

REGION 8 COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING February 26, 2025

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Cooperative Board was held on February 26, 2025.

Those in attendance were:

CSD	Tori Manzi*, Bob Duke	(69.62/ea.)
Islesboro		(11.94)
RSU 13	Bill Pearce, Loren Andrews, Paul Coster	(77.82/ea.)
SAD 40	Seth Hall, Matthew Speno, 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., Danica Wooster, Fred Brewer, Auditor

*Attended via Zoom

Absent – Quixada Moore-Vissing, Amelia Grant, Chris Polky, Taylor Pohlman

Bob Duke, Chair, opened the regular meeting at 6:01 P.M. **Total weighted votes: 560.61**

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJUSTMENTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 560.61

Andrews(77.82): Abs	Coster (77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes
Grant(69.62): Absent	Hall(77.89): Yes	Jackson(77.89): Yes
Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Abs	Pearce(77.82): Yes
Pohlman (69.62): Abs	Polky (54.68): Absent	Speno(77.89): Yes
Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes	

FY24 AUDIT REPORT

Fred Brewer reviewed the FY24 audit report. He reviewed the school's financial information for the past twenty years in a separate handout. He pointed out that the reserve accounts are up because of the investment account. The school's fund balance has remained strong. [Andrews arrived 6:06 PM.] Paul asked about the school's fund balance in relation to other schools of the same size. Danny asked about the state cap on fund balances. Seth asked about reserve accounts and if there is a cap on these accounts. Fred advised there is no cap on reserves. He outlined the amounts in the various reserve accounts.

FY26 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Sherry reviewed the FY26 draft budget with the board. The overall budget increase is 2.02% and the assessment to sending districts is budgeted at a .65% increase. The various programs are budgeted to increase between 5% and 10%. The Adult Education budget increase is 10% and includes the addition of a new dental assisting program. Paul asked about where the new business program would be budgeted and funded. Bobby discussed how the special education position is funded. The CTE funding

model does not include special education or equipment costs. Loren asked if our budget is funded at 55% from the State of Maine. Bobby explained how CTE is funded statewide and the formula does not pay for 100% of the costs. The salaries and benefits are calculated the same in our formula with no regional differentiation.

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

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Hall, pursuant to Section 405(6)(A) of Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, move that the Board enter into executive session to discuss a sick bank request

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 638.43

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Coster (77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes
Grant(69.62): Absent	Hall(77.89): Yes	Jackson(77.89): Yes
Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Abs	Pearce(77.82): Yes
Pohlman (69.62): Abs	Polky (54.68): Absent	Speno(77.89): Yes
Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes	

Enter: 6:49 PM

Exit: 6:55 PM

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Speno, seconded by Hall, to honor the request for sick bank use

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 638.43

Andrews(77.82): Yes	Coster (77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes
Grant(69.62): Absent	Hall(77.89): Yes	Jackson(77.89): Yes
Manzi(69.61): Yes	Moore-Vissing(77.82): Abs	Pearce(77.82): Yes
Pohlman (69.62): Abs	Polky (54.68): 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 January and February and the January 31st financial report. The committee also reviewed the FY24 Audit report with Fred Brewer, Auditor.

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

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 638.43

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

Pohlman (69.62): Absent	Polky (54.68): Absent	Speno(77.89): Yes
Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes	

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Seth reported the committee met on February 11th for the ongoing discussion of the business entrepreneurship program. Bobby shared a draft syllabus with the group. The committee decided to make the curriculum more business oriented and discussed post-secondary development options. Their next meeting is March 11th at 5:00 PM. Seth would like to see everything lined up for the course over the next several months as the course is planned to begin in the fall.

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Bobby notified the Board that we will be selling an older pickup truck. We used the Maine Jobs and Recovery funds to replace the old pickup truck. Student shadows and interviews are in full swing. We participated in CTE month at the Hall of Flags. We will meet with the community college system on March 5th. Our students are preparing for the SkillsUSA competition in about three weeks. Danica Wooster is doing a phenomenal job working with students and teachers in our Special Education program. Kristy spoke about the tobaggan races and Joel Rowland's work with students to compete in this annual event.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob declared the meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Next Board Meeting: March 26, 2025

Robert Deetjen, Board Secretary