

**KIDS REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #2  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**DATE:** THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2011  
**PLACE:** H. COTTRELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
**TIME:** 5:00 PM Board Retreat  
6:00 PM Regular Meeting

**PRESENT:** Chair Dawn Gallagher, Vice-Chair Jim Grandahl, Directors Jonathan Edwards, Jeff Gosselin, Jon Lambert, Carrie Long, Bill Matthews, Sarah McNaughton, Anya Rice, Michael Terrell and Robin Thayer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Director Linda Leet

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent Virgel Hammonds, Deborah Emery, Richard Amero, Steve Philbrook, Steve Lavoie, Christine Chamberlain, Vicki Raymond, Gordon Murray, Deb Marshall and Jayme Martin

**GUEST(S):** Tim McDonald and Harold Jones, Monmouth Selectmen  
Scott Foyt and Cathy Foyt and students from Monmouth Academy

The Board held a “mini retreat” at 5:00 p.m. The Regular meeting followed at 6:00 p.m.

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM PRESENT**

Chair Dawn Gallagher declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

**2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2011**

Director Jon Lambert **motioned** to approve the minutes of August 3, 2011. Director Jonathan Edwards **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously**. Jim Grandahl explained committees and existing responsibilities.

**3.0 ADJUSTMENT(S) TO AGENDA**

**4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

4.1 Recognition of Monmouth Academy Academic Decathlon

Monmouth Academy Academic Decathlon Coaches Cathy and Scott Foyt, along with students Kristine Kahl, Matt Bryant, Julia Destefano, Hayden Koller, Amy Nacca, Brian Nugent, Justin Knaus-Tucker, Kerstin Schkrioba and Dylan Thombs were recognized for their accomplishments.

The Foyt’s described Academic Decathlon and how it functions. Both spoke highly of the success of the program. Nationally they have attained up to 4<sup>th</sup> in the United States. Monmouth Academy also had a national winner, Matt Bryant.

4.2 Public Comment on Agenda Items

Tim McDonald commented on inviting Board Members to become part of the Monmouth Green Committee.

Selectman also spoke of the improved communication between the RSU and the town especially in respect to hurricane Irene and the safety of the town's children. Kathryn Murphy spoke on her resignation and potentially combining the RHS / RMS middle school and HLC position.

#### 4.3 Monmouth Principals Update on Team Initiatives

Deborah Emery, Principal at H. Cottrell Elementary School – Started with a staff retreat speaking about Proficiency – based and learner centered structures. The team also worked on Steven Covey's work and implemented a shared vision around the RSU's vision and Covey's work. She also thanked the parents that helped build new playground. She sent thanks to Becky and Rick Grant, Brian and Heidi Coffin, Amy Dolan, Darleen Chase, Sue and Bob Pomerleau, Lynette Gadbout, Leanne Burnham, Jen Harding, Cathy Blasius, and Michelle Jones.

Steve Philbrook, Principal of Monmouth Middle School spoke about the work around math and intervention. MMS had 20 new learners (274 total). MMS also worked on creating, with kids, a shared vision and code of cooperation. Staff also created a staff Code of Cooperation which will be posted on the Monmouth MS webpage.

Rick Amero, Principal at Monmouth Academy – (235 total) The Monmouth Academy team started in August to develop a shared vision and CC for staff. Staff worked the first two days working on teambuilding creating a shared vision and Code of Cooperation for the academy which will be posted on the school's webpage. He spoke of the transition to a student-centered system and of the transition to a 1-4 scoring scale. The week of the 19<sup>th</sup> is "Big Week".

### 5.0 OLD BUSINESS

None

### 6.0 NEW BUSINESS

#### 6.1 Approval of Resignation(s) / Retirement(s)

Director Sarah McNaughton **motioned** to approve the following resignation.

- Lynda Simmons, RSU School Psychological Service Provider

Director Jonathan Edwards **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously**.

#### 6.2 Approval of Nominated Personnel

Director Jonathan Edwards **motioned** to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the following new employees.

- Kelly Breton, MS, 50% Teacher in Grades 7/8
- Hannah Reed, MMS, Guidance Counselor
- Lucas Turner, MA, 50% Social Studies Teacher
- Lucas Turner, MMS/MA, Athletic Director

Director Carrie Long **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously**.

