

**RSU 63 Board of Directors
Monday, March 25, 2024
6:30pm
Holden Elementary School
Agenda**

Call Meeting to Order

Flag Salute/Moment of Silence

Approval of Minutes for both February 26, 2024 Meeting

Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff, and Others

1. Holbrook held a Spelling Bee on February 15th and the four finalists went to the Regional Spelling Bee in Glenburn. The Holbrook Spelling Bee Winners were the following students:
 - 1st Place: Kat Rivera
 - 2nd Place: Jacob Leavitt
 - 3rd Place: Sydney Kinkade
 - 4th Place: Ella McAdam

Acceptance of Gifts/Donations

Presentation

Questions and Comments from the Public

Dates of Next Meetings

1. **Board Meeting (Executive Session Only):** March 26, 2024 at 6:30pm, Holbrook Middle School Conference Room
2. **Policy Committee Meeting:** April 1, 2024 at 3:00pm, Holbrook Middle School Conference Room
3. **Board Meeting:** April 22, 2024 at 6:30pm, Eddington Elementary School Gym

Budget and Finance

1. Business Manager Report
2. Budget and Finance Committee Report

Superintendent's Report

Acceptance of Committees', Administrators', Superintendent's, and Board Chair's Reports

Old Business

New Business

1. 2024-2025 School Year Calendar
2. Policies to Approve, 1st Reading
 - a. IHBGA (Home Schooling – Participation in School Programs)

Personnel Actions

1. Resignations/Retirements
 - a. Sonja Salley, Speech Language Pathologist Assistant resigned, effective as of March 15, 2024.
2. Elections
3. Appointments
 - a. Mitchell Moczygemba, Track and Field Coach, Holbrook Middle School
 - b. Samantha Bedore, A Team Softball Coach, Holbrook Middle School
4. Reassignments
5. Searches
 - a. Elementary School Principal - Update
 - b. Speech Language Pathologist
 - c. Anticipated Special Education Bus Driver
 - d. Substitute Bus Drivers
 - e. A Team Baseball Coach
 - f. B Team Baseball Coach
 - g. B Team Softball Coach

Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require any kind of assistance to fully participate in this meeting, please notify the Superintendent's Office at 843-7851 or write to Superintendent of Schools, 202 Kidder Hill Road, Holden, ME 04429.

RSU #63 Board Meeting
Date: February 26, 2024
Location: Holbrook Middle School
Minutes

RSU 63 Board Member(s) Present:

Town of Holden: Tracy Roberts, Matthew Campbell, Amy Hart and Heather Lander

Town of Clifton: Linda Graban

Town of Eddington: Tracy Bigney, Rachel Downs, Heather Grass

Tracy Roberts, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm followed by the flag salute and moment of silence.

Motion by Linda Graban with a second by Tracy Bigney to approve the minutes for the January 22, 2024 Board Meeting.

Discussion: None.

Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed; 1 Sustained

Motion by Linda Graban with a second by Heather Grass to approve the minutes for the February 5, 2024 Board Meeting and Workshop.

Discussion: None.

Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed; 1 Sustained

Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff, and Other: Superintendent Fulgoni recognized two teachers that were nominated for Penobscot County Teacher of the Year – both Deborah Nadeau, grade 2 teacher, and Desiree McCarthy, grade 8 teacher.

Acceptance of Gifts and Donations: Superintendent Fulgoni recognized the Eddington Store for donating snacks, as well as the Brewer Methodist Church for donating socks, both to Eddington Elementary School.

Presentation: Zach Chenier, Transportation Coordinator, presented the first draft of RSU 63's Transportation Regulations, which outline safety and discipline on buses. In addition, he has been diligently working on recertification of the District's bus drivers. Matthew Campbell inquired about whether the District tracks behavior incidents on the buses. Zach Chenier stated that he does track this data and the District is down approximately 30% from last year. Despite behavior incidents being down, Mr. Chenier has been researching behavior de-escalation programs to educate his drivers on techniques. The idea of volunteer bus monitors was broached by Rachel Downs and Zach Chenier agreed this would be beneficial.

Questions and Comments from the Public: Steve Armenia, resident of Clifton, asked a question regarding the chain of command for administrators at Eddington Elementary School. Superintendent Fulgoni, although not required to answer, explained that Holden and Eddington Elementary Schools both have Don Spencer as acting Principal and Tim Baker as Assistant Principal. Mr. Armenia went on to state that there is an LPN as an Ed Tech III at Eddington Elementary School. He also outlined the Superintendent's pay and benefits. Susan Dunham Shane expressed her disappointment in the decision to paint over the silhouettes and yellow paint in the Holbrook Middle School, explaining that it set the school apart from other institutions with its bright color.

Dates of Next Committee Meetings:

Budget and Finance Workshop: March 4, 2024 at 5:30pm, Holbrook Middle School Conference Room
Curriculum Committee Meeting: March 19, 2024 at 5:30pm, Holbrook Middle School Conference Room
Budget and Finance Workshop: March 20, 2024 at 5:30pm, Holbrook Middle School Conference Room
Budget and Finance Workshop: March 25, 2024 at 5:30pm, Holden Elementary School Library
Board Meeting: March 25, 2024 at 6:30pm, Holden Elementary School Gymnasium
Policy Meeting: April 1, 2024 at 3:00pm, Holbrook Middle School Conference Room

Budget and Finance: Nothing to add to the report or Budget and Finance Committee minutes, but Tracy Bigney commended all the work that has been done to project a positive balance.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Fulgoni discussed that the Penquis Regional Superintendents have proposed contracting with NESDEC to do a regional enrollment study which will be an important factor in determining the feasibility of maintaining three schools' buildings and evaluating the possibility of consolidation.

Acceptance of Reports: Motion by Matthew Campbell with a second by Heather Grass to accept the written and verbal Budget and Finance Committee, Policy Committee, and Superintendent's Reports.

Discussion: None

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Old Business:

Bus Garage Bid

Discussion: Superintendent Fulgoni discussed that the bid process closed and the District received no bids. Rachel Downs wanted it on record that the Board voted for the original contractors and it sets a negative precedent that a Committee of three individuals can undo the vote of the entire Board.

New Business:

Policies to Approve, Second Reading:

A motion to approve the IJND (District Issued Computing Device Usage at Home) Policy with discussed change was made by Tracy Bigney and seconded by Linda Graban.

Discussion: Clarification of the changes recommended by the Policy Committee were discussed, including if the new language is connected to the scholarship. Matthew Campbell explained that the new language will be its own option and not connected to the scholarship opportunity.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

A motion to approve the JKAA (Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion) Policy was made by Tracy Bigney and seconded by Linda Graban.

Discussion: None.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

A motion to approve the JKAA-R (Procedures on Physical Restraint and Seclusion) was made by Tracy Bigney and seconded by Linda Graban.

Discussion: None.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Personnel Actions:

Resignations/Retirements: The District received three notices of retirement: Don Spencer, Elementary School Principal, effective as of June 30, 2024; Deb Nadeau, Grade 2 Teacher, effective as of the last staff day of the 2023-2024 School Year; and Kenneth Robichaud, RSU 63 Custodian, effective as of June 28, 2024.

Elections: None

Appointments: Douglas Conant, Custodian, Holden Elementary School; Jimmy Berube, Custodian, Eddington Elementary School; and Melissa Egolf, Music/Drama Advisor, Holden Elementary School.

Reassignments: None

Searches: Elementary School Principal, Substitute Bus Drivers, Track and Field Coach, A Team Baseball Coach, B Team Baseball Coach, A Team Softball Coach, and B Team Softball Coach.

Adjournment: At 7:19pm, motion by Matthew Campbell with a second by Heather Grass to adjourn the meeting.

Discussion: None

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Respectfully submitted by,

Jared Fulgoni
RSU 63 Superintendent of Schools

Approved:



Regional School Unit 63 Clifton, Eddington, and Holden

RSU 63 is a community of learners dedicated to providing a safe, supportive, and challenging academic environment. Our students are respectful citizens and responsible stewards of our world. They are well prepared for high school with skills and a work ethic that enables them to succeed.

