

REGION 8 COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING June 26, 2024

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Cooperative Board was held on June 26, 2024.

Those in attendance were:

CSD	Tori Manzi, Amelia Grant*, Bob Duke*	(69.62/ea.)
Islesboro		(11.94)
RSU 13	Bill Pearce, Loren Andrews, Quixada Moore-Vissing	(77.82/ea.)
SAD 40	Matthew Speno, Danny Jackson, Seth Hall, Joshua Blackman	(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; Danica Wooster, Teacher; Gary Stone & Necole Janczura, First National Wealth Management

*Attended via Zoom

Absent – Chris Polky, Marcus Mrowka, Paul Coster

Matt Speno, Vice-Chair, opened the regular meeting at 6:05 P.M. **Total weighted votes: 785.94**

PUBLIC COMMENT – Josh Blackman thanked the Board for welcoming him as a board member for the past year.

ADJUSTMENTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by White, seconded by Hall, to approve the minutes of the regular May 22nd board meeting

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 638.5

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Blackman(77.89): Yes	Coster (77.82): Absent
Duke(69.62): Abstain	Grant(69.62): Yes	Hall(77.89): Yes
Jackson(77.89): Yes	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Abst
Mrowka(69.62): Absent	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Polky(77.89): Absent
Speno(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

FIRST NATIONAL WEALTH MANAGEMENT FUNDS UPDATE

Gary Stone reported to the Board on the wealth management fund. Seth asked about the two-year yield since inception. Gary advised we are at about a 12.5% yield over the two-year period. He explained the money is invested in a 75%-25% model (75% fixed income/25% equity). The model is conservative and is used by municipalities as an investment vehicle. The Federal Reserve made a number of rate hikes just prior to the money being invested so we had a lessened effect by the rate hikes. The board could opt for a risk-free program by investing the funds in brokered CD's. Loren asked what other schools of similar size have for reserve funds. Danny asked if there is a limit by statute on what schools may have in reserve.

NOMINATION OF LOCAL DELEGATE/ALTERNATE TO MSBA ASSEMBLY

MOTION by White, seconded by Hall, to nominate Matt Speno as delegate to the MSBA Assembly

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 785.94

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Blackman(77.89): Yes	Coster (77.82): Absent
Duke(69.62): Yes	Grant(69.62): Yes	Hall(77.89): Yes
Jackson(77.89): Yes	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Absent	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Polky(77.89): Absent
Speno(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

MOTION by Manzi, seconded by White, to nominate Loren Andrews as alternate to the MSBA Assembly

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 785.94

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Blackman(77.89): Yes	Coster (77.82): Absent
Duke(69.62): Yes	Grant(69.62): Yes	Hall(77.89): Yes
Jackson(77.89): Yes	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Absent	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Polky(77.89): Absent
Speno(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

BOARD APPROVAL OF REFERENDUM VOTING RESULTS

MOTION by White, seconded by Speno, to accept the regional referendum budget voting results

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 785.94

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Blackman(77.89): Yes	Coster (77.82): Absent
Duke(69.62): Yes	Grant(69.62): Yes	Hall(77.89): Yes
Jackson(77.89): Yes	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Absent	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Polky(77.89): Absent
Speno(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

BOARD APPROVAL OF 2024-25 MEETING SCHEDULE

MOTION by White, seconded by Hall, to approve the 2024-25 board meeting schedule as presented

Bill asked about St. George being unable to attend meetings due to a conflict with their board meeting.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 785.94

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Blackman(77.89): Yes	Coster (77.82): Absent
Duke(69.62): Yes	Grant(69.62): Yes	Hall(77.89): Yes
Jackson(77.89): Yes	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes

Mrowka(69.62): Absent	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Polky(77.89): Absent
Speno(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

BOARD APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION CTE TEACHER NOMINATION

MOTION by Speno, seconded by Andrews, to approve the Director's nomination of Danica Wooster as the Special Education CTE Teacher

Matt felt that Danica would provide the best CTE/Special Ed teacher services in the State of Maine.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 785.94

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Blackman(77.89): Yes	Coster (77.82): Absent
Duke(69.62): Yes	Grant(69.62): Yes	Hall(77.89): Yes
Jackson(77.89): Yes	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Absent	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Polky(77.89): Absent
Speno(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

VOTE TO AUTHORIZE DIRECTOR FOR SUMMER HIRING

MOTION by White, seconded by Pearce, to authorize the Director to make hiring decisions over the summer and bring the candidates to the Board in the fall

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 708.05

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Blackman(77.89): Yes	Coster (77.82): Absent
Duke(69.62): Yes	Grant(69.62): Yes	Hall(77.89): Yes
Jackson(77.89): Abstain	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Absent	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Polky(77.89): Absent
Speno(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

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

MOTION by Andrews, seconded by Jackson, 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 Director's evaluation

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 785.94

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Blackman(77.89): Yes	Coster (77.82): Absent
Duke(69.62): Yes	Grant(69.62): Yes	Hall(77.89): Yes
Jackson(77.89): Yes	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Absent	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Polky(77.89): Absent
Speno(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

Enter: 6:31 PM

Exit: 6:55 PM

Blackman exited the meeting at 6:45 PM.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Duke, seconded by Hall, that the Board change the Director's contract beginning July 1, 2024 – 1. Change the vehicle mileage reimbursement rate to the IRS rate and 2. Ensure the contract term is for five years

Bill asked if the other Administrators would be affected by these changes. The board discussed the mileage rate for all staff and potentially making changes at the next board meeting.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 708.05

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Blackman(77.89): Absent	Coster (77.82): Absent
Duke(69.62): Yes	Grant(69.62): Yes	Hall(77.89): Yes
Jackson(77.89): Yes	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Absent	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Polky(77.89): Absent
Speno(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Warrants and Budget

Matt reported the committee met and reviewed the warrants for May and June and the May 31st financial report. Matt discussed the purchase of a large piece of equipment in the welding program.

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

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 708.05

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Blackman(77.89): Absent	Coster (77.82): Absent
Duke(69.62): Yes	Grant(69.62): Yes	Hall(77.89): Yes
Jackson(77.89): Yes	Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Yes
Mrowka(69.62): Absent	Pearce(77.82): Yes	Polky(77.89): Absent
Speno(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Bobby reported we hosted the National Council of Local Administrators – a CTE organization with leaders from across the country. The group toured the school and were very impressed with our teachers and students. Student recognition night was a huge success. Seth and Bobby met with Sherry Howard, Town Manager of Warren, to discuss the potential of using the Warren Gun Range for a CDL program. The town is also looking at some grants for cleaning up the site as part of a school partnership. Our students are competing at SkillsUSA Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia this week. We had a great school year and Bobby is looking forward to next year.

ADJOURNMENT

Matt declared the meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Next Board Meeting: June 26, 2024

Robert Deetjen, Board Secretary