
Madawaska School Department

A Valley Unified Education Service Center Administrative Unit
328 St. Thomas Street, Suite 201 - Madawaska, Maine 04756



The **Meeting #7** of the **Madawaska School Committee** for the **2019-2020 school year** was held at **4:00pm on Monday, December 2, 2019** in the **Superintendent's Conference Room**

PLEASE NOTE: The Madawaska Board of Selectmen joined this meeting at 4pm to discuss the items identified below.

Present:

Absent:

Beverly Madore	Ben Sirois
Louis Dugal	Gisele Dionne
Robert Poiesz	Lucie Tabor
Tom Kent	Dianne Castonguay
Tammy Cote	Stacey Cyr
Jenna Guillemette	Lise Pelletier
Elizabeth Dufresne	Wayne Anderson

Gary Picard (Town Manager)
Laurie Gagnon (Town)
Don Chasse (Town)
Dave Morin (Town)
Doug Cyr (Town)

1. Call meeting to Order

Chairperson Bev Madore called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. Moment of Silence.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Town of Madawaska Selectman Chair, Don Chasse, -added an item to the Town's Agenda (for discussion when they return to their chamber down stairs).

Superintendent Ben Sirois stated that there are no adjustments to the School Committee agenda.

3. Madawaska Board of Selectmen Collaborative Meeting

- a. Discussion/update on VUESC

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Superintendent Sirois updated both Boards (School and Town) about the Department of Education's 21-step process for school construction. We are currently on step 6 - site selection and evaluation of *new facility vs renovation* of current facilities study. As Executive Director for Valley Unified, Superintendent Sirois will be bringing the Site Selection Committee's recommendation for the Frenchville site to the VUESC Board at their meeting on December 10th. Thereafter there will be three Public Hearings, one in each School District for a non-binding straw poll vote. Following this, the straw poll results will be brought to the State Board of Education for direction on whether we can continue, or not.

Don Chasse stated that the Town of Madawaska Board of Selectmen is on board to support the Frenchville site. Moved and seconded to sign a proclamation of support. Voted 2-2: tied. The proclamation is tabled until the Board of Selectmen can meet later in their meeting (downstairs) to make the edits as suggested by their board members.

b. Discussion/update on 2019 mil rate and budgets

Town Manager, Gary Picard provided a history of events leading to the Town's agreed-upon abatement for Twin Rivers several years ago, the negotiation process that the Town recently went through to set a valuation for Twin Rivers (binding arbitration), and a recap of how we got to the 3 mil increase facing the citizens of Madawaska. There is a \$76M reduction in valuation assessment to Twin Rivers based on what had been anticipated, resulting in an assessment decrease of an estimated \$1.5M to the Town. They are hoping to get an increase in revenue sharing to help this situation. The Town also provided documents showing the undesignated fund balance, the undesignated fund policy, and stated that they should aim to have at least 90 days of operational funds in the fund balance, but at this time, they will be accessing a TAN (tax anticipation note).

c. Discussion/update on Madawaska Community Gym Agreement

The School Committee and the Town Selectmen agreed to the draft Community Gym Agreement as presented with only minor updates suggested to the original agreement. DRAFT with suggested changes ATTACHED.

Moved by Town Selectmen David Morin, Seconded by Laurie Gagnon, unanimous.

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Moved by School Committee Robert Poiesz, seconded by Tom Kent, unanimous.

TOWN SELECTMEN RECESSED to reconvene in their chamber (downstairs).

4. Period of Public Participation on Items of this Agenda

5. Approval of Minutes

- a. November 4, 2019 Minutes

Moved by: Tammy Cote, seconded by Robert Poiesz. Vote: Unanimous.

6. Approval of Financial Statements

- a. 2018-2019 Audit Reports presented by Tim Poitras, Chester M. Kearney, CPA

Tim Poitras presented the audit report to School Committee Members.

The audit consists of a non-modified opinion and there were no audit adjustments.

- b. Approval of the October 2019 Financials

Moved by Tom Kent and seconded by Tammy Cote. Voted: Unanimous.