Jared Fulgoni
Superintendent of Schools

Kelly Theriault
Business Manager

TO: RSU 63 BOARD of DIRECTORS
FROM: JARED FULGONI, SUPT OF SCHOOLS
RE: REPORT TO BOARD
DATE: 03/25/24

I am pleased to present the board report highlighting our recent efforts in budget development and curriculum planning. These endeavors are vital in ensuring the continued growth and success of our school district.

Budget Development:

Our budget development process reflects our commitment to fiscal responsibility while prioritizing resources to support the academic and extracurricular needs of our students. Key aspects of our budget development include:

1. **Strategic Resource Allocation:** We have meticulously allocated resources to address the diverse needs of our students and staff. Emphasis has been placed on areas such as professional development for educators, student support services, technology integration, and maintenance of facilities to create a conducive learning environment.
2. **Cost Efficiency Measures:** In light of economic challenges, we have implemented cost-saving measures without compromising the quality of education. These measures include exploring competitive procurement options, optimizing energy efficiency, and streamlining administrative processes to ensure optimal utilization of funds.
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** We are committed to maintaining transparency and accountability in our budgetary decisions. Detailed budget presentations and regular updates are provided to the community, fostering trust and understanding of our financial stewardship.
4. **Long-Term Sustainability:** Recognizing the importance of long-term planning, we have prioritized investments that promote sustainability and future growth. By addressing infrastructure needs and planning for potential contingencies, we aim to safeguard the stability and resilience of our school district.

Curriculum Planning:

Our curriculum planning efforts are centered on providing a robust educational experience that prepares students for success in an ever-changing world. Key highlights of our curriculum planning include:

1. **Alignment with Standards:** Our curriculum is closely aligned with state and national standards to ensure academic rigor and relevance. Ongoing reviews and revisions are conducted to incorporate best practices and emerging trends in education.
2. **Differentiated Instruction:** We recognize the diverse learning needs of our students and are committed to implementing differentiated instruction strategies. Our curriculum design incorporates flexibility and adaptability to accommodate various learning styles and abilities.
3. **Integration of Technology:** In an increasingly digital world, technology integration is integral to our curriculum planning. We continue to invest in technology resources and professional development to enhance digital literacy skills and facilitate innovative teaching and learning experiences.
4. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaboration with educators, parents, students, and community members is fundamental to our curriculum planning process. Feedback from stakeholders informs curriculum decisions, ensuring that the educational experience reflects the values and aspirations of our community.

In conclusion, our budget development and curriculum planning efforts are guided by our unwavering commitment to providing high-quality education that empowers every student to achieve their full potential. We are grateful for the support of the school board and the entire RSU #63 community as we work together to shape the future of education in our district.

The budget development process is well underway, and I want to note for those that have not been in attendance at B&F meetings the nexus between educational objectives and the budget. This year I was pleased that educational program development and curriculum planning conversations were strongly imbedded in the meetings. As is often the case in districts, the “dollars and cents” drives the discussion and the educational program is the consequence of the funding. I want to thank the members of the curriculum committee, and Tina Dumond who are helping to spearhead this effort.

I would also like to publicly thank Michelle Archambault for stepping in as the Middle School Principal during Mr. Meyer’s absence. I think by all accounts Michelle did an excellent job keeping the ship afloat and I sincerely appreciate her energy and dedication during this time.

For many of us, the role of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in our lives and especially in schools is not well understood. In fact this week alone we have had students submitting school work that was created by AI. As a matter of demonstration- the first portion of my report was created entirely by ChatGPT. And I suspect that not many could tell. AI will have a significant impact of schools in the future and to that end I will be asking the Policy Committee to begin examining the issue.



Regional School Unit 63 Clifton, Eddington, and Holden

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Jared Fulgoni
Superintendent of Schools

Kelly Theriault
Business Manager

Date: March 20, 2024
From: Kelly Theriault
RE: March Board Report

BUDGET & FINANCE

- Budget & Finance held the first budget meeting for FY25 on March 4, 2024. The building administrators, special director and curriculum director were present and the focus was on regular instruction, special education and staffing. B&F meets again for budget development on March 20 with the focus being facilities and transportation, and March 25 focusing on technology and staff & student support.
- The current Draft FY25 version we are working from is # 4. It sits at an increase of \$778,210 (6.6%) of which \$650,000 is the Holbrook boiler project. This is an assessment increase of 12%. We continue to work to try and get this down even more.
- The bus garage repairs have been completed. After the discussion at the February board meeting, people reached out to their connections and sent some contractors our way. It worked! Thank you! The repairs were completed promptly and come in under the \$10K threshold of our purchasing policy, DJ.
- The last two weeks we made a lot of progress on the audit. We are getting close to completion.

FOOD SERVICE

- Breakfast participation for the district for February was 38%; Lunch participation was 67%.
- The dishwasher at Eddington needed to be repaired this week. The unit is only a year and a half old, but the warranty was for one year. The gauges and detergent supply system stopped working. The estimated cost of repair is \$1,500.
- All the schools had the health inspections over the last week. All schools did very well with the only citation being the Eddington dishwasher. Until the unit is completely repaired (waiting on parts), the school is using disposal paper trays.

REPORTS

- Reports completed this month in the business office; MePERS, monthly school nutrition claim, and Federal reimbursement invoicing.

MSAD63

Warrant Article Summary Financial YTD

| Account Number / Description | Revised Budget | Current Period | Reported Period | Encumbrances | Amount Remaining | Percent Remaining | Last Year Period |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024 | 2/1/2024 - 2/29/2024 | 7/1/2023 - 2/29/2024 | 7/1/2023 - 2/29/2024 | 7/1/2023 - 2/29/2024 | 7/1/2023 - 2/29/2024 | 7/1/2022 - 2/28/2023 |
| Subtotal Regular Instruction | \$3,149,386 | \$200,273 | \$1,528,068 | \$8,649 | \$1,612,669 | 51% | \$1,532,274 |
| Subtotal REg 9-12 | \$2,927,838 | \$417,568 | \$1,780,546 | \$0 | \$1,147,292 | 39% | \$1,528,498 |
| Subtotal Special Education | \$1,738,854 | \$177,893 | \$1,016,554 | \$13,311 | \$708,989 | 41% | \$755,291 |
| Subtotal Staff & Student Sppt | \$593,888 | \$35,161 | \$373,836 | \$4,607 | \$215,445 | 36% | \$397,504 |
| Subtotal Facilities | \$1,335,127 | \$72,766 | \$843,380 | \$50,627 | \$441,120 | 33% | \$886,001 |
| Subtotal Transportation | \$773,665 | \$46,914 | \$391,103 | \$18,379 | \$364,183 | 47% | \$396,898 |
| Sub Total Trans to Other Units | \$0 | \$187 | \$1,605 | \$0 | \$(1,605) | --- | \$53,678 |
| Subtotal System Administration | \$494,405 | \$34,236 | \$324,743 | \$1,142 | \$168,520 | 34% | \$287,579 |
| Subtotal School Administration | \$485,832 | \$36,562 | \$335,065 | \$423 | \$150,344 | 31% | \$294,235 |
| Subtotal Other Instrn | \$86,620 | \$6,800 | \$27,542 | \$5,272 | \$53,806 | 62% | \$23,793 |
| Subtotal All Other | \$68,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$68,500 | 100% | \$0 |
| Total Expenses | \$1,135,357 | \$77,598 | \$687,350 | \$6,837 | \$441,170 | 39% | \$605,607 |
| Net Revenue over Expense | \$11,654,115 | \$1,028,360 | \$6,622,442 | \$102,410 | \$4,929,263 | 42% | \$6,155,751 |
| Subtotal CTE | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | --- | \$0 |
| TOTAL ALL EXPENSES | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | --- | \$0 |

Principal's Report March 2024

As the second trimester ends, and spring is hinting at arriving soon, we have a sense of how fast this year has been going by. Report cards will be going out next week and it's our goal to finish strong this last trimester.