#### 6.3 NESSC Presentation – Mark Kostin

Hall-Dale High School was asked to join the New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) also known as The League of Innovative Schools. Mr. Mark Kostin, from NESSC, presented information on how our learners at Hall-Dale H.S. and the RSU will benefit from this membership.

NESSC is a collection of five states, does not include MASS, that are committed to increasing measures by which kids can prove proficiency on State and National Standards. The goals of the consortium is to increase graduation rate to 90% or better, decrease drop out rate, increase enrollment to universities, and ultimately prepare learners for whatever goals they have after graduation from high school.

NESSC is focused on communicating their efforts and why they are doing all of this work around learner-centered approaches and best instructional practices. Conferences focus on Global Best Practices and helping League members to implement these processes. The goal is to help League members to improve and become the best in the world.

The Innovation Network is a cohort model that will allow for collaboration across each state and New England. Each school will conduct self-assessments regularly to check progress. Support from NESSC will allow the RSU to make progress to implementing the shared-vision.

Director John Lambert **motioned** to join. Director Jim Grandahl **seconded** the motion.

Discussion followed.

Sarah McNaughton: Will joining further take us away from our shared vision?

Mark Koston: There is direct alignment between NESSC and the RSU's shared vision. Our goal is to include Richmond and Monmouth in the development process.

Sarah McNaughton: Glad to hear the opportunity will be made available to Richmond and Monmouth.

Mark Koston: The entire RSU should eventually become a part of the league.

Annya Rice: Did NESSC include business in what they are looking for in our kids?

Mark Koston: They have a group that specifically works with business in developing apprenticeships and internships. The goals necessary to be successful in profession and college were the same.

Annya Rice: Are business leaders focused on academics or life skills?

Mark Koston: spoke about "21<sup>st</sup> century skills"

Jim Grandahl: Big believer in best practices. Can this truly help our educators with the NESSC goals? Is this organization affiliated with any political organizations?

Mark Koston: NESSC is A-political. They do not do any lobbying or line up behind any one candidate.

Mark Koston is actively pursuing foundation commitments so costs are not hurtful to school districts.

Jim Grandahl (Directed at Principal Lavoie): How is this going to align with the work that is already done at HDHS.

Steve Lavoie: There is direct alignment and parallel to the work that is already involved with throughout the RSU.

Sarah McNaughton is concerned about the funding because it can become a decisive issue.

Annya Rice needs more information before voting.

Robin Thayer: What exactly is the motion?

Dawn Gallagher: The motion is that HDHS joins and would share the information with the hopes of including MA and RHS in the future.

Robin Thayer: What are the costs attributed to and do they include foundation money?

Mark Koston: It only includes travel time.

Dawn Gallagher: The expectation would be that the information and knowledge is shared and a commitment needs to be made to sharing the wealth of knowledge.

Steve Lavoie: There is a commitment from him.

Dawn Gallagher: The expectation would be that the information is shared immediately and processes planed with all schools including elementary schools.

Robin Thayer: What is the source of the funding / foundation?

Mark Koston: The funding is for the infrastructure associated with running the League and would cover the all of the costs.

Robin Thayer: So funding will be flexible from year to year?

Mark Koston: Yes especially when considering supports will not be as necessary as staffs develop their strengths.

Annya Rice: If we are finding \$6K for this, why not for drama, athletics, academic decathlon, etc?

Bill Matthews: What commitment can we have from the League in including the other high schools?

Mark Koston: The first cohort is by invitation only and from year's forward it is open enrollment based upon requests.

Dawn Gallagher: Funding sources are specifically allocated to line items and this would be specific to staff development, not extra-curricular activities.

Robin Thayer: Can the Board delay until we know the foundations have committed money lowering RSU costs?

Dawn Gallagher: Board could amend the motion to include funding resources by the League. It can be a tentative or conditional appointment.

Chris Chamberlain: Joining the league is good for the RSU. The Maine Cohort for Customized Learning is considering joining as a group next week. Though HDHS is joining, this would be a RSU membership.

Robin Thayer: Is there any way to join as one unit?

Dawn Gallagher: It would not be possible because the first cohort only includes 6 schools. We want to help level the playing fields and this would be the opportunity to include the schools in the near future.

Mark Koston: NESSC is not closing the door on including any member of the RSU attending the meetings, including the superintendent or principal from either Monmouth or Richmond can attend.

