

**MSAD #8 School Board Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 18th 2012**

6:00 Board meets to review and sign warrants
6:30 Board business meeting

1. Call to order – **Meeting called to order at 6:30pm**
2. Approval of minutes of previous meetings. **Motion to approve minutes of December 15th, 2011 Joe Bickford, Second Bruce Philip 4Y**
3. Communications –
Letter of response from Fox Island Teachers Association expressing their desire not to reopen the FITA contract at this time.

Letter of resignation from Heather Reidy. Motion to accept Heathers resignation with regret Joe Bickford, Second Bruce Philip 4Y

4. Approval of agenda - **Motion to approve the agenda as amended, Introduction of new staff members Norma Jean Senechal and Albert White, Old Business 8a Approval of Class Trip chaperones, Executive Session under MRSA Section 405 (6) (a)**
5. Questions and comments from the public – NONE
6. School Leader's report – **Presented to the Board under separate cover. Robb clarified that his Masters program will take about three years at the most to complete**
7. New Business:
 - a. Four Year Old (preschool) program update: Sue Dempster – **Sue presented some of the scientific background behind early learning programs and the brain development that happens between ages 0-5. There is an important emphasis on "high quality" Pre-K programs – which include low student teacher ratios, early childhood trained teachers and adequate space and materials.**

Sue updated the Board on how the program has developed this year. She has 11 kids now, 1 child moved away, MaryAnn Hopkins is working with her as the Pre-K aide. They are working on doing different themes each week and have many different centers in the classroom and every other week have creative movement and library time. The class has been to the Fire Station & the Library in the big bus, they did parent-teacher conferences in the fall and they have learned to walk in line (a BIG deal) and eat in the cafeteria, all of the kids are writing and recognizing

their names, making new friends and developing relationships with each other. Last week the biggest fun was fingerprinting with COOL WHIP !

Some of the issues have been not having a bathroom in the classroom, the distance between the café and the classroom. Going Up and Down for snack is about a 45 minute process and when it includes getting coats on for recess it is more time as well though recess is always such fun and good for the kids.

Several parents expressed their gratitude for the publicly funded program because they would not have been able to afford to send their kids to preschool if they had had to pay for a private program. We have a few students who are receiving CDS services which is making even more strides to help them progress in their learning and preparing them for Kindergarten.

Sue also spoke about the consequences for the Library. She is currently working without planning time for the Library or for the Pre-K program. The Library has suffered some because Sue does not have the time she previously had to work on the book based programs and the same level of Library Services but everyone is working together to make it work for the kids. Pam Alley is currently working there as our Library Sub and is doing an awesome job !

b. Standards-based learning: what we've learned so far – Four presentations from each grade level K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 about the impact of Standards Based instruction on their specific grade levels.

High School attended Searsport HS. Searsport has been implementing a non-RISC model. They are in partnership with the Hutchinson Center (UMO) and their high achieving students are allowed to take college classes and develop higher education programs for themselves. They had interventions for students not meeting standards – they had special periods after school for catch up, they had one week per quarter to catch up and all study hall time was focused on standard achievement. They have a Standards Manager who keeps track of every student and where they stood on each standard. Eligibility for activities is based on participation in standards achievement so as long as a student was working in all of the opportunity times they could play. Challenges were discussed, issues around identifying which standards they will use, how many, how few, motivation of the students to excel in each standard, staffing –ie. The Standards Manager position and Ed Techs in many of the classrooms. The HS team hopes to have strong community support for this transition and a dynamic budgetary discussion around needs.

Middle School went to Grey New Gloucester Middle School. The last two years they were in the awareness building and piloting process. This year they have begin implementation. The teachers presented flow charts that were used in each classroom to guide the students through the process of completing their work and how they were supposed to behave while they were doing it. The students adopted Classroom expectations and Codes of Conduct that they follow in their learning environment. Our staff was very impressed with the learning environment – how the plans were displayed and presented, the students were calm and engaged, all students were learning. Student grades were A, B, and not yet. All students had to

achieve the standards in order to move forward. They have a long range plan that is in place to move them forward, curriculum coordinators and grants that allowed them to have a ton of planning time and organizing time to layout how they were implementing Standards Based. Benefits to VS Learning is constant, Time is the variable, Increased rigor, Promotes critical thinking, If kids are falling behind there is 2.5 hours learning time after school that they are required to attend. Amy showed an example matrix of how the standards are identified, what the evidence of learning is (formative assessment) and a summative assessment to demonstrate learning.

The 3-5 Team went to James H Bean Elementary school in Sidney. They have been working on this for two years now, their teachers are at different levels and everyone is solidifying the behaviors required to implement this. The students were very engaged, they demonstrated great pride in their SOP's for each area of behavior around how they conducted their learning. They had communication tools for Help Wanted for when kids needed help., Parking Lots for issues needing to be dealt with in Morning meeting, and Fireside Chats with parents as an opportunity to explain Standards Based to parents. The kids were very engaged and showed ownership, the teachers were secure and even though they were at different levels everyone was helping, our strength is small class size, blocks and integrated curriculum, Challenges are time to implement the program, and staffing. Ann spoke about how she is currently doing some standards based work with her 4th grade kids.

The K-2 team went to the Russell School in Gray. They are a K-2 school in their third year of Standards Based, they have only moved into Standards Based in Behavior, a bit of Math and no Literacy yet. They worked primarily on behaviors, SOP's, Codes of Conduct & Code of Cooperation. The kids are very aware of all of these standards and monitor their behavior because they are very aware of all of the expectations. There were also multiple adults in the classroom with each class of 14-18 kids. One of the challenges the K-2 wondered about was how to craft a Shared Vision in a K-12 School. They did not see how the Russell school was dealing with kids below standards and how kids were moving on. There was also an emphasis here on how important the professional development of the teachers is to succeeding with this program. Cherie demonstrated how the 1-4 chart is displayed for the little kids. They use a cupcake, a yucky one -1, a decent one -2, a really good one -3, a totally blinged out one -4 ! Questions – What about additional techs in the classrooms ?, what about RTI ?, what is our timeline?, what about GT kids ?

Robb talked about the Commissioners presentations yesterday of the Evolving Education reports on a Learning Centered plan for the State, hopefully the state will be able to back the plan with the resources necessary to implement. Robb also presented the staff vote on Do you value and support Standards Based Education for the VH School. The staff vote was 19-7. Lew thanked the staff for all of their hard work and Robb and Gloria for their continued leadership.

c. Absence from class to attend sports games: **Motion: Students outside of the grade level competing will not be excused to attend regular season games scheduled on Vinalhaven during school hours. Joe Bickford, Second Bruce Philip 4Y**

Sense of the Board: Post Season games will be decided on a case by case basis by the Supt, in consultation with the Board.

d. Cameras for building security – **We have purchased additional cameras so that we can monitor the entire circumference of the building.**

8. Old Business

a. Approval of Senior Class Trip Chaperones – **Motion to approve Bryan Feezor and Rachel Noyes as chaperones for the senior class trip. Joe Bickford, Linda Lapointe 4Y**

9. Reports

a. Superintendent's report - **Lew presented the Budget Schedule and discussed the Boards preference for deciding cost of living increases and the potential overall increase**

10. Executive Session – under MRSA 405 (6)(a) Motioned by Joe to enter Executive Session and seconded by Bruce, Motion passed 4Y.

11. Adjournment – **Chairperson Shane adjourned the Board from Executive Session at 8:45. No Action Taken**