REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 38 | MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence

Office of the Superintendent · 45 Millard Harrison Drive, Readfield, ME 04355

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 | 6:30 P.M. | MCMS CAFETERIA | ZOOM

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Citizens Comment**
4. **School Board Committees & Assignments**
5. **School Board Goals Setting**
6. **Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent**
7. **Subcommittees/Upcoming Meetings/Minutes**
    - Budget-12/9 @ 6-7:30p.m. - Central Office
    - Curriculum-11/17 @ (Time TBD) - Central Office
    - Facilities & Transportation-9/24 @ 4-5:30p.m. - Central Office
    - Negotiations-10/14 @ 6-8:00 p.m. - MCHS RM 130
    - Policy- 9/30 @ 4-5:30p.m. - Central Office
    - Awesome Bear Society- 10/14 @ 6:30p.m. - HS Media Center
    - Strategic Planning Community Forums- @ 6-7:30 P.M. MCHS Cafeteria
        - Manchester 9/24
        - Mt Vernon 9/30
        - Readfield 10/1
        - Wayne 10/8
8. **Action/Discussion/Informational Items**
    a. **Positions Update**
    b. **Approval of Meeting Minutes September 9, 2026***
    c. **Acceptance of Donations***
    d. **Acceptance of Resignation-Readfield Elementary School Counselor Meg Porter**
9. **Adjournment**

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Office of the Superintendent · 45 Millard Harrison Drive, Readfield, ME 04355
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 | 6:30 P.M. | MCMS CAFETERIA

Board Members:

☑ Wendy Brotherlin	☑ Patricia Clark	☑ Kristin DuBois
☑ Noah Easter	☑ Andrew Gorrill	☑ Jessica Gorton
☐ David Guillemette	☑ Dan Holman	☑ Chip Jones
☑ Leslie Marco	☑ Brian Tarbuck	☑ David Twitchell
☐ Chad Wight	☑ Eva Morrill *(Student)*	☑ Connor Hebert *(Student)*

Administrators/Directors Present:

☑ Jeff Boston	☐ Trudi Cormier	☑ Cal Dorman
☐ Shaun Drinkwater	☐ Jen Hall	☑ Michelle Hood
☑ Greg Hughes	☑ Jeanette Jacobs	☑ Michele LaForge
☑ Michelle Lake	☑ Diane MacGregor	☐ Ryan Meserve
☑ Mike Muir	☑ Jason Sirois	☑ Karen Smith
☑ Steve Vose		

1. Call to Order - 6:33 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Election of Officers
- **a. Nomination(s) of Board Chair**
  - **i.** Marco (Motion: Tarbuck, Second: Twitchell)
  - **ii.** Vote: 11 Yes (Unanimous)
- **b. Nomination(s) of Board Vice Chair**
  - **i.** Jones (Motion Tarbuck, Second Marco)
  - **ii.** Vote: 11 - Yes (Unanimous)
- **c. Nomination(s) of Assembly Delegate**
  - **i.** Easter (Motion: Marco, Second: Tarbuck)
  - **ii.** Vote: 11 - Yes (Unanimous)

4. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent: None

5. Reports/Updates
- **a. Celebrations**
  - **i.** Holman - accepted invitation to serve on the Mt. Vernon Education Options Task-Force
    1. Updated Board on Town (Mt. V. and Wayne) Task Force
  - **ii.** Holman - positive comments on Opening Day presentation given by Dr. Smith to all faculty and staff
  - **iii.** Feedback from students - new cell phone policy has been implemented well; students very accepting

- **b. Reports**

- Student Representatives
- Elementary Principals*
- Middle School Principal*
- High School Principal*
- Health Center Director*
- Superintendent
- Special Education Director*
- Finance Director*

DuBois - highlighted upcoming golf tournament Awesome Bear's Society - flier on pg. 9

- **c. Strategic Planning Community Forums*- All Meetings @ 6-7:30 p.m. MCHS Cafeteria**
  - Manchester-9/24
  - Mount Vernon-9/30
  - Readfield-10/1
  - Wayne-10/8

A flier included in the packet was reviewed, along with the design of the forum process, which has community members attending sessions in their own towns. The Board discussed whether to host meetings in each town or at Maranacook Community High School to increase attendance, including efforts to offer childcare and the reasoning behind a central location; it was also clarified that the

Strategic Plan addresses the entire RSU rather than focusing on the elementary schools. Logistics were reviewed as well — all sessions will be in person, snacks are unlikely, and there will be no formal agenda since the forums will be facilitated discussions. Dr. Smith closed by reviewing the overall process.

d. Subcommittee Upcoming Meetings/Minutes - All Meetings will be held @ Central Office-Dates TBD

i. Budget, Facilities & Transportation (Reviewed and confirmed list in packet)

The Board agreed to consolidate the School Health Leadership Council and the Health Advisory into a single committee, and discussed embedding communication responsibilities within each committee rather than maintaining a standalone communication committee. Members were reminded that all committee meetings are open and that any Board member may attend a meeting they have an interest in; anyone wishing to change their committee assignment should email Amy Therrien. The Board also discussed establishing a visioning committee next year to carry forward implementation of the Strategic Plan.

ii. Negotiations

iii. Policy- Minutes 8/3*

iv. Awesome Bear Society- 9/9 & 10/14 @ 6:30 p.m. HS Media Center

6. Citizens' Comments

i. Sue Spaulding - Wayne Local School Committee

Raised concerns about how the forums are being structured and accessed, and about the consultant's role relative to the Board's direction. She also restated her opposition to closing small elementary schools and asked for greater transparency from the administration going forward.

