

**REGION 8 COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING
October 22, 2025**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Cooperative Board was held on October 22, 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	Seth Hall, Julie Swindler	(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., Kristy Hastings, Student Services Coord., Scott Browning, Asst Director; Danica Wooster & JC Bakley, Teachers

*Attended via Zoom

Absent – Matt Speno, Danny Jackson, Loren Andrews, Mike Felton

Bob Duke, Chair, opened the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. **Total weighted votes: 605.58**

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJUSTMENTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by White, seconded by Hall, to approve the minutes of the regular September 24th board meeting

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 605.58

Andrews(77.82): Absent	Coster (77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes
Felton (54.68): Absent	Grant (69.62): Yes	Hall (77.89): Yes
Jackson (77.89): Absent	Keeney (77.82): Yes	Manzi (69.61): Yes
Pearce (77.82): Yes	Pohlman (69.62): Absent	Speno(77.89): Absent
Swindler(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Absent	White(7.49): Yes

STUDENT ENROLLMENT REPORT

Scott Browning discussed the historical student enrollment for MCST. We currently have 465 students enrolled. On campus enrollment is at 295 students which is similar to prior years. Scott discussed a 22% decline in enrollment from the students coming from Camden Hills Regional HS. We have also seen an increase in students from the Medomak Valley HS as well. [T. Pohlman arrived at 6:06 PM and Y. Thomas arrived at 6:10 PM]. Scott does not anticipate the downward trend to continue from CHRHS as he is actively working with the Camden staff on increasing enrollments. Julie asked if MVHS student increases were due to having more room due to the decline in CHRHS students. We also have seen a 35% increase in our FF/EMT program. There is greater involvement with our local Fire Departments which is contributing to the growth of the program. We have a total of 13 island students attending MCST this year. Scott explained how the state reimburses us by program and how many students support an FTE teaching position (13 students). 42% of our students take an academic class at MCST and 100% of students take a financial literacy course. Our Cooperative Education program has a total enrollment of 110 students this year. Bob asked about enrollments at CHRHS in the Exploratory

program since it is a half-time program. Paul asked about Oceanside’s representation in both Cooperative Education and Exploratory as those numbers seem lower overall. Bobby discussed how staffing changes can affect program enrollments as new staff are still learning about our CTE programs. More experienced counselors are able to assist students in program selection and applying for a program. Taylor is interested in total high school enrollments at each sending school as a comparison of enrollments of their students at MCST. Scott discussed how we have TV screens in both Oceanside and MVHS that plays content from our programs for students to view. Amelia spoke about how important it is for parents and students be made aware of the Academic offerings and dual enrollment opportunities at MCST. Bobby explained further about the issue of how our sending schools may encourage their students to take academics at their own school and not at MCST.

STIPEND POSITION NOMINATIONS

MOTION by Manzi, seconded by Pohlman, to approve the stipend position nominations as presented

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 699.78

Andrews(77.82): Absent	Coster (77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes
Felton (54.68): Absent	Grant (69.62): Yes	Hall (77.89): Yes
Jackson (77.89): Absent	Keeney (77.82): Yes	Manzi (69.61): Yes
Pearce (77.82): Yes	Pohlman (69.62): Yes	Speno(77.89): Absent
Swindler(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Warrants and Budget

The committee met and reviewed the warrants for September and October and the September 30th financial report.

MOTION by Pearce, seconded by Hall, to accept and approve the warrants for September and October and the budget report for September.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 699.78

Andrews(77.82): Absent	Coster (77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes
Felton (54.68): Absent	Grant (69.62): Yes	Hall (77.89): Yes
Jackson (77.89): Absent	Keeney (77.82): Yes	Manzi (69.61): Yes
Pearce (77.82): Yes	Pohlman (69.62): Yes	Speno(77.89): Absent
Swindler(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

MOTION by Manzi, seconded by Grant, to approve the transfer of up to \$200,000 from the Debt Reserve fund for the debt payment

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 699.78

Andrews(77.82): Absent	Coster (77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes
Felton (54.68): Absent	Grant (69.62): Yes	Hall (77.89): Yes
Jackson (77.89): Absent	Keeney (77.82): Yes	Manzi (69.61): Yes
Pearce (77.82): Yes	Pohlman (69.62): Yes	Speno(77.89): Absent

Swindler(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes
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POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTION by Pearce, seconded by Manzi, to approve first reading of Policies AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (Revised), ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students (Revised), ACAA-R – Student Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures (Revised), ACAB – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees (Revised), BD – Organization of the School Board (Revised), BDE – Board Committees (Revised), EFC – School Nutrition Services: Free School Meals for All Students (New), EFD – School Meal Payment and Collection (Delete), GCFB – Recruiting and Hiring of Administrative Staff (Revised)

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 699.78

Andrews(77.82): Absent	Coster (77.82): Yes	Duke(69.62): Yes
Felton (54.68): Absent	Grant (69.62): Yes	Hall (77.89): Yes
Jackson (77.89): Absent	Keeney (77.82): Yes	Manzi (69.61): Yes
Pearce (77.82): Yes	Pohlman (69.62): Yes	Speno(77.89): Absent
Swindler(77.89): Yes	Thomas(24.58): Yes	White(7.49): Yes

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Tori reported the committee met and will meet with the Association the first week in November.

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Bobby informed the Board that some students in the Marine Technology program visited Hurricane Island and the students who attended had a wonderful experience. We are hoping to make this an annual event. Several programs participated in the Bright Star Project. The Entrepreneurship program has had a lot of activity over the past month. He met with the Rioux Institute and they are exploring opening a second Entrepreneur program in the Rockland area. We also met with the Island Institute who are also sponsoring a similar program in the fishing community. They discussed a potential grant to support our new program. Bobby is looking at a potential start date in January. We are meeting with a teacher applicant next week. Adult Education is looking at a potential partnership with Knox County Fire Academy. We will be meeting with them soon. Our teachers participated in the ACTE Maine conference on October 10th. Our Tech Director did a presentation on Artificial Intelligence at the conference. Our staff visited AIO Food pantry today. We had a very successful Open House on October 2nd.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Next Board Meeting: November 19, 2025

Robert Deetjen, Board Secretary