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Speno(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Steinberger(77.82): Yes</b>
<b>Thomas(24.58): Abs</b>	<b>White(7.49): Yes</b>	

## REQUEST TO TRANSFER FUNDS

Matt spoke to the Board about the need to transfer funds from the Debt Reserve fund to the General fund to cover the Debt Service (bond) payment.

MOTION by Speno, seconded by Pearce, to approve the transfer of up to \$400,000 from the Debt Reserve Fund to the General Fund to cover the Debt Service payment

Motion approved

**Total weighted votes: 753.09**

<b>Andrews(77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Blackman(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Duke(69.62): Yes</b>
<b>Grant(69.62): Yes</b>	<b>Hall(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Jackson(77.89): Absent</b>
<b>Manzi(69.61): Yes</b>	<b>Moore-Vissing(77.82): Abs</b>	<b>Mrowka(69.62): Yes</b>
<b>Pearce(77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Speno(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Steinberger(77.82): Yes</b>
<b>Thomas(24.58): Abs</b>	<b>White(7.49): Yes</b>	

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### FINANCE

#### Warrants and Budget

Matt reported the committee met and reviewed the warrants for September and October and the September 30<sup>th</sup> financial report.

MOTION by Speno, seconded by White, to accept and approve the warrants for September and October and the financial report for September.

Motion approved

**Total weighted votes: 753.09**

<b>Andrews(77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Blackman(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Duke(69.62): Yes</b>
<b>Grant(69.62): Yes</b>	<b>Hall(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Jackson(77.89): Absent</b>
<b>Manzi(69.61): Yes</b>	<b>Moore-Vissing(77.82): Abs</b>	<b>Mrowka(69.62): Yes</b>
<b>Pearce(77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Speno(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Steinberger(77.82): Yes</b>
<b>Thomas(24.58): Abs</b>	<b>White(7.49): Yes</b>	

### FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Marcus reported that the back of the school is used as an informal trail by the public. The committee discussed an easement that would allow the City of Rockland to formalize a trail and create a safe way to traverse behind the school. The committee is meeting with the City at their next meeting and asking questions about the easement. The easement will be sent to our attorney to review and make recommendations.

### DIRECTOR UPDATE

Bobby reported that the staff attended the Fall CTE Teachers conference on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Danica Wooster shared that she has recently finished up her Masters degree in Special Education. Her professor at USM is sponsoring a statewide research project that Danica will be hopefully starting in the near future. Danica shared the project with her peers at the conference on October 6<sup>th</sup> which generated much excitement among the CTE programs statewide. Tomorrow is our first student celebration of the school year. Our Baking & Pastry class has started a baking business selling mainly cakes. We hosted a CTE student leadership conference using MELMAC Grant funds. Sixty to seventy students from across the state came to MCST for the day.

### ADJOURNMENT

Bob declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Next Board Meeting: November 29, 2023

---

Robert Deetjen, Board Secretary