REGION 8 COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING
September 23, 2026

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Region 8 Cooperative Board was held on September 23, 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, Loren Andrews*	(77.82/ea.)
SAD 40	Danny Jackson, Seth Hall, Tim McLaughlin, Julie Swindler*	(77.89/ea.)
SAD 7	Jerry White	(7.49)
SAD 8	Yvonne Thomas*	(24.58)
St. George	Mike Felton*	(54.68)

Bobby Deetjen, Director; Sherry Moody, Business Mgr.; Scott Browning, Assistant Director; Kristy Hastings, Student Services Coord.; Pat Pearce

*Attended via Zoom

Absent –

Bob Duke, Chair, opened the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. **Total weighted votes: 988.06**

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJUSTMENTS – None

Danny Jackson introduced our newest board member, Tim McLaughlin, from Friendship (RSU 40)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Jackson, seconded by Hall, to approve the minutes of the regular August 26th board meeting

Motion approved
Total weighted votes: 699.78

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

BOARD COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS
Bob assigned board members to the various committees (listed below).

Finance/Budget: Grant (Chair), McLaughin, Pohlman, White
Facilities/Grounds: Felton, Hall, Pearce
Policy: Jackson, Manzi, Pearce, Thomas
Personnel/Negotiations: Manzi, Andrews, Swindler, White
Curriculum/Adult Ed: Hall, Thomas, Choyt, Pohlman, Felton, Keeney

Seth asked about when the Adult Education and Curriculum committees were combined.

STIPEND POSITION NOMINATIONS

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

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 988.06

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

SMCC UPDATE

Bobby met with Kristen Miller, SMCC President, two weeks ago. He explained that he had been concerned about losing momentum when the faculty member left who he had been working with on the partnership. He and Kristen decided that an event hosted at MCST would be the best way of moving forward. They (SMCC) wants to know how the community feels about a partnership in our region. Bobby would like support from the Board on getting participation for the SMCC event. There is a real lack of presence of a community college in mid-coast Maine. Once a date is set, we need to get the word out to our communities about this event. Due to space restrictions, Bobby feels we can do a structured event with various rotating sessions. Seth suggested alternate locations if space is an issue. Bobby feels the partnership needs to be represented at MCST. Taylor asked how the board can assist. Bobby may be able to provide the Board with an update at our October board meeting, hopefully with more details. He would like board members to discuss the event with their local communities, boards and select boards. Brad asked for a PDF that could be sent out with information like how the partnership will work. Bobby shared that KVCC had been the designated community college for our region. However, recently SMCC has been assigned to our area and hopefully a programming partnership will ensue as a result of this change. Brad asked about how programs would be offered at MCST. Bobby explained that classes could potentially be offered in the daytime or evenings. For example, the local fire chief is very interested in an offering of paramedicine for area fire departments. Kristen has offered to attend a board meeting as well as the Superintendent's Advisory Committee to discuss the partnership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Warrants and Budget

Amelia reported the committee met and reviewed the warrants for August and September and the August 31st financial report.

MOTION by Grant, seconded by Jackson, to accept and approve the warrants for August and September and financial report for August.

Motion approved

Total weighted votes: 988.06

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

DIRECTOR UPDATE
Bobby reported a very strong start to the school year. Scott discussed how the new cell phone policy has been implemented and how students are adapting. When students enter the building, phones are turned off and stored for the rest of the day. On social media, Kristy has shared pictures of students playing games at lunch in the cafeteria. Lunches are loud with students engaged and talking. Also, student engagement is higher without phones in the classrooms. Scott reported he has only issued first warnings at this point in the year. Brad felt there was correlation between the cell phone policy and the strong start to the school year. He would like to see the results shared across the region with our sending schools. Danny shared how well the policy is going at Medomak Valley High School as well. Bobby advised one of our advantages is that our students are in the same program all day which contributes to the uniformity of our process. He also agreed that consistency across the region would be helpful. Bobby spoke that he is interested in reinstating a Principal's group which hasn't met for a number of years. On October 9, our teachers will attend a CTE gathering of teachers from across Maine at Lewiston Regional Technical Center. Half the day is spent meeting with colleagues in the same program and half the day is spent in professional development. Bobby attended an annual conference on Best Practices & Innovations in CTE in Cape Cod for the past three days. He spoke about the connections he has made with other CTE schools across the country at the conference. Mike attended and represented the K-8 CTE programming in St. George. We have an open house scheduled for October 1st from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. We have a number of colleges and community partners who will be at the event.

ADJOURNMENT
Bob declared the meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Next Board Meeting: October 28, 2026

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Robert Deetjen, Board Secretary