During my extended absence Ms. Michele Archambault did a wonderful job filling in and kept things running smoothly. It's a heavy load to carry all three jobs: ELA teacher, Athletic Director, and Acting Administrator, but she did it very well and many staff members reported the same message. My thanks to her, and to all the staff members that picked up the load during that period.

Our school (8th grade) participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). This nationwide assessment is considered the "Nation's Report Card" and provides important information about student academic achievement and learning experiences in various subjects. Our 8th graders took either the math or reading assessment. The NAEP representatives said the school did very well conducting the assessment. Results will come out later this year.

Our guidance counselor, Ms. Estes has been working with 8th grade class, as well as the local high schools, to help them tour and select a high school for next year. Students visited John Bapst, Hampden Academy, Brewer High School, and Bangor High School. All students have applied to at least one school and acceptances are pending.

Our district Professional Development day was held on the 15th and important work was done on subjects such as student de-escalation, Wabanaki Studies, and curriculum vertical alignment.

Sports Update: From the AD: Students signed up for track, baseball, and softball and worked on getting paperwork turned in if any was owed. The track program will have Mitch back as a coach and we are working on a helper. For softball Miss Sam Bedore (grade 4 teacher) will be the coach. Interviews just ended for baseball and candidate(s) will be chosen. Tryouts are still being finalized and will be sometime in April before vacation. The track, baseball, and softball seasons start after April vacation.

Co-Curricular Activities: Our new Odyssey of the Mind club has been meeting, and will be competing in their competition this weekend.

The annual spelling bee was conducted at the school level, kudos to the following students: 1st place Kat Rivera, 2nd Place Jacob Leavitt, 3rd Place Sydney Kinkade, 4th Place Ella McAdam. Students competed at the regional competition; however, competition was stiff and we did not have any place.

Odyssey of the Mind has been well attended and the students have been enjoying it. The team of 6 students (5-7th) will be competing at the Tri-State competition on March 23 in North Berwick Maine. Over 80 teams from MA, ME, and NH will compete in this problem-solving competition surrounding a somewhat whacky theme of music/singing/wizards/and a monkey :) This is the first-time students have competed from Holbrook in quite some time, so we look forward to hearing their report after the competition.

We also have an upcoming PTG sponsored dance in April which should be a big hit with the students.

Our 8th graders will be attending the Maine Science Festival at the Cross Insurance Center. The Maine Science Festival is the first and only science festival in Maine. The MSF launched in 2015 and is a celebration of the national and world-leading science by the Mainers who do it.

Staff Update: The staff continues to do a great job covering for each other when their peers are out for the day. We have made some temporary shifts in duties to support the RTI program during Ms. Merchant's absence. This impactful program was helping students be successful and it's important to keep the process in place. Ms. Dumond has taken on the role of overseeing the program and Ms. Shepherd has taken on a great role in the actual interventions. Our hope is to have Ms. Merchant return next year, or replace her should that be necessary to maintain this support to students.

Student Population:

5th Grade - 41
6th Grade - 38
7th Grade - 45
8th Grade - 45
Total - 169

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Meyer



HOLDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Don Spencer, *principal* dspencer@rsu63.org
Heather Kiley, *secretary* hkiley@rsu63.org
Lauren Moulton, *school counselor* lmoulton@rsu63.org
Dawna Bickford, *school nurse* dbickford@rsu63.org

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I submit my March board report on behalf of the students and staff at this “hard working” school. We were excited to welcome three new students over the past few weeks to the Holden School. We have **53** in 2nd, **42** in 3rd and **48** in 4th for a grand total of **143**, which is **17** more students than a year ago. As we “spring forward” I am certainly hoping the warmer temperatures are here to stay☺

The staff spent a lot of time in early March assessing their students as the 2nd trimester ended. The progress reports will be sent home on March 25th and I encouraged any parents with questions or concerns to reach out to their child’s teacher. The staff continue to be thankful for the early release days at the end of the trimesters to complete their assessments and progress reports. The staff did attend some “virtual” workshops sponsored by PREP and also was able to meet K-4 to discuss the district’s curriculum needs. A big thanks to Mrs. Dumond for arranging the workshop day for all our staff on March 15th.

We celebrated “Read Across America” the week of March 4-8 and the students had a ‘ball’ dressing up each day with a Dr. Seuss theme. Our literacy specialists, Sandy Brown, wrote a grant, that once again will allow Maine author/illustrator; Kevin Hawkes attend Holden all day on the 27th. A big thanks to the Holden Teachers fund for purchasing a book for all the children and Mr. Hawkes was able to sign them all.

Our 3rd and 4th grade theater students will present “The Epic Quest of the Damsel in Distress” the first Friday in May. Time to memorize those lines.... I can’t wait for the big show☺☺☺

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Spencer



EDDINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Timothy Baker, principal tbaker@rsu63.org
Kelly Smith, secretary kjsmith@rsu63.org
Lauren Moulton, school counselor lmoulton@rsu63.org
Dawna Bickford, school nurse dbickford@rsu63.org

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It is with great pleasure that I submit my March board report on behalf of the students and staff at Eddington Elementary School. The current enrollment at Eddington Elementary stands at 22 students in Pre-K, 52 in Kindergarten, and 47 in first grade, for a total of 121 students. We did have a new student enroll this month in first grade, which brought our numbers up by one.

The week of March 4, the school took part in Read Across America/ Dr. Seuss Week. The students enjoyed reading various famous Dr. Seuss books and

There has been a lot going on here at the Eddington School. Grades closed for the second trimester on March 14. The students are excited about the start of the final trimester and continue to work hard in their learning.

Pesky leprechauns overran the school. Many classrooms built leprechaun traps in hopes of capturing one, but instead, they captured some of their gold, which made the students really happy.

The Eddington School is fortunate enough to have a student teacher from the University of Maine. Her name is Kennedy Priest, and she has single-handedly taken the initiative to host our STEAM night at the Eddington School. Kennedy plays softball for the University and has gathered the help of the University of Maine softball players to help take part in this event. This will happen on April 4, from 5:30 - 7:00 at the Eddington School. This was a huge event last year, and I expect it to be even bigger this year.

Respectfully Submitted
Timothy M. Baker
Assistant Principal RSU #63



Regional School Unit 63 **Clifton, Eddington, and Holden**

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March 25, 2024

Dear Members of the Board,

Here is an update for you on the planning that has been happening for our district. I would like to do a shoutout to a few staff that have been extremely helpful covering spots as we have had staff out for long term emergency regions. Thank you to Michele Armchembault for rocking her coverage as the Middle School Principal. Thank you to Amy Shepherd for her help covering the interventions for students at the middle school and to Alison Blais for help in covering interventions at Eddington school. Also thank you to all the staff for their hard work training for new assessments and work with curriculum.

CURRICULUM:

Professional Development:

On Friday, March 15 we had professional development day. For the first hour, we all watched a Keynote Speaker Kim Strobel on [The Science of Happiness](#). Feedback from staff was positive. A lot of us wanted more from her. I was able to share links for more of her presentations and reserve her upcoming book.

Staff broke off into grade spans and planned how to implement the Wabanaki Studies <https://www.maine.gov/doe/moose/lp/wabanaki> In their groups, they planned out how to present this content to their students for the rest of the school year and preparing for next year.

After lunch, staff met in grade levels/content areas, with 2nd Trimester Assessment results. They made lists of students not meeting in different content areas and used assessment data to group students based on the area of instruction they need more work on (ex. Reading- decoding or comprehension, Math- adding, multi-step problems, Writing- sentence structure, grammar, Science/Social Studies- vocabulary, organization). They then discussed Tier I strategies to work with students in small groups in the classroom.

