

MINUTES

**JANUARY MONHEGAN SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING for the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget**

Monday, **January 29**, 2024, scheduled start 4:30, Monhegan Schoolhouse & via Zoom.

PUBLIC HEARING for the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

The regular January School Committee meeting was preceded by a Public Hearing for the Proposed 2024-2025 School Budget to be voted on for approval by the Plantation voters at the Annual Town Meeting in April.

Present at the schoolhouse for the hearing were Chairman Jes Stevens, Lead Teacher Terry Wood and Secretary Daphne Pulsifer. Attending the hearing via Zoom were Business Manager Belinda Waterhouse, Superintendent Tonya Arnold and Treasurer Felicia Dunson.

After a brief discussion of the proposed budget, the hearing ended at 4:50 pm.

JANUARY MONHEGAN SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

The January Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:50 pm.

Present: Chairman Jes Stevens, Lead Teacher Terry Wood and Secretary Daphne Pulsifer.

Present via Zoom: Business Manager Belinda Waterhouse, Superintendent Tonya Arnold and Treasurer Felicia Dunson.

MINUTES

Motion by Jes Stevens to accept the minutes of 12/11/23 & 01/03/24 as read. Second by Felicia Dunson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS agenda item was moved to the end of the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS: none
SUPERINTENDENT'S written **REPORT** was received.

It was noted that the reported hours the Superintendent works exceeds the number of contracted hours. Chairman suggests discussion and long term planning for Superintendent compensation be added as an agenda item at a future committee meeting.

TEACHER'S written **REPORT** was received.

A Poetry Workshop with the students and Ted Scheu happened in December via Zoom. There are plans underway for another workshop with Ted Scheu and TLC in March.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman has ongoing communication with Superintendent Tonya Arnold. The primary focus has been on budget issues.

As of January 9th, all Axiom equipment has been installed in the schoolhouse, the Teacher's House and the LTH. (The LTH does not have a router yet, to avoid any billing issues before a renter is responsible for the monthly expense there.) It is not clear when the Axiom tower will be operational. Consolidated continues to provide internet service. This service is paid for by the Maine School and Libraries Network. It has not yet been confirmed that MSLN will pay for

the Axiom service when the new system is operational. MSLN currently provides a router and maintains firewalls that protect students and internet access at the school.

OLD BUSINESS

1. December Holiday Event Planning - Follow-up: This was a wonderful event. The students all gained something valuable from it. All the staff, Superintendent, School Committee worked to make sure it was successful. Douglas Cornman donated three salmon fillets, cooked to perfection, to the potluck. Treasurer Felicia Dunson reports only \$20 were collected in the envelope at the post office for contributions to pay for main dishes at the potluck.

NEW BUSINESS

1. School Comm. Reflection and Goals 2024-2025 :

In consideration of School School Committee Goals and the Mission of the Monhegan School, there was discussion of ways to involve the community more in the school.

Motion by Jes Stevens to approve The School Committee Goals for 2024-2025. Second by Felicia Dunson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Motion by Jes Stevens to approve REAP Goals for 2024-2025 as written. Second by Felicia Dunson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

3. Motion by Jes Stevens to approve Narrative 2024-25 School Calendar as written. Second by Daphne Pulsifer. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

4. 2024 Schoolhouse Rentals: It was agreed that rentals could be scheduled between June 22 and August 13th, with the possible exception of allowing Monhegan Associates to hold their annual meeting in the schoolhouse on August 16th. Monhegan Associates has traditionally held their annual meeting in the schoolhouse due to space needs and the date as specified in bylaws.

Further discussion about rental rates and how rentals will be managed this summer will be planned for the February committee meeting.

FINANCIAL

1. It is noted that the Committee held Budget Workshop Sessions on 01/03/2024, 01/04/2024 and 01/10/2024. Jes Stevens, Felicia Dunson, Daphne Pulsifer, Tonya Arnold, Terry Wood and Belinda Waterhouse participated in discussion and planning for the 2024-2025 school budget.

Motion by Jes Stevens to approve 2024-2025 Proposed Budget of \$352,165.00. Second by Felicia Dunson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Prep for Plantation Annual Report :

Town meeting date is set for April 6th pending superintendent approval for use of the school at that time. Everything for the annual report must be to Carley Feibusch by March first.

a. We do not have an audit yet, but are moving forward showing \$30,000.00 as carryover in the proposed budget and financial report for the Municipal Report that will be printed for Town Meeting.

b. Superintendent's letter was reviewed.

c. Motion by Jes Stevens to approve warrant articles for the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. Second by Felicia Dunson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Recess from 6:51 pm to 7:01 pm.

3. Belinda Waterhouse spoke with the Auditor today. She will deliver warrant books for the audit on Wednesday. Bank Statements have been sent electronically.
 - a. Financial spreadsheets were reviewed. Line items on the AP Warrant document the transfer of \$80 to the Friends of Monhegan School Account, a donation by Paul Hitchcox.
REAP numbers are up to date.
 - b. Belinda has uploaded financials for DOE Quarterly Requirements.

4. VOTE ON WARRANTS

Motion by Jes Stevens to approve Warrant EDU 07 - PR in the amount of \$9,757.06. Second by Daphne Pulsifer. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion by Jes Stevens to approve Warrant EDU 07 - AP in the amount of \$11,875.02, with \$2,717.64 of those funds paid from the REAP Account, \$80.00 transferred to the Friends of Monhegan School Account, \$353.27 from the Teacher House Account, and \$696.00 transferred to the Teacher House Account. Second by Daphne Pulsifer. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Note: Warrant EDU-06B - December 2022 was paid out in 2022. But review of records show the warrant was not officially approved at that time.

Motion by Jes Stevens to approve Warrant EDU-06B - December 2022. Second by Daphne Pulsifer. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

POLICY

1. Motion by Jes Stevens to approve first read of policy GCBA Teacher Contracts/ Compensation GCBA as reviewed today. Second by Felicia Dunson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
2. Motion by Daphne Pulsifer to adopt the following policies in one reading because these policies are required by law: GBO Family Care Leave, GCI Professional Staff Development Opportunities, GCOA Supervision and Evaluation of Professional Staff, and IKE Promotion, Retention and Acceleration of Students. Second by Jes Stevens. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETINGS

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Mon., February 26, 2024, 4:30 pm, Schoolhouse & Zoom.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Schoolhouse: Felicia has the floor plans with Square footage of floors to be refinished.

2. Teacher House Property:

The TH washing machine is now working properly. Problems with it were associated with particles appearing in the well water after the well had been pumped down to fill a neighbor's cistern. It is noted that the water supply in the well is not adequate for this use.

Motion by Jes Stevens to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion of Use of the Teacher House Property pursuant to M.R.S.A. §405(6)(c). Second by Felicia Dunson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Enter executive session at 8:57 pm.

Leave executive session at 9:10 pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Daphne Pulsifer
Secretary

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81247831308?pwd=SFROb3E5ZHF0dUxadDRkanpFNUQzQT09>

Meeting ID: 812 4783 1308, Passcode: 252588

One tap mobile

*+13017158592,,81247831308#,,, *252588# US (Washington DC)*

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

Back Up Zoom Link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8698799458?pwd=OE9PSXRST3IyYzY5RnZoVE9wUkUxZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 879 9458 Passcode: 7GKS98