7. Superintendent

- a. Correspondence and Announcements-none

- b. MES Roof Update - Assistant Superintendent Gisele Dionne reported on the status of the roof at MES. On October 23, 2019 a large section of the roof “tarmac” (rubber roof) that covers the flat roof over the gymnasium at MES was found flapping in the wind. A new and small leak had been discovered in the gymnasium; Principal Lise Pelletier had asked a custodian to investigate the roof where he found the large section of rubber flapping and rolling in a wave pattern as air flowed underneath. Our insurance adjuster has visited the site and we are waiting for the report on what is covered. Power’s Roofing has temporarily stabilized the rubber roof and has submitted a quote to resurface the entire gym’s roof. The quote is approximately \$47,000. This is the original roof, 26-27 years old and we are strongly urging the insurer to allow replacement for the entire flat roof. The damaged section is $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the rubber roof.

- c. Administrator Reports

Submitted in writing (Paul, Vince, Wayne, Stacey)

Asst-Superintendent reported on a crypto-virus experienced at Madawaska School Department today, Dec. 2, and the reason Technology Coordinator, Vince Vanier, is not present at this meeting. Luckily, MSD had a good backup system and they

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were able to reinstate the backup information. Vince is currently updating and wrapping up the work needed to address this breach.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Facilities Committee - Superintendent Sirois reported on the engineering/architectural facilities report for MMHS. The School Committee's facilities subcommittee met and reviewed the report provided by WBRC, Engineering firm. The Facilities Director, Paul Chasse, has been requested to summarize the information on a priority basis (ex. immediate 1-2yrs, 5yrs, 10yrs, 15yrs) so that a viable action plan to address these issues can be created.

9. Items of Business

Old Business:

- a. Information regarding Annual Evaluation of the Superintendent -
Superintendent Sirois reported to School Committee members that legal counsel indicates that whoever employs the Superintendent is the one who conducts the evaluation of the Superintendent. The current Superintendent is an employee of MSAD 27. Once an evaluation has been conducted, the Superintendent will share the evaluation with the other Districts and the VUESC Boards.
School Committee members requested that the MSAD 27 Board Chair reach out to the MSD Committee and the MSAD 33 School Board and the VUESC Board to get their input as part of the evaluation process and to discuss goals and performance of the Superintendent.
- b. LD 577: Since there are no afterschool programs offered to "all students", all year long, other than athletics, we do not meet the requirements for LD 577.
However, because we qualify due to our Free/Reduced percentage, we need to hold a Public Hearing and explain why we are not participating. (Our current Free/Reduced data indicates that we will not qualify next year.) A Public Hearing will be held at the same time as the next Budget Hearing, late spring 2020.

New Business:

- a. Items for Information:
 - i. Retirements - none
 - ii. Resignations - none

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- iii. Transfers - none
- iv. New Hires
 - Bus Driver/Custodian -
It was moved by Robert Poiesz and seconded by Tammy Cote to hire Mr. Joel Hebert as bus driver/custodian. All in favor.
- v. Current Openings

b. Harvest Break and the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

We now have a common Valley Unified School Calendar. The only difference is the Madawaska Elementary school calendar (starting only in September and students not off during Harvest break). Costs are for fuel and wear/tear on buses, but also for specialized teachers who serve the elementary school during Harvest Break (ex. Music, guidance, G&T, Social Worker, etc.). For example, the music teacher was paid 10 extra days this school year. Families that have students in both schools (middle/high and elementary) have 4 weeks each year that are challenging for child care, family events, vacations, etc. (2 weeks in August and 2 weeks during Harvest Break).

Robert Poiesz requested that this decision be tabled to allow time to gather teacher input (Prek-k,1,2,3). Principal Lise Pelletier will discuss this at her next staff meeting. Louis Dugal requested that a survey be created for parents. Superintendent Sirois will issue two surveys - one to MES staff and one to parents.

- 10. Motion to Adjourn** Adjourned at 5:46pm. Moved by Tom Kent, seconded by Louis Dugal Vote: All in favor.