Our day ended with some vertical planning. Staff split into three groups- Math, Science and Social Studies. One teacher from each grade level K-5 went into one of the three groups with the MS content area teacher. Each group made a copy of this template, [RSU 63 Content Vertical Team Planning](#) and worked on items 1-3. Then K-5 met in grade level groups and spent 15 minutes for each of the three content areas

summarizing for the rest of the group items 1-3 on the planning document. MS content areas met to discuss item 4 on the document

Curriculum Committee:

The Curriculum Committee met on March 19. The main focus of our discussion was around the results of the survey we sent out to high school students that live in our district and parents had access to a survey as well. The results of the survey did not surprise us. We received 48 responses from students. About half of the students felt RSU 63 prepared them appropriately for high school and half that did not. Rigor of our curriculum was cited as an issue, however not being ready socially and/or emotionally was mentioned more. Our next steps include sending a survey to the teachers of our high school students, focusing on improving behavioral interventions and continuing our implementation of new reading and math programs that follow best practices. Also Ashley Perry did a presentation from our Grade 1 team on things they do with their students and how they implement the standards. They will present at our April Board Meeting.

ELA:

The focus this month for ELA has been introducing our new benchmark Reading assessment. Teachers will have a chance to look over the information and then we will train on this at our April meetings.

GRANTS:

Literacy Grant:

Our grant was approved! A purchase order has been sent in for Into Reading and teachers will all get teacher books, mentor texts and students will all be getting student work books. We are excited for this program as it is comprehensive, follows the latest research with the Science of Reading and is rated highly on edReports.

Maine Outdoor Learning Initiative:

We have passed the first part of the process for this grant. It is a federally funded grant so there are many stages to the approval process. You may have seen information posted on the district website and Facebook page. This was part of the requirements for the next phase of grant approval. Now we wait.

Summer Learning and Enrichment Programming:

This competitive grant was written to cover the cost of 12 days of Summer School over a four week span. The grant will cover paying staff, transportation and one field trip to the Maine Discovery Museum with a Premium Workshop.

Title I Summer Reallocation Grant:

This is another competitive grant that is using carryover funds that have not been used for various reasons. The allowable uses of these funds will be for Title I summer programming only and may only be used for identified Title I students. Sometime in Spring the state educational agency will determine the amount of funds available and will establish a rank order of local districts that will be granted access to the funds requested in their grant application. I have written this grant to cover summer school for Title I students.

Sincerely,

Tina Dumond

Director of Curriculum and Instruction



Regional School Unit 63
Office of Special Services
Clifton, Eddington, and Holden

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Director of Special Services Report - March 2024

The Special Education Department. is currently serving 248 students, broken down as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) | 148 |
| 504s | 100 |
| Currently in the Referral Process | 4 |

The district currently has a total of students. The following table is a breakdown of services being provided per level:

| School/Level | IEPs | 504s |
|----------------------------------|------|------|
| High School (263 total students) | 48 | 52 |
| Eddington (121 total students) | 31 | 7 |
| Holden (143 total students) | 39 | 13 |
| Holbrook (169 total students) | 30 | 28 |

The Special Education Department was well represented by Brian White during Professional Development on March 15th. Brian conducted an inservice with all staff on De-Escalation of students. He taught strategies to be used when a student is in crisis, but more importantly, ways to avoid the student's escalating behaviors.

An inservice session on Restraint and Seclusion was also conducted by Carolyn Brown with the special education teachers. The information given was direct from the Department of Education's Website and the RSU 63 Board Policies.

The Special Education Department has started planning for ESY (Extended School Year) for this summer. Parents are being notified to confirm attendance so we can better schedule staff for programming. Extended School Year will be on the following dates:

July 9, 10, 11
July 16, 17, 18
July 23, 24, 25

We, in the special education department, continue to work closely with the regular education classroom teachers to assure that every student's needs are met.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Brown
Director of Special Services



George Cummings
Technology Coordinator
p: 207.843.4316
e: gcummings@rsu63.org
www.rsu63.org

To: RSU 63 Board of Directors
From: George Cummings
Date: March 20, 2024
Re: Monthly Report

I submit this report to the School Board of Directors for March 2024.

Maine Through Year and Maine Science Assessments

During the month of April, I will be performing various technology readiness checks in preparation for the spring online Maine Through the Year and Maine Science Assessments. These readiness checks will verify that our student laptops meet the system requirements for testing and our network connectivity/bandwidth will be sufficient for the number of simultaneous student testers we will have. In addition to the readiness checks, all student laptops will need assessment lockdown browsers installed.

The Maine Through Year Assessment window starts April 22nd and ends May 31st. The Maine Science assessment window starts on May 13th and ends on May 24th.

State Data Reporting

As we move closer to April 1st, I will be testing and uploading student attendance, behavior, and enrollment data to the Department of Education's student information system. The Department of Education requires us to upload this data every October 1st, January 1st, April 1st, and July 1st. Our Infinite Campus student data has to match the Department of Education's data requirements and formats to be accepted for verification.

Respectfully submitted,

March Board Report
Ryan Porter – Facilities/Maintenance Manager

Holbrook:

Sunrise Glass came by and replaced the window in room #113 that broke during the windstorm in December. It was slightly delayed as the first window they received was damaged and they had to reorder it. I picked up the paint colors for the trim work/door frames & beams for the new hall color and eventually the cafeteria. The roof/seal was leaking again over where they installed the platform on the roof to hold the new ERV unit. I spoke with the contractor and let him know we are still having an issue with this and he will be going back up to hopefully patch where it is leaking by. Finished painting downstairs hall trim and the beams.

CAT had to come over to find out why the generator hasn't been doing its weekly start up. Found out to be a bad 9V battery in the main control panel. He said they should be changed out every time they do a preventative maintenance visit and it was not changed the last time. He also showed me more on how to operate the generator if certain issues should happen and needed to be cleared and how to set up the weekly run time. I also repaired a section on the roof on the corner that was damaged from the windstorm in December. I removed all the shingles that were folded back and/or cracked and replaced them with new shingles. I also put up a piece of metal fascia that blew off.

Showed the daytime custodian how to change and set the scheduled start up on the generator. Checked the gauges and fuel levels on the generator and fuel tanks. Finished putting on the last coat of mud in #1 entry way, sanded and wiped down remaining sheetrock dust on the walls, doorframes and window sills. Did a complete cleaning of the area and is now ready for paint. I took the tractor and cleared out the ditches as best I could out front of the school as there was a lot of standing water and plugged culverts with sand and debris.

Eddington:

We had the new daytime custodian start so I was able to show him around and go over the schedule with him. It's only been a few days, but seems to be doing a good job from what I have heard from feedback.

We had a couple instances where warm water was coming through the cold-water supply in the kitchen, gym bathrooms, gym water fountain, mop sink and daycare building. I called Mechanical Services to come take a look and they believe it may be from leaving the faucet handles on when not in use. They asked us to try and make sure we shut them off and see if this solves the problem. If it doesn't, they think it may be another issue but wanted us to try this first before going any further.

Room #101 has had a moldy/mildew smell for a little while now. I have checked numerous places and have seen no signs of mold growth and ruled out multiple scenarios of where it could be coming from. I bought a test mold kit and takes anywhere from 48-96 to see

if there are any mold spores coming through the classroom univent heater. This will at least determine if it may be coming from there. Just waiting until early next week to see results. Room #101 still has a musty smell. Did the mold test kit and the results came back negative for mold spores coming through the heater vent in the classroom.

#101 pipe under the sink was leaking water along with the water fountain. Water was running onto and under the floor tiles in the next room. I was able to shut off the water valve and tighten it a little to stop the leaking. The water fountain was leaking so I disconnected the line and capped it off. Underneath the counter top has water damage due to the leaking fountain and is warped and needs to be replaced this summer.

Was able to pick away at some smaller projects that needed to be done. New daytime custodian is working out great. He takes the initiative and just does things on his own without having to tell him like taking apart and cleaning machinery to make sure everything is working properly. Having some issues with the dish washer that was addressed from the state inspector. 2 of the 3 chemical pumps are not working along with the gauge. Pine Tree Food came over and told me about these issues and have ordered them, should be here next week and will install them. Unfortunately, warranty on the dishwasher is expired and will have to pay out of pocket.

