

**REGION 8 COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING  
January 28, 2026**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Cooperative Board was held on January 28, 2026.

**Those in attendance were:**

CSD	Tori Manzi*, Bob Duke, Taylor Pohlman*, Amelia Grant*	(69.62/ea.)
Islesboro		(11.94)
RSU 13	Bill Pearce, Paul Coster*, Nick Keeney, Loren Andrews*	(77.82/ea.)
SAD 40	Seth Hall, Julie Swindler, Danny Jackson, Matt Speno	(77.89/ea.)
SAD 7	Jerry White	( 7.49)
SAD 8		(24.58)
St. George		(54.68)

Bobby Deetjen, Director; Sherry Moody, Business Mgr., Kristy Hastings, Student Services Coord., Scott Browning, Asst Director; Fred Brewer, Auditor; Danica Wooster, J. Bakley

\*Attended via Zoom

**Absent –** Yvonne Thomas, Mike Felton

Bob Duke, Chair, opened the regular meeting at 6:02 P.M. **Total weighted votes: 830.91**

**PUBLIC COMMENT –** None

**ADJUSTMENTS –** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION by Speno, seconded by Hall, to approve the minutes of the regular December 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting

Motion approved

**Total weighted votes: 830.91**

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

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FY25 AUDIT REPORT**

Fred Brewer advised his firm found nothing in the audit to indicate any material misstatements or fraud in the FY25 fiscal year. He reviewed the fund balance and designated reserve funds with the board. Fred discussed a handout of prior years local assessments and compared to income and expenses. Seth asked about the registration fees for 2024. Fred explained the value of a building reserve fund and potential future uses. Bobby explained that the fund alleviates the need to ask our sending schools for extra funds for maintenance repairs and equipment replacements. Paul asked about our current software system. Taylor asked about our current geothermal system and potential for future issues. Bobby explained we have a closed geothermal system that generally requires minimal maintenance.

MOTION by Pearce, seconded by Speno, to accept and approve the FY25 Audit Report

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 830.91

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

[Jackson arrived 6:13 PM]

**BOARD APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BUS SALE**

Bobby explained this bus was originally purchased at the beginning of COVID in 2021 when spacing requirements were necessary. We now have need of a multi-purpose bus that does not require a CDL licensed driver. We have contacted O'Connor and several other vendors for quotes to purchase a new 14 passenger multi-purpose bus. Bobby has spoken to our area school districts and has an offer of \$65,000 for our bus. We can use those funds towards a new multi-purpose bus.

MOTION by White, seconded by Hall, to approve the Sale of the 2021 School Bus

Nick asked which programs would potentially use the multi-purpose bus. Bobby advised Outdoor Leadership plus most of our other programs could use the bus for trips. Taylor asked if the federal funds would be an issue as part of this purchase.

Motion approved

**Total weighted votes: 908.8**

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

**STIPEND POSITIONS**

MOTION by White, seconded by Hall, to approve the stipend position nominations

Motion approved

**Total weighted votes: 908.8**

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

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

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Speno, pursuant to Section 405(6)(D) of Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes, move that the Board enter into executive session to discuss labor negotiations

Motion approved

**Total weighted votes: 908.8**

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

Enter: 6:20 PM  
Exit: 6:33 PM

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

MOTION by Pearce, 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 recommendations on non-negotiated personnel compensation

Motion approved

**Total weighted votes: 830.91**

<b>Andrews(77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Coster (77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Duke(69.62): Yes</b>
<b>Felton (54.68): Absent</b>	<b>Grant (69.62): Yes</b>	<b>Hall (77.89): Yes</b>
<b>Jackson (77.89): No</b>	<b>Keeney (77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Manzi (69.61): Yes</b>
<b>Pearce (77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Pohlman (69.62): Yes</b>	<b>Speno(77.89): Yes</b>
<b>Swindler(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Thomas(24.58): Absent</b>	<b>White(7.49): Yes</b>

Enter: 6:33 PM  
Exit: 6:36 PM

**ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Pearce, seconded by Hall, to table any action on non-negotiated personnel

Motion approved

**Total weighted votes: 908.8**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE**

**Warrants and Budget**

The committee met and reviewed the warrants for December and January and the December 31<sup>st</sup> financial report. Matt discussed the interest income for FY25.

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

Motion approved

**Total weighted votes: 908.8**

<b>Andrews(77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Coster (77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Duke(69.62): Yes</b>
<b>Felton (54.68): Absent</b>	<b>Grant (69.62): Yes</b>	<b>Hall (77.89): Yes</b>
<b>Jackson (77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Keeney (77.82): Yes</b>	<b>Manzi (69.61): Yes</b>
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<b>Swindler(77.89): Yes</b>	<b>Thomas(24.58): Absent</b>	<b>White(7.49): Yes</b>

**FACILITIES/GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Seth Hall advised the committee met and Bobby and Craig Hatch outlined a list of some work that needs to be done on the physical plant and grounds. One project includes doing some work on the landscaping on the south side of the property. Also, some flotex carpeting will need to be replaced in the future, possibly next year. There are also some acoustic issues that need to be addressed in some spaces. Electrical seems to be in good shape at this time. The DEP permit for the work on the slope is in process but we have had no communication from the State at this point. Nick asked about when issues usually start to arise in new facilities. Bobby advised bigger systems usually need work fifteen to twenty years out.

**DIRECTOR UPDATE**

Bobby informed the Board that we have had a number of middle school tours that encompasses between 450 and 500 area students over the course of a month or two. Kristy outlined the process of signing up schools to come for visits. Student shadows and interviews are now starting. We are starting to register students for the SkillsUSA competition in March. Our teaching staff visited the Grace Center in St. George recently. Some of our teachers have already reached out to the center to incorporate and collaborate our programming with the Grace Center. Bobby connected with SMCC and will hopefully be meeting with them next month.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Bob declared the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM

Next Board Meeting: February 25, 2026

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Robert Deetjen, Board Secretary