

REGION 8 COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING August 27, 2025

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Cooperative Board was held on August 27, 2025.

Those in attendance were:

CSD	Tori Manzi, Bob Duke, Amelia Grant, Taylor Pohlman	(69.62/ea.)
Islesboro		(11.94)
RSU 13	Bill Pearce, Paul Coster, Nick Keeney	(77.82/ea.)
SAD 40	Danny Jackson, Matthew Speno, Seth Hall	(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, Assistant Director; Kristy Hastings, Student Services Coord.

Absent – Julie Swindler, Yvonne Thomas, Loren Andrews, Mike Felton

1. Chair, Bob Duke, began the reorganization meeting at 6:00 P.M.

Total weighted votes: 753.09

2. *Nomination and Election of the Board Chair*

MOTION by Speno, seconded by Coster, to nominate Bob Duke as Board Chair

Action: Bob Duke elected Chair

Total weighted votes: 683.47 (Duke opposed)

3. *Nomination and Election of the Vice-Chair*

MOTION by Pearce, seconded by Hall, to nominate Matt Speno as Vice-Chair

Action: Matt Speno elected Vice-Chair

Total weighted votes: 753.09

4. *Nomination of Board Secretary*

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Speno, to nominate Bobby Deetjen as Secretary

Action: Bobby Deetjen elected as Secretary

Total weighted votes: 753.09

5. *Nomination and Election of the Chair of Finance Committee*

MOTION by Hall, seconded by Coster, to nominate Matt Speno as Chair of Finance Committee

Action: Matt Speno elected Chair of Finance Committee

Total weighted votes: 753.09

6. *Reorganization of Committees – Appointments*

Action: Committee appointments to be finalized at the September board meeting

7. *Designation of Depositories*

MOTION by Speno, seconded by Pohlman, to continue to use the banking services of the First National Bank

Action: Motion Passed
Total weighted votes: 753.09

8. Designation of Legal Counsel

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Speno, to continue to retain the services of Drummond Woodsum for legal counsel

Action: Motion Passed
Total weighted votes: 753.09

9. Designation of Insurance Agent

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Hall, to designate Maine School Management Association as Insurance Agent

Action: Motion Passed
Total weighted votes: 753.09

10. Adjournment

MOTION by White, seconded by Hall, to adjourn the Reorganization meeting 6:10 PM

Action: Motion Passed
Total weighted votes: 753.09

Bob Duke, Chair, opened the regular meeting at 6:10 P.M. **Total weighted votes: 753.09**

Paul introduced our new Board member, Nick Keeney.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJUSTMENTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Manzi, to approve the minutes of the regular June 25th board meeting

Motion approved
Total weighted votes: 675.2 (Speno abstained)

ISLESBORO HORTICULTURE PROGRAM UPDATE

Bobby reported that our horticulture teacher resigned from the Islesboro program at the end of the last school year. We have had difficulty recruiting a qualified instructor for the position. He is asking for the Board's approval to put the program in hiatus for the upcoming year. He hopes to find a qualified individual for the 2026-27 school year. Bobby also discussed declining enrollments in the program as well. If there are not enough students enrolled in the program, we would not receive state funding.

MOTION by Speno, seconded by Jackson, to approve placing the Horticulture program in hiatus for the 25-26 school year

Matt asked if we have been in touch with the Island Institute about searching for a teacher for the program. Paul asked if students from off the island could be attracted to the program. Seth asked about the impact of the program's loss on the island students. He asked if there is any way to keep the program going using other sources such as MOFGA. Scott advised the board that there are a number of Islesboro students attending Mid-Coast programs. Bobby has had discussions with both the Principal and Superintendent about maintaining the orchard for the coming year. Sherry discussed the subsidy funds being received for the program and how the loss of the program affects the current year subsidy and next year's subsidy. Seth asked if the program is unsustainable in the long term. Bobby advised we have been struggling with the enrollment in recent years. The number of students on the island is a factor as well.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 675.27 (Coster abstained)

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION K-8 DISCUSSION

Bobby reported the St. George pre-K through 8 program facility opened two weeks ago. We have been collaborating with Mike Felton on the program for several years. Bobby would like to see our school focused on working with both elementary and middle schools on a larger basis. This would require some funding from our school. He would like to work with the Curriculum Committee on how to serve the younger population of students. Bob asked if this aim should be an ad hoc committee instead. Several board members would like to serve on a committee for this purpose. Bobby discussed potential ways of implementing programming including a mobile lab.

MOTION by Speno, seconded by Hall, to create an Ad Hoc committee to investigate and research K-8 CTE at MCST

Board Members willing to serve include Speno, Keeney, Hall, Pohlman, Grant and White.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 675.2 (Jackson opposed)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Warrants and Budget

Matt reported the committee met and reviewed the warrants for June, July and August and the June 30th and July 31st financial reports.

MOTION by Speno, seconded by Jackson, to accept and approve the warrants for June, July and August and budget reports for June and July.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 753.09

POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTION by Pearce, seconded by Manzi, to approve first reading of Policies IJOA – Field Trips (Revised), Policy JJIF – Management of Concussion (Revised) and Policy KDB – Public's Right to Know/Freedom of Access (Revised)

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 753.09

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Bobby reported we have a couple of people interested in teaching the Entrepreneurial program. As of today, we have one person enrolled in the program and he is planning on doing a media push about the

program. Seth asked for a flyer to post on Facebook pages and in various online communities. Bobby has been speaking to various groups about the program. Seth asked if the Adult Ed program could offer payment options. Today was our staff opening day. We joined with several districts at Camden Hills Regional HS to listen to Wes Kieschnick who is a motivational speaker. The staff then returned to MCST to begin getting ready for the upcoming school year.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob declared the meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Next Board Meeting: September 24, 2025

Robert Deetjen, Board Secretary