Holden:

We had the new daytime custodian start and I was able to show him around and go over the schedule with him. Feedback has been positive so far and is doing a good job.

I fixed the loading dock that was hit last month by Casella Waste when they were picking up the trash bin. All work hrs. and materials that were involved were paid by us initially and submitted an invoice to their insurance company for us to be reimbursed. Kitchen hood vent was leaking and running into the grease trap in the hood. I will need to go on the roof to inspect and see if there are any signs as to where it could be leaking from.

Was able to do some small maintenance projects while I was there. The new daytime custodian is working out very well. I have heard from multiple people that he is always busy and doing things around the school and grounds to make it look its best. I have told him numerous times how well he is doing and the positive feedback from what staff members have said.



RSU 63
Department of Transportation
202 Kidder Hill Road
Holden, ME 04429
(207) 561-9238
Zachary Chenier, Transportation Coordinator
Zchenier@rsu63.org



Clifton

Eddington

Holden

To RSU 63 Board of Education:

Transportation has been going pretty smooth. We are fully staffed and very excited about that. We currently have 3 buses down. One is an overall due to the fall state inspection, one is due to being out of service since November due to the accident that caused 23k worth of damage. The final bus is due to the manifolds on the gas motor. We are not set up to do this kind of work due to where it is located on the engine block.

On to some better news. Calculating what we have for bus slips this year versus this time last year, we have dropped by 37.5%. Next month I will be going into the schools to do school bus drills with each grade level to satisfy the state requirements for 2 bus evacuations a year.

Best,
Zach Chenier
Transportation Coordinator

POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, February 26, 2024
Holbrook Middle School

Members Present: Heather Grass, Matthew Campbell, and Rachel Downs

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent, Jared Fulgoni and Administrative Assistant, Megan Harvey

1. Call to Order: The meeting began at 5:34pm.

2. Policies for 1st Review

Superintendent Fulgoni reviewed IHBGA (Home Schooling – Participation in School Programs) in regards to paying other educational institutions for RSU 63’s kindergarten through eighth grade students. He determined that this policy clearly states that the District does not pay for tuition in these situations, specifically, Section 12(B) of the Policy. There was a short discussion regarding the definition of home schooling and the structure allowed by the State and Policies. In addition, Section 7(B) contained incorrect wordage of “in accordance” when it should read “in advance.” The Committee recommended this one revision be made and then the Policy sent to the Board for final review.

3. Policies for 2nd Review

The Committee recommended one revision to the payment options section of Exhibit A of IJND (District Issued Computing Device Usage at Home). This revision will include an option for parents to select that states the following: “I would attend a District training on the proper use of school computing devices in lieu of the \$25.00 fee.”

There were no recommended changes to JKAA (Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion) or JKAA-R (Procedures on Physical Restraint and Seclusion). The Committee recommends sending to the Board for final approval.

4. Other

The Committee discussed the public comment at the previous Board Meeting that expressed discontentment with the Superintendent Evaluation process, as well as the scheduling of Executive Sessions at the beginning of Board Meetings. The Committee will review policies GCBI (Annual Evaluation of Superintendent) and BEDB-E (Agenda Format) at the next meeting.

5. Next Meeting Date: April 1, 2024 at 3:00pm at Holbrook Middle School Conference Room

6. Adjourn: 6:05pm



Regional School Unit 63 **Clifton, Eddington, and Holden**

RSU 63 is a community of learners dedicated to providing a safe, supportive, and challenging academic environment. Our students are respectful citizens and responsible stewards of our world. They are well prepared for high school with skills and a work ethic that enables them to succeed.

Curriculum Committee Minutes

Date: March 19, 2024

School Board Member Attendees: Linda Graban, Amy Hart, Tracy Bigney

Other Attendees: Kristina Dumond- Director of Curriculum, Ashley Perry- Classroom Teacher, Sarah Lane- Parent

Meeting called to order at 5:33 pm.

Tina(Director of Curriculum) gave an update on:

1. The new reading program that was ordered using the Literacy Grant money the state allocated to our district. Each classroom will be getting all the consumables (Teacher books, mentor texts and student workbooks) for the Into Reading program. This program is comprehensive, spans K-8 and follows best practices of the Science of Reading which rates it highly on EdReports. Materials will arrive, hopefully before April vacation. Teachers will have PD for this program which will happen by the end of this school year.
2. The new math program which was researched and suggested last year. The staff had chosen iReady math. This program is comprehensive, spans K-8 and follows best practices which rates it highly on EdReports. Grade 1 has been piloting it and they love it. Pending budget approval, materials will be given to teachers this summer and PD will be done the days prior to school beginning.
3. A proposed draft schedule for the middle school. Pending approval, the schedule would have teams of grades 5/6 and 7/8 . This will allow for a better transition for grade 5 and create a middle school culture with teamwork. Staff will be able to analyze data and work together more effectively to help enhance student learning.

Concerns were brought up about teachers having to learn two new programs for next year and not enough PD. Tina discussed working with Kelly T. on next year's calendar (pending approval) creating a draft that allows for more PD time. Other concerns included the changes with the proposed schedule. Tina reiterated that this was a draft.

The committee was able to look over the results of a survey sent out to our students in High School. We had 48 responses with a mix of positive and negative. We discussed



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how the academic pieces were being addressed through consistent programs that will begin next year. The team discussed looking into PBIS and whole school rewards. We decided that we wanted to send a survey out to the teachers of these students to see what they saw. We will be emailing each other possible survey questions and putting it together to send out. We also sent a survey out to the parents of our high school students. So far we have too few responses to base any conclusions on and we hope to get more to be able to use their responses for improvements.

Ashley Perry did a presentation from the Grade 1 team showing activities they do in each subject area and standards that align with those activities. The committee discussed having this presented to the School Board in April. Our discussion led into what is taught vs. how things are taught.

Finally, we decided that we will think about what to have on the agenda for the next meeting on 6/11/24.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

MINUTES

BANGOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

7:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2024

School Committee Members Present: Chair Marwa Hassanien, Vice Chair Sara Luciano, Katie Brydon, Shelly Okere, Imke Schessler-Jandreau, and Ben Sprague. Member Timothy Surrette was absent.

A. 1. & 2. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Marwa Hassanien and the pledge of allegiance followed.

B. Adjustments to the Agenda:

No adjustments to the agenda

C. Public Comments:

Susan Sorg of Bangor spoke of a recent Bangor Daily News article where there were several mis-stated facts regarding the Bangor School Department and previous Superintendent Dr Betsy Webb.

D. 2. a. Bangor High School Principal Paul Butler and Superintendent Tager shared information regarding the funding of National competitions.

b. Superintendent Tager reported the following retirement:

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| James Tager | Superintendent of Schools | Central Office |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------|

E.1.a.1. VOTED 6-0 to approve the Minutes of the February 14, 2024 Regular School Committee Meeting.

b. 1. VOTED 6-0 to approve the October 2023 Financial Report.

2. VOTED 6-0 to approve the November 2023 Financial Report.

c. VOTED 6-0 to approve the second reading of the following revised policies:

1. Revised Policy GDB-8 – Adult and Community Education Compensation Guide
2. Revised Policy IGDJA – Interscholastic Athletics Admission Fees
3. Revised Policy JECE – Dropout Prevention
4. Revised Policy JFC – Code of Conduct
5. Revised Policy JFCA – Academic Integrity
6. Revised Policy JFCD – Student Distribution of Leaflets, Brochures, or other Written Forms of Expression
7. Revised Policy JFCI – Chemical Health
8. Revised Policy JFH – Complaints by Students or Parents

- F. 1. Member Ben Sprague praised Member Dusablon and the ROTC for the recent Remember the Maine event.

Member Ben Sprague suggested that the School Committee meeting schedule be set to specific Wednesdays of the month, avoiding vacation weeks.