A **motion** was made to approve with funding:  
Sarah McNaughton, Michael Terrell, Jim Grandahl, Dawn Gallagher, Jon Lambert and Jeff Gosselin voted in favor.  
Robin Thayer, Annya Rice, Bill Matthews, Jonathan Edwards and Carrie Long opposed.

**Motion** carried 7376 to 5259.

Members opposed were concerned about funding, not joining the League of Innovative Schools.

#### 6.4 Monmouth Middle School Placement on the Major Capital Improvement Program List

Monmouth MS was officially listed number nine on the “Final Priority List” approved by the Maine School Board Association. A construction committee will be formed once a formal decree has been mailed from Scott Brown, Director of the Capital Improvement Program, at the State Department.

Director Jonathan Edwards **motioned** to approve the formation of this committee.  
Director Sarah McNaughton **seconded** the motion.

Discussion followed.

Sarah McNaughton: Can Rich Howard be considered for the committee?

Jim Grandahl: The School Board will decide who is a member of the committee and should include members of the community.

Annya Rice: Funding was improved?

Virgel Hammonds: Yes

Jon Lambert: Not sure if RSU should put money into the project if Monmouth is considering pulling out.

Jim Grandahl: Funding is associated with membership in the RSU and funding will be finalized based upon enrollment in the RSU or not. Nothing at this moment is about spending RSU funding.

Jeff Gosselin: I have seen in print that if a school does withdraw pre-approved, they shall not be penalized.

Dawn Gallagher: The Superintendent will follow up on withdrawal procedures and clarify ramifications.

Bill Matthews: Considering the best interest of the kids, we should put the kids first.

The motion was **voted unanimously**.

#### 6.5 Maine Supreme Court Proceedings at Richmond High School

On October 13, 9:00 AM, the Maine Supreme Court will hear three cases before members of our high school learning communities. Richmond High School was one of three high schools selected by the Maine Supreme Court to host a true session.

Director Robin Thayer **motioned** to recognize this event in the minutes. Director Sarah McNaughton **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously**.

- 6.6 Executive Session [1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(D)] Negotiations  
Director Jon Lambert **motioned** to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Negotiations. Director Sarah McNaughton **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously**.  
Time in: 7:55  
Time out: 8:15  
Action taken: Approved 1.75% increase for all teachers, based on the 2010-11 base pay.

## 7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

## 8.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- 8.1 Newly Hired, Newly Appointed Personnel  
The Superintendent reported on the following newly hired and newly appointed personnel.
- Jarod Richmond, Transfer to HDHS Spec. Ed. Tech. III
  - Dawn Wise, HCES, Library Media Tech
  - Alison Lucas, HDES, Food Service Worker
  - Christine LaFleur, HDHS, Food Service Worker
  - Amanda Bauer, Food Service Worker, Transfer from MMS to MA
- 8.2 Resignation(s)  
The Superintendent reported on the following resignations.
- Melissa Weston, DES, Food Service Worker
  - Marie Setchell, HDES, Title One Ed. Tech.
  - Kelly Bourassa, HDHS, Spec. Ed. Tech. III
  - Brittany Chadbourne, HDES, Spec. Ed. Tech. III
  - Helen Smith, HCES, Pre-K Ed. Tech. III
  - Colette Martha, HCES, Title One Ed Tech III
  - Cheryl Coffin, HCES, Library Media Tech
  - Scott Kemp, Monmouth Bus Driver
  - Katherine Murphy, RHS, Library Media Tech
- 8.3 September Board Events Calendar  
  
Review of committee meetings. Virgel will send an email
- 8.4 Community Meetings and Invitations to Meetings  
  
Superintendent Hammonds would like to conduct small group meetings within each of the communities to discuss concerns, celebrations, and solutions that support RSU growth. If members of any community would like to host a meeting with Superintendent Hammonds, please contact Sue Corbett in the central office to calendar time.
- 8.5 School Opening Update  
  
Superintendent Hammonds visited each school site during the first week of school. Despite the postponed openings in Monmouth, spirits were high and the buildings looked great throughout the RSU.
- 8.5 Board Chair Dawn Gallagher will meet with Superintendent Hammonds and transportation director Katie Spear to discuss the creation of a bus committee.

**9.0 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Director Jon Lambert **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Director Jonathan Edwards **seconded** the motion, **voted in favor unanimously**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virgel A. Hammonds  
Superintendent of School