7. Action/Discussion/Informational Items

a. Approval of Minutes June 10, 2026*

i. Motion: Easter

ii. Second: Gorrill

iii. Vote: 9 Yes 2 Abstain

b. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes August 12, 2026*

i. Motion: P. Clark (as presented and amended)

ii. Second: A. Gorrill

iii. Discussion to add: Gorrill, Easter, Holman, D. Twitchell (remote) to mtg attendance; Tarbuck absent

iv. Vote: 9 Yes 2 Abstain

c. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes August 31, 2026*

i. Motion: Clark

ii. Second: Twitchell

iii. Vote: 7 Yes 4 Abstain

d. Acceptance of Donations*

i. Motion: Easter

ii. Second: Gorrill

iii. Discussion: Appreciation for the honoring of Ron Simons

iv. Vote: 11 Yes (Unanimous)

e. Acceptance of Summer Resignations

Casey Garretson, Middle School Team Teacher
Reid Gagnon, Middle School Team Teacher
Gifted & Talented Teacher, Caroline Karnes
Special Education Teacher, Aaron McClure
Elementary School Nurse, Jennifer Von Deesten
Finance Director, Mandy Fitzgerald

i. Motion: Easter

ii. Second: Gorrill

iii. Vote: 11 Yes (Unanimous)

f. Ratification of Teachers Hired During the Summer

Joey Dupont, Middle School Team Teacher
Tracey Hodge, Middle School Team Teacher
Dustin Haldane, Middle School Team Teacher 1-Year
Caleb Valliere, High School Math Teacher
Heidi Hinckley, MTV/WES School Nurse

i. Motion: Easter

ii. Second: Gorrill

iii. Vote: 11 Yes (Unanimous)

g. Authorize Lease Purchase of Technology*

i. Motion: Easter

ii. Second: Gorrill

iii. Vote: 11 Yes (Unanimous)

h. Authorize Lease Purchase of Bus*

i. Motion: Easter

ii. Second: Gorrill

iii. Vote: 11 Yes (Unanimous)

8. Executive Session: Discussion of a personnel matter regarding the employment, compensation, and benefits of a new employee, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A)

- **a.** Motion: Marco
- **b.** Second: Easter
- **c.** Vote: 11 Yes (Unanimous)

Time: 7:46 pm

Call to order: 8:05 pm

a. Action Following Executive Session:
Move that RSU 38 join the Maine Public Employees Retirement System as a Participating Local District effective October 1, 2026, and specifically:

1. To offer Regular Plan AC to its permanent, full-time Finance Director, who is not covered by the MainePERS Teacher Retirement Program, effective October 1, 2026;
2. To exclude all other school support employees not covered by the MainePERS Teacher Retirement Program — including part-time employees who regularly work 20 hours per week or less, seasonal and temporary employees, and elected officials — from participating in the MainePERS defined benefit plan;
3. To approve the participation of its permanent, full-time Finance Director in MainePERS' Group Life Insurance Program for PLD Employees effective October 1, 2026, to provide Basic, Supplemental and Dependent life insurance coverage pursuant to Title 5, Part 20, Chapter 425, Subchapter 6 and MainePERS Rule Chapter 601, and subject to the terms, provisions and conditions of MainePERS' Group Life Insurance policy, with participating employees responsible for all premiums for basic, supplemental and/or dependent coverage; and
4. To authorize Karen G. Smith, Superintendent of Schools, to sign the defined benefit and group life insurance plan agreement between RSU #38 and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

10. Adjournment

1. Motion: Easter
2. Second: Gorrill
3. Vote: 11 Yes (Unanimous)

Time: 8:09 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Karen G. Smith, Superintendent; Recorded by Michelle Lake, Assistant Superintendent

Leslie Marco RSU 38 Board Chair

INTERIM BOARD CHAIR
LESLIE MARCO

WENDY BROTHERLIN
PATRICIA CLARK
KRISTIN DUBOIS
NOAH EASTER
ANDREW GORRILL

RSU 38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

BOARD VICE CHAIR
CHIP JONES

JESSICA GORTON
DAVID GUILLEMETTE
DANIEL HOLMAN
BRIAN TARBUCK
DAVID TWITCHELL
CHAD WIGHT

DONATIONS

(Received through 9/18/26)

DONOR NAME	AMOUNT	RECPIENT	NOTES
Rich & Sue Liberatore	$100	Maranacook Area Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
John & Mary Curtis	$100	Maranacook Area Food Pantry	In Memory of Ronald Simons
Kimberly Moulton	$81	Maranacook Area Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Gloria Ladd	$200	Maranacook Area Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Jean Kustura	$50	Maranacook Area Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Barb & Rich Rothe	$100	Maranacook Area Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Maranacook Education Foundation	$1000	Maranacook Area Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Wanda Shorty	$100	Maranacook Area Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Deborah Staples	$50	Maranacook Area Food Pantry	