Member Ben Sprague wished Superintendent Tager well and praised his service and also provided suggestions for the search committee/process.

Chair Marwa Hassanien provided detail about the search process for Superintendent, which has begun.

Member Katie Brydon thanked the school community for the support that was provided to the family of a school employee who was involved in a tragic accident last week.

- F. 3. Member Sara Luciano shared an updated from the SPRPCE meeting including that the tower at the Bangor Regional Program will be removed.

Member Katie Brydon announced that the dropout prevention committee will meet next month.

Member Katie Brydon shared that the UTC has distributed the initial plans and drawings for the new space they will be building.

Chair Marwa Hassanien shared an update from the DEIB meeting that was held February 27, 2024 specifically updated on the justice system.

Member Shelly Okere shared an update on the recruitment and retention subcommittee of the DEIB Committee. We currently have \$25,000 of covid relief funds that still need to be used.

- F. 4. Member Crespo and Member Dusablon updated the committee on various high school events and athletics.

- H. 1. Important dates were reviewed by Chair Marwa Hassanien.

- I. Chair Marwa Hassanien stated in response to public comment that the School Committee has no control or oversight of the Bangor Daily News articles. She feels as though the articles have improved and been less targeting than they have been in the past.

- J. VOTED 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



James R. Tager
Superintendent of Schools

BREWER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 12, 2024

6:00 PM

Brewer High School Lecture Hall

A. Mr. Forrest called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. Mr. Forrest called for the Pledge of Allegiance

C. Adjustments to Agenda - N/A

D. Public Comment

Chairman Forrest reviewed expectations: as set in

- Policy BEDH -
- 30 minutes reserved for PC at the beginning and end
- Speakers will be limited to 2 minutes

Bethany D'Silva, Resident and parent of 7th and 12th grade daughters

- Statement regarding belief in the rights of female students
- Concern for female students and use of common female bathrooms

Chairman Forrest thanked Bethany for her decorum

Hannah Wells, Amherst, Junior student

- Statement regarding the bullying policy and safety/security issues; feels unsafe
- Doesn't mean to offend the LGBTQ community
- Concern about a transgender student in female dedicated bathrooms
- Petition @ school was stopped, considered an out of school petition but someone else posted one
- Women's rights have been set back
- Deserves to feel safe, and that it is unfair that biologically female students have to be the ones who adjust their behavior

Mike McAfee - BHS student

- Believes students are allowed privacy in bathrooms based on Maine statute
- Will it take someone being assaulted to stop the issue/draw the line?
- He is against bullying and harassment against the LGBTQ community

Erika Oliver, Resident- parent of 2 high school daughters

- Concerned for female safety and it's being overlooked
- Saw the photo of students in a Brewer High School bathroom posted online; they seemed to be chatting, and she was initially bothered by this as a former educator
- Doesn't want to think about what could happen before change are made
- Concerned about the superintendent's/principal's letter read to students - daughter was uncomfortable

E. Minutes

1. Ms. Dunn moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 8, 2024; Mr. Farley seconded the motion; 5 in the affirmative and 2 student representatives in favor.

F. Reports

1. United Technologies Center (UTC)

Mr. Cross reported the meeting was held last week, Senior, Ethan Thibault - Video & Audio Production produced the UTC Promotion Video, and 10 Brewer students will be competing at the SkillsUSA on March 15, 2024.

2. Southern Penobscot Regional Program for Children with Exceptionalities (SPRPCE)

Ms. Dunn reported the next meeting will be on February 15, 2024.

3. Trustees

Mr. Damon reported that the January meeting was canceled due to weather no reschedule.

4. Student Representatives

Cayen Philbrick and Jackson Day reported that the Key Club and National Honor Society will have a Blood Drive in April, Game Club meets for DD and other board games, the Jr. Class has scheduled Jr. Prom for March 30th and will be hold raffles to raise funds, Trident will submit the first 66 pages to the printer by March 1st and the remainder deadline is the end of March, Art Club has met twice and is working on public murals and spring zen, Student Council currently is doing Spirit Week events!

5. Administration

a. Superintendent of Schools - Mr. Palmer reported:

i. Staff resignations-appointments

1. The retirement of Sally Benner, BCS Grade 2 Teacher effective end of SY2024. Sally was hired September 1, 2007. We thank Sally for her 17 years dedicated service to the many students and staff of Brewer. We wish Sally all the best in her well deserved retirement.
2. The retirement of Christie Everett, BHS English Teacher effective end of SY2024. Christie was hired 9.2.2008, We thank Christie for her 16 years of service to the many students and staff of Brewer and wish her all the best in her well deserved retirement
3. The retirement of Patricia Scripture, BCS Grade 3 Teacher effective end of SY 2024. Patty was hired September 1, 2008 and we thank her for 16 years of dedicated service to the many students and staff of Brewer. We wish Patty all the best in her well deserved retirement.
4. The transfer of Daniel Perkins to BCS ET III Alt Ed from Ed Tech III SPED effective January 24, 2024.
5. The appointment of Charlie Colson, BCS Ed Tech III effective February 12 2024. Charlie is filling the vacancy left by Daniel's transfer.
6. The resignation of Lillian Blakeman, Assistant Indoor Track Coach effective 2/1/2024 for personal reasons.
7. The resignation of Joshua Allen, Maintenance I effective 2/23/2024 for another employment opportunity.

ii. Non-Monetary Donations:

1. From Mark & Susan Farley of Brewer, 8 boxes of pretzels for the BCS Snack program.
2. From Natasha Eldridge of Brewer, 8 boxes of Goldfish and 4 boxes of GoGo Squeez Applesauce for the BCS Snack program.
3. From Jennifer Crittentent of Brewer, 3 boxes of pretzels and 4 boxes of Goldfish for the BCS Snack program.

iii. Athletic appointments:

“B” Volleyball Coach - Danielle McDonough

Cheer Volunteer - Kathleen Robichaud
Pioneer Hockey Volunteer - Ryan Shelley
BCS Girls "A" Basketball Volunteer - Andrew Robichaud
BCS Volleyball Volunteer - Chris Snowdeal

- b. Director of Business & Finance - Ms. Gardner reported:
 - 1. Year to-date grant reporting
- c. Director of Instruction - Ms. Ward-Downer reported:

Verbal updates on grants that the school department has been approved to receive and the additional grant writing that will be submitted.
- d. Brewer High School Admin - Mr. Slowikowski reported:

Art student's work on Exhibit, Step up Day (sending schools), Brewer's Outdoor Education highlighted by the MPA, Sophomores explore UTC, Enrollment Numbers, and in addition five students were named students of the quarter at UTC:
Drew Hastings, senior - Construction Engineering Op
Joe Clark, junior - Comp Fab & Custom Auto
Hayley McGowan, senior -Health Occupations
Ethan Thibault, senior - Video & Audio Production
Rivlin Williams, senior - Digital Arts & Software Development

G. Old Business

- 1. Mr. Cross moved to approve the second reading, adoption of Policy ICA *School Calendar 2024-2025*; Ms. Dunn seconded the motion; 5 in the affirmative, 0 opposed, and 2 student representatives abstained.

