

MINUTES FEBRUARY
MONHEGAN SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Monday, **February 27, 2023**

Monhegan Library & via Zoom

Present: Committee Chair Jes Stevens, Secretary Daphne Pulsifer

Present Virtually (link below): Treasurer Felicia Dunson, Supt. Tonya Arnold, Teacher Kaitlyn O'Donnell, Business Manager Belinda Waterhouse.

Call to Order 3:47 pm

Motion by Jes Stevens to approve MINUTES of 01/30/23 as read. Second by Felicia Dunson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: Presentation of School Audit 2021-2022 by Auditor Fred Brewer and Vote to Accept School Audit 2021-2022 are tabled. The Audit is not yet complete.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS none

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT presented by Tonya Arnold.

The Superintendent has begun the hiring process for a new Teacher for the 23/24 school year. Tonya will track her hours spent on the Teacher hiring process so that she may be reimbursed appropriately from budgeted funds for this purpose.

Superintendent is also working on hiring for the Ed Tech III position and Nurse consultant role for the fall. The ads have been posted, and these two processes are less involved.

TEACHER'S REPORT:

The ski field trip went well. It was valuable for the students to be learning skills from new and different instructors. A special part of the trip included a visit to the Sugarloaf Fire Station. This was interesting and very educational. The short term student who was part of the school since January left after the ski trip. She will be missed.

This month included consultations with Eileen Pew, Neera Harmon, Thom Buescher and Gillis Kallem.

TLC book group is ongoing.

Planning continues for the May 15th TLC field trip to Cuttyhunk.

Our Pre-K student is returning at the end of March, beginning of April.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Jes Stevens had nothing specific to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS none at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Teacher Search Process:

Kaitlyn O'Donnell will not be continuing as the Teacher in September. She has decided to move on to new experiences. Committee members shared their gratitude for Kaitlyn's work.

Tonya Arnold shared a timeline for the teacher search process. Dates on the timeline were reviewed. Tonya has posted a listing for the job opening on

Servingschools, Schoolspring and on our school website under employment. She already has been contacted by interested individuals.

As is standard procedure, the Superintendent will lead the teacher search. The Superintendent and School Committee agreed to continue the local practice of involving the School Committee in the search process, as well as inviting participation by the teacher and consultants (on a voluntary basis), a parent representative from each island family with a child(ren), and 1-2 additional community members. The Superintendent and School Committee will work together via email or in a separate meeting to revise the information packets that will be sent to interested applicants.

Recess 5:20 pm for ten minutes.

2. The School Committee Member Elections for 2023 chart was reviewed. Jes Stevens will prepare a notice of School Committee positions that will be up for election at Town Meeting in April.

FINANCIAL

1. Prep for Plantation Annual Report: Belinda Waterhouse has given the Municipal Administrator everything for the Annual Report. Tonya has shared her letter.
2. Business Manager & Treasurer's Reports: Business Manager's written report received. There have been problems accessing the Youth Arts Initiative checking account at Camden National Bank. It has been "dormant". Belinda will look into changing it to an interest-bearing or other kind of account that generates statements at least quarterly.
3. Financial pages were reviewed.
4. VOTE ON WARRANTS:
 - a. Daphne Pulsifer made a motion to approve EDU 08 - PR in the amount of \$9,487.33. Second by Jes Stevens. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
 - b. Daphne Pulsifer made a motion to approve EDU 08 - AP in the amount of \$11,842.65, with \$5,583.73 of that total paid with REAP funds. Second by Felicia Dunson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
5. REAP Fund Use Planning for REAP20 FY2023: Brief discussion of ideas for REAP. Some funds might be used to pay stipends for educators who could work with the new teacher and students on gardening/outdoor projects or with other extra activities next school year. This would benefit the students and help a new teacher with their transition into the school.

Information is needed about TLC suggested contribution for next year.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Schoolhouse
 - a. School Floor Refinishing: Daphne Pulsifer will call "Mr Sandless" to learn more about the process they use for refinishing floors, and if they might come to Monhegan. Jes has one person who still is interested in the project and will reach out to some area school facilities managers about their experience with different approaches to floor refinishing.

- b. The Plantation has asked for use of the schoolhouse on 4/8/23 for the Annual Town Meeting. The school can be cleared and prepared Friday, the 7th, after school lets out for the day. The Committee will help Kaitlyn.
 - c. There was ice in the toilet line after the field trip/school break. The Caretaker was able to clear the ice and nothing was damaged.
2. Teacher House Property
- a. Committee discussed paying off the Teacher House Mortgage. Further consideration of upcoming plans and maintenance expenses will help clarify the best action. Jes Stevens will schedule a Teacher House Property meeting with Committee members and communicate with the Board of Assessors about the possibility of paying off the mortgage to see what input they may have.
 - b. Kaitlyn reports the water system in the basement froze during the subzero weather last month. The Caretaker cleared the ice and nothing was broken.
 - c. No report of any issues at the Little Teacher House.

POLICY

Motion by Jes Stevens to approve and enact in first reading Policy GCAAA Teachers. Second by Daphne Pulsifer. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETINGS & STAFF VISIT(S)

Next Regular Meeting: Mon., March 27, 2023, 3:30 pm, Location TBD & Zoom.

Tonya Arnold will join the meeting via zoom.

No Logistics needed consideration (inc. charters, hosting, and phone/video conferencing).

Motion by Jes Stevens to adjourn. Second by Felicia Dunson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Adjourned 7:15pm

Respectfully submitted by
Daphne Pulsifer
Secretary

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81247831308?pwd=SFROb3E5ZHFOdUxadDRkanpFNUQzQT09>

Meeting ID: 812 4783 1308, Passcode: 252588

One tap mobile

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*+13126266799,,81247831308#,,, *252588# US (Chicago)*

Back Up Zoom Link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8698799458?pwd=OE9PSXRrT3IyYzY5RnZoVE9wUkUxZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 879 9458 Passcode: 7GKS98