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 9, 2026 | 6:30 P.M. | MCMS CAFETERIA | ZOOM

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Election of Officers**
   a. **Nomination(s) of Board Chair**
   b. **Nomination(s) of Board Vice Chair**
   c. **Nomination(s) of Assembly Delegate**
4. **Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent**
5. **Reports/Updates**
   a. **Celebrations**
   b. **Reports**
   - Student Representatives
   - Elementary Principals*
   - Middle School Principal*
   - High School Principal*
   - Health Center Director*
   - Special Education Director*
   - Finance Director*

   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

   d. **Subcommittee Upcoming Meetings/Minutes - All Meetings will be held @ Central Office-Dates TBD**
   - Budget, Facilities & Transportation, Negotiations
   - Policy- Minutes 8/3*
   - Awesome Bear Society- 9/9 & 10/14 @ 6:30p.m. HS Media Center
6. **Citizens' Comments**
7. **Action/Discussion/Informational Items**
   a. **Approval of Minutes June 10, 2026***
   b. **Approval of Special Meeting Minutes August 12, 2026***
   c. **Approval of Special Meeting Minutes August 31, 2026***
   d. **Acceptance of Donations***
   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

   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
   - Caleb Valliere, High School Math Teacher
   - Heidi Hinckley, MTV/WES School Nurse

   g. **Authorize Lease Purchase of Technology ***
   h. **Authorize Lease Purchase of Bus***
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. **Action Following Executive Session (if any)**
9. **Adjournment**

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Elementary Principals' Report
September 9, 2026
Michelle Hood (MES)
Jeanette Jacobs (MtVES/WES)
Jeff Boston (RES)

	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
MES	15	18	13	12/12	10/11	13/12	13/14	143
RES	15/11	11/12	14	11/11	16/16	12/13	12/12	166
MTV	6 Attending RES	7	11	13	11	13	16	71
WES	7 Attending RES	5	11	9	13	6	8	52

Welcome back to school! The elementary schools opened their doors to excited students eager to get back and teachers enthusiastically greeting them on Monday, August 31st! Custodians at all schools have worked extremely hard all summer, cleaning and making repairs. Floors are gleaming and the schools are clean and attractive! Secretaries have been busy preparing handbooks, registering new students, and organizing school forms to provide to parents.

As elementary principals, we are working in a collaborative manner to provide consistency among the schools as well as honoring the different cultures with our staff. School schedules have been developed to maximize time for teaching and learning as well as the optimal use of our resources.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new faculty and staff to our elementary schools:

MES - Catherine Boston(Resource Room Ed. Tech), We also had Tuesdae Masse, Michelle Bickerman and Andrew Gordon move to MES from MTVES. Doug Blay moved to MES from RES. We currently have our Special Education Teacher position open.
RES - Carrie Knight is the elementary library Ed. Tech and Chasity Morey is moving from the Readiness Skills Program to PreK as the Ed. Tech. We currently have two positions we are trying to fill: school counselor/social worker and part-time GT teacher shared between RES and MCMS.
WES - Heidi Hinckley (School Nurse for MTVES and WES), Meg Porter (Guidance part-time joined us from RES)
MtVES - Becky Vining (Guidance part-time joined us from MES), Heather Chalmers moved

from WES to MTVES (3rd Grade), Jamye Winter (4th Grade); WES and MTVES have one open position for a student support specialist.

Meet and Greets: All four elementary schools hosted 'Meet and Greets' on August 26th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm to welcome students and families back into their schools and classrooms. We also had tech support on hand at each school to help parents fill out back to school forms. We were excited to see so many familiar smiling faces and welcomed new students as well!

Elementary Staff Professional Development: August 25–27

Our elementary staff spent three days together preparing for the year ahead. **Tuesday, August 25 and Wednesday, August 26** were focused on getting ready for students. Staff at each school set up their classrooms and prepared for our Meet and Greet — arranging learning spaces, organizing materials, and making sure every room was ready to welcome children back. **Thursday, August 27** turned to instruction and student support. Staff dug into MTSS, building shared understanding of how we identify student needs and deliver intervention at each tier, and into BARR, our framework for making sure every student is known and connected to a caring adult. Teams also spent time on curriculum mapping, aligning pacing and priority standards across grade levels so