H. New Business

- 1. Acceptance of Gifts
 - Mr. Damon moved to accept the donation as read; Ms. Dunn seconded the motion; 5 in the affirmative and 2 student representatives in favor.
 - a. \$299.04 from Buyers Edge Platform of Waltham, MA to BSD Food Service-Dining Alliance for BCS snack program
 - b. \$268.00 from Moe's Original BBQ of Bangor fundraising event to BHS Class of 2027
 - c. \$500.00 from Somic America, Inc of Brewer to BHS AFJROTC program
 - d. \$500.00 from Thomas Blanchard & Son Roofing of Brewer to BHS 1st Robotics
 - e. \$74.20 from Wight's Sporting Goods, proceeds of sales to BHS for AFJROTC
 - f. Donations in memory of Shirley Estes to Brewer Athletics:
 - \$30.00 from Wendall; & Christine McNally of Brewer
 - \$50.00 from Nathaniel & Cynthia Churchill of Brewer
 - \$50.00 from Dana Corey of Brewer
 - \$25.00 from Marion & Carole Bailey of Brewer
 - \$100.00 from Anonymous
 - g. \$51.58 from Pel Industries Inc., of Rogers, AZ to BSD; royalty from Brewer merchandise sold at Walmart
 - h. \$74.50 from Ohiopyle Prints Inc., of Ohiopyle, PA to BSD; royalty from Brewer merchandise sold at Walgreens
 - i. \$250.00 from Bangor Lodge of Elks #244 of Bangor to BHS for Outdoor Education
 - j. \$150.00 from Maine Drama Council of Frenchville, ME to BHS for Drama
- 2. Mr. Damon moved to rescind Policy GBEC, *Staff Members with Acquired Immune Deficiency*; Mr. Cross seconded the motion; 5 in the affirmative and 2 student representatives in favor.
- 3. Mr. Cross moved to rescind Policy GCRD, *Tutoring for Pay*; Mr Farley seconded the motion; 5 in the affirmative and 2 student representatives in favor.
- 4. Mr. Damon moved to approve the revision title of Policy GBEC, *Alcohol & Chemical Abuse Policy & Procedure Manual to Drug Free Workplace*; Ms. Dunn seconded the motion; 5 in the affirmative and 2

student representatives in favor.

5. Mr. Farley moved to approve the out-of-state, overnight trip for Indoor Track at New England Championships to Boston, MA on March 1-2, 2024; Mr. Cross seconded the motion; 5 in the affirmative and 2 student representatives in favor.
6. Mr. Damon moved to approve the in-state, overnight trip for Robotics to Lewiston, ME for Pine Tree Competition on March 15-17, 2024; the out-of-state, overnight trip for Robotics to Burnham, NH for UNH Competition on March 28-30, 2024; and the out-of-state, overnight trip for Robotics to W. Springfield, MA for Competition on April 3-6, 2024; Mr. Farley seconded the motion; 5 in the affirmative and 2 student representatives in favor.

I. Future Meetings

Regular Meeting, Monday, March 4, 2024, 6:00 PM, Brewer High School Lecture Hall

J. Public Comment

Gary West - Brewer parent of 4, 2 at BHS

- No child should be bullied. He has been a victim of relentless bullying as a student years ago.
- Feels his own kids are safe at home.
- My daughter felt very uncomfortable, emotionally bullied in dealing with this issue.
- When leaving the home, his daughter doesn't leave her right to feel physically and emotionally safe. Entering BHS she should feel safe physically and emotionally - that is the school department's responsibility .
- If this is allowed to continue, we have nearly 400 young ladies in this school, the hard truth is that the administration will be a party to and facilitator to emotional bullying.

Gabriel - BHS senior

- Is not transphobic
- Concerned about female safety in the bathroom.
- Administration said they take this very seriously.
- Took concerns to admin 2.9.24 and showed social media and was told I could take a friend or could use a different bathroom.
- Believes her education is being affected over an issue that makes 99% feel unsafe.

Kim Parley -Brewer parent, 2 boys (one graduated)

- On the other side, her sons, one of whom is now graduated, are not comfortable with females using a male bathroom.

Connor Clark - BHS student

- Spoke about his own Mental Health progress - working through and doing better - mental health is a real issue.
- Has experienced multiple losses
- Believes therapy and medication are positive steps. He is proud to be getting the help he needs.

Philip Wells, Amherst, parent of 4; 1 daughter at BHS

- Daughter felt very uncomfortable due to an interaction in the female bathroom.
- She started a petition that was stopped on school grounds.
- External petition was started (3rd party) and shut down by the website due to bullying/hate speech.
- Expressing concerns for what is going on at BHS with administration.

Shawn McBreairty, Maine source for truth

- Referenced a court case out of Virginia

- Safety of women is at risk
- This is not a well settled law as stated in a letter sent by the superintendent and principal. Claimed it was a “poorly worded lawyer letter”.
- Cited a 2014 Maine Judicial Supreme Court case related to these issues.

K. Adjournment

Mr. Damon moved to adjourn at 6:54 PM; Ms. Dunn seconded the motion; 5 in the affirmative and 2 student representatives in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregg Palmer
Secretary

Approved: March 4, 2024

DRAFT

RSU #63 2024-2025 School Calendar

| JULY | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

| AUGUST | | | | | | |
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| 18 | 19 | FX | FX | FX | N | 24 |
| 25 | P | P | FD | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | |
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| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

Open House
2:15 - 3:00
August 26: Eddington
August 27: Holden
3:30 - 4:15
August 29: Holbrook

Student Days = 3
Teacher Days = 6
First Day School: August 28th
FX: Teacher Classroom Flex Day: 8/20-8/22

Student Days = 20
Teacher Days = 20

| OCTOBER | | | | | | |
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| NOVEMBER | | | | | | |
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| DECEMBER | | | | | | |
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| 22 | V | V | H | V | V | 28 |
| 29 | V | V | | | | |

176 Pupil Days
5 Early Release Days
7 Professional Days
1 (Teacher) Exchange Day
1 (Teacher) Classroom
Flex Day

Student Days = 16
Teacher Days = 17 (+1 X)
***Parent Teacher Conferences:
November 25th & 26th**

Student Days = 15
Teacher Days = 15

| JANUARY | | | | | | |
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| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

| FEBRUARY | | | | | | |
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| 16 | H | V | V | V | V | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |

| MARCH | | | | | | |
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| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | ER | P | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

**Progress/Report
Cards Out**
December 2nd
March 26th
Last Day of School - mailed
home

Student Days = 15
Teacher Days = 15

Student Days = 20
Teacher Days = 21

| APRIL | | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | H | V | V | V | V | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

| MAY | | | | | | |
|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | P | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | H | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| JUNE | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | LD | P | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | H | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

| Key | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| N | New Staff Day |
| FD | First Day Students |
| V | Vacation Day |
| H | Holiday |
| ER | Early Release |
| X | Exchange Day |
| P | Professional Day |
| FX | Teacher Flex Day |
| LD | Last Day of School - Early Release |

End of Trimester:
November 15th
March 13th
June 9th

***Parent Teacher Conferences**
November 25 1:00pm-6:00pm All Schools
November 26 1:00pm-6:00pm All Schools

No snowdays are built in.
Add one day for each snowday to the last
day of school.

Student Days = 17
Teacher Days = 17

Student Days = 21
Teacher Days = 21

Student Days = 6
Teacher Days = 7

RSU #63

- a. **NEPN/NSBA Code:** IHBGA
- b. **Title:** Home Schooling-Participation in School Programs
- c. **Author:**
- d. **Replaces Policy:**
- e. **Date Approved:** ~~01/23/2017~~ RSU #63
- f. **Previously Approved:** ~~01/23/2017~~ ~~11/05/1997~~
- g. **Policy Expiration:** Review as Needed
- h. **Responsible for Review:** Director of Curriculum & Instruction & Policy Committee
- i. **Date Reviewed:** ~~12/05/2016~~ Director of Curriculum & Instruction
 ~~12/05/2016~~ Policy Committee
- j. **References:** 20-A MRSA §§ 5001-A(3), 5021-5025
Ch. 127, 130 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)

Cross Referenced Policies: IHBG-Home Schooling
IHBGB-Special Education Classes for Students in Private Schools or Home Schooling
JGAB-Class Assignment of Transfer & Home Instruction Students

k. Narrative:

The RSU 63 School Board (the Board) acknowledges the provisions for equivalent instruction under Maine law. The Board further recognizes the Legislature’s statement “that the term ‘equivalent’ is intended to mean meeting state standards for alternate or other instruction and is not intended to mean the same as the education delivered in the public school system.”

In addition, it is the intention of the Board to, “cooperate in the home instruction of any child who resides in RSU 63’s district to the degree that the level of cooperation does not interfere with the responsibilities to the students enrolled in RSU 63’s regular programs.” Furthermore, participation of students in such school programs shall be limited to home-schooled students whose home instruction programs are in compliance with applicable Maine law and Department of Education regulations.

