REGION 8 COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING
August 26, 2026

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Cooperative Board was held on August 26, 2026.

Those in attendance were:

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

*Attended via Zoom

Absent – Julie Swindler, Loren Andrews, Mike Felton, Tim McLaughlin

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

    Total weighted votes: 621.96

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

2. *Nomination and Election of the Board Chair*

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Pearce, to nominate Bob Duke as Board Chair

Action: Bob Duke elected Chair
Total weighted votes: 552.34

Andrews(77.82): Absent	**Choyt (77.82): Yes**	**Duke(69.62): Abstain**
Felton (54.68): Absent	**Grant (69.62): Yes**	**Hall (77.89): Yes**
Jackson (77.89): Yes	**Keeney (77.82): Yes**	**Manzi (69.61): Yes**
McLaughlin (77.89): Abs	**Pearce (77.82): Yes**	**Pohlman (69.62): Yes**
Swindler(77.89): Absent	**Thomas(24.58): Yes**	**White(7.49): Yes**

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

[Choyt joined meeting at 6:03 PM]

MOTION by Hall, seconded by Manzi, to nominate Brad Choyt as Vice-Chair

Action: Brad Choyt elected Vice-Chair
Total weighted votes: 699.78

Andrews(77.82): Absent	**Choyt (77.82): Yes**	**Duke(69.62): Yes**
Felton (54.68): Absent	**Grant (69.62): Yes**	**Hall (77.89): Yes**
Jackson (77.89): Yes	**Keeney (77.82): Yes**	**Manzi (69.61): Yes**

McLaughlin (77.89): Abs	**Pearce (77.82): Yes**	**Pohlman (69.62): Yes**
Swindler(77.89): Absent	**Thomas(24.58): Yes**	**White(7.49): Yes**

4. Nomination of Board Secretary

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

Action: Bobby Deetjen elected as Secretary
Total weighted votes: 699.78

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

5. Nomination and Election of the Chair of Finance Committee

MOTION by Manzi, seconded by Jackson, to nominate Amelia Grant as Chair of Finance Committee

Action: Amelia Grant elected Chair of Finance Committee
Total weighted votes: 699.78

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

6. Reorganization of Committees – Appointments

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

7. Designation of Depositories

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Pearce, to continue to use the banking services of the First National Bank

Action: Motion Passed
Total weighted votes: 699.78

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

8. Designation of Legal Counsel

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

Action: Motion Passed
Total weighted votes: 699.78

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

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: 699.78

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

10. Adjournment

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

Action: Motion Passed
Total weighted votes: 699.78

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

Bob Duke, Chair, opened the regular meeting at 6:10 P.M. **Total weighted votes: 699.78**

PUBLIC COMMENT – Yvonne Thomas has been working with Mike Felton to organize a professional development day at the Grace Center and mid-coast educators are invited. The event is being held on September 30th. She will send a flier out to board members.

ADJUSTMENTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Hall, seconded by Jackson, to approve the minutes of the regular June 24th board meeting

Scott Browning was missing from the attendance list and needs to be added per Danny Jackson. Also, a spelling error needs to be fixed. The minutes will be adjusted to reflect the changes.

Motion approved
Total weighted votes: 699.78

Andrews(77.82): Absent	**Choyt (77.82): Yes**	**Duke(69.62): Yes**

Felton (54.68): Absent	**Grant (69.62): Yes**	**Hall (77.89): Yes**
Jackson (77.89): Yes	**Keeney (77.82): Yes**	**Manzi (69.61): Yes**
McLaughlin (77.89): Abs	**Pearce (77.82): Yes**	**Pohlman (69.62): Yes**
Swindler(77.89): Absent	**Thomas(24.58): Yes**	**White(7.49): Yes**

AD HOC COMMITTEE – BOARD SELF-EVALUATION/RETREAT

Bob spoke that the committee has been meeting over the summer to discuss the board evaluation form that was provided to the Board in June as a starting point in the process. The committee reviewed the evaluation form and discussed how the board could be more effective. The committee would like to see more interaction by the Board on agenda items. The committee also discussed setting expectations by the Board and setting non-business item topics for Board agenda items. The evaluation form looks at the board's relationship with the Director and accountability of the Director to the Board. The committee also discussed a retreat – possibly on Hurricane Island. Bob spoke to Will Galloway from Hurricane Island about the retreat process and Bob felt the Board should consider having several evening meetings instead of one long workshop. Will is also interested in helping the Board work through a retreat process. Brad spoke about leveraging the talents of the Board members and having honest debates. Seth felt the Board should be having discussions where there may be disagreements and more in-depth participation. Bobby spoke about how workforce housing is one topic that affects all of us and he feels that our board can be a hub for those discussions in our region.

BOARD APPROVAL OF OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP TEACHER NOMINATION

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Pohlman, to approve the hiring of Stephen Hand as Outdoor Leadership Teacher

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 699.78

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Warrants and Budget

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

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

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 699.78

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

POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTION by Pearce, seconded by Hall, to approve second reading of Policies BEA – School Board Use of E-Mail and Other Electronic Communications (Revised), BEDB – Agenda Preparation and Dissemination (Revised), BEDG – Minutes (Revised), BIA – New Board Member Orientation (Revised), DJE – Bidding/Purchasing Requirements (Revised), DJH – Purchasing and Contracting: Procurement Staff Code of Conduct (Revised), ECAF – Use of Security Cameras (Revised/Name Change) and GCF – Professional Staff Hiring (Revised)

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 699.78

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

DIRECTOR UPDATE

Bobby reported we are excited to welcome staff back tomorrow. Students will return on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Stephen Hand will be our new outdoor leadership teacher and he comes to us with three Master Guide licenses. Seth Walton has been working closely and mentoring Stephen over the summer. We are also excited to welcome Sara Adams as our new CNA and Medical Sciences teacher. She has two fully enrolled classes coming in. We have a meeting scheduled with SMCC for September 9th. Matt Goodman, the former Academic Dean, is no longer with SMCC but we are meeting with Kristen Miller, President, to keep our partnership progress moving forward. On September 10th we are meeting with the Maine Defense Industry Alliance regarding manufacturing careers in the defense industry. We had the opportunity to put together the first Maine summit on CTE and business leaders in our state. The summit was very productive and we are looking forward to keeping the momentum this coming year. Seth asked if there is any progress on offering an entrepreneur program at MCST. Bobby advised we have continued to spread the word but still have not located an instructor to date. Bobby also spoke about the possibility of offering a paramedicine program here in collaboration with SMCC. We are slated to start a Fire Academy (Firefighting I & II) in conjunction with Knox County. Taylor asked if we have had any changes in our student enrollments. Bobby advised we do have some openings but there is a lot of movement this time of year. Scott reported about half of our programs are completely full and other programs have one or two openings.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob declared the meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Next Board Meeting: September 23, 2026

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Robert Deetjen, Board Secretary