In order to maintain an efficient and orderly school program, the Board directs the Superintendent/designee to develop procedures, as appropriate, regarding the availability of school system resources and services to home-schooled students who would otherwise be eligible to attend school in RSU 63. The procedures will be in accord with the following provisions:

I. PROVISION OF INFORMATION

At the request of the student or the student’s parent/guardian, RSU 63 will make IHBGA-Home Schooling-Participation in School Programs

available to home-schooled students, in a form determined by the district, information regarding access to public school activities and attendance at its schools. This information must include:

- A. Requirements regarding initial health and developmental screening for motor skills, vision, hearing, and immunization; and
- B. Criteria for participation of home-schooled students in curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities.

II. PERMITTED PARTICIPATION:

A. Participation in Regular Classes. Home instruction students may enroll in specific, day-school classes provided the student's attendance is regular, the class is deemed to be age and grade appropriate, and all prerequisite course requirements are met. In addition, the following shall also apply:

1. The student or the student's parent/guardian, on the student's behalf, shall apply in writing to and receive written approval from the Superintendent/designee. Approval may not be unreasonably withheld.
2. The student will demonstrate prior satisfactory academic achievement consistent with district policy and procedures applicable to all students.
3. The student shall comply with behavioral, disciplinary, attendance and other classroom rules applicable to all students. If a student fails to comply, the district may withhold credit or terminate the student's participation.
4. Transportation must be provided by the parent/guardian or student. However, the student may use the same transportation as all other students in the district as long as additional expenses are not incurred and the vehicle capacity is not exceeded.
5. The student will complete all assignments and tests as required of all students in the same class.

B. Course Auditing. Home instruction students may audit a course(s) provided the following conditions have been met:

1. The student or the student's parent/guardian, on behalf of the student, will apply in writing to and receive written approval from the Superintendent/designee to audit a specific course or courses. Participation may not be unreasonably withheld.
2. The student agrees to meet established behavioral, disciplinary, attendance, and other classroom rules applicable to all students. If a student fails to comply, the school may terminate participation.

III. SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Special Education Services will be available to eligible special education students in accordance with applicable federal and State laws and regulations.

A student who has been receiving home-school program will be placed in a grade commensurate with the level of the student's academic achievement. Placement must be guided by the following:

- A. For students who transfer into school from an educational program that is not required to meet the standard of the system of Learning Results, the principal of the receiving school will determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting those standards.
- B. Appropriate school staff may make recommendations concerning placement based on, but not limited to, factors such as the student's completed curricula and record of achievement, conferences with the student's parent/guardian, and administration of tests.
- C. The final grade placement decision will be made by the principal. The principal's decision may be appealed to the Superintendent, whose decision will be final.

IV. ADMISSION TO REGULAR PROGRAM/PLACEMENT

A student who has been receiving home-schooled instruction and who seeks admission to the regular school program will be placed in a grade commensurate with the level of the student's academic achievement. Placement must be guided by the following:

- A. For students who transfer into RSU 63 from an educational program that is not required to meet the standards of the system of Learning Results, the principal of the receiving school will determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting these standards.
- B. Appropriate district staff may make recommendations concerning placement based on, but not limited to, factors such as the student's completed curricula and record of achievement, conferences with the student's parent/guardian, and administration of tests.
- C. The final grade placement decision will be made by the principal. The principal's decision may be appealed to the Superintendent, whose decision will be final.

V. RE-ADMISSION TO THE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Placement of home-schooled students who wish to be readmitted to the school program will be determined by the principal who shall consult with members of the professional staff to the extent appropriate and, as deemed necessary, to make a reasonable determination that the requisite academic standards have been met, and collect from parents actual samples of coursework (e.g., homework, papers, examinations). The principal may also direct that a test or tests be administered to help determine the student's progress toward meeting the content standards of the Learning Results for the purpose of determining an appropriate grade level. The decision of the principal may be appealed to the Superintendent.

VI. USE OF SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS AND LIBRARY BOOKS

Subject to availability, a student receiving home instruction may use school textbooks, if the number of particular copies are sufficient, and library books owned by the district, subject to the following conditions:

- A. The use does not disrupt regular student, staff, or special program functions.
- B. The student's sign-out period for a library book is the same as that applicable to regularly enrolled students.
- C. The student may sign out a textbook for a period not to exceed one school year.
- D. The parent/guardian and student agree to reimburse the district for lost, unreturned, or damaged library books and textbooks, and for consumable supplies used.

VII. USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

A student receiving home-school instruction may use district facilities and equipment on the same basis as regularly enrolled students if the following conditions are met:

- A. The use does not disrupt regular school activities.
- B. The use is approved by the school principal in advance.
- C. The use does not create additional expense to the district.
- D. The use is directly related to the student's academic program.
- E. The use of potentially hazardous areas, such as shops, laboratories, and gymnasiums, is supervised by a qualified employee of the district, approved and assigned by the Superintendent.

VIII. MANDATED EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

If a parent/guardian of a student in an equivalent instruction program requests to have the student participate in the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) or any other State-mandated test, such request must be granted. Participation in such examinations must be in compliance with all rules and procedures governing testing conditions in the district.

IX. ACADEMIC CREDIT

A student receiving home-school instruction must receive academic credit subject to the following requirements:

- A. Academic credit for individual courses must be awarded if the student meets required academic standards applicable to all students enrolled in the same course.
- B. Academic credit must be awarded for successful completion of alternative

instruction opportunities sponsored by the district and available to all students.

X. PARTICIPATION IN CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students receiving home-school instruction may participate in co-curricular activities such as field trips, assemblies, and academically related fairs provided:

- A. Prior written permission is obtained from both the parent/guardian and the principal; and
- B. The student has agreed to meet established behavioral, disciplinary, attendance, and other rules applicable to all students.

XI. PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students receiving home-schooled instruction are eligible to try for extracurricular activities sponsored by the district provided the student applies in writing and the following requirements are satisfied.

- A. The student agrees to abide by equivalent rules of participation as are applicable to regularly enrolled students participating in the activity and provides evidence that rules of participation are being met.
- B. The student complies with the same physical examination, immunization, insurance, age, and semester eligibility requirements as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity. All required documentation must be made available upon request by the district. The school principal is authorized to collect from the student's parent/guardian actual samples of coursework (e.g., homework, examinations, etc.) as he/she deems necessary in order to make the determination that the necessary academic standards have been met.
- C. The student meets equivalent academic standards as those established for regularly enrolled students participating in the activity and provides evidence that the academic standards are being met.
- D. The student abides by the same transportation policy as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity.

XII. STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPATION WHEN TUITION PAYMENT TO ANOTHER UNIT IS REQUIRED

If and when the district does not provide academic instruction for specific grade levels, the following applies for students enrolled in an approved program of equivalent instruction:

- A. Class Participation: The home-schooled student or the student's parent/guardian shall request authorization from the resident local school district to apply to another district for permission to participate in classes or activities in that other district.

- B.** Tuition Payment: Tuition payments for home-schooled student participation in a local school district, including attendance at an applied technology center or an applied technology region other than the applicant's resident district, is the responsibility of the home-schooled student, the student's parent/guardian, or the student's resident school district, in accordance with the school district's policy (policies). Participation may not be unreasonably withheld.
- C.** Participation Eligibility: A tuitioned, home-schooled student is subject to the rules relating to eligibility for participation in co-curricular or extracurricular activities as may apply at the receiving school district.
- D.** Interscholastic Activities: A tuitioned, home-schooled student attending classes in more than one receiving school district is not eligible for participation in interscholastic activities in any local school district.

XIII. APPEALS

Appeals from administration and application of the Board policy/policies are heard by the Board, whose decision is final and binding. Appeals that question the Board policy compliance with legal requirements must be made to the Commissioner, whose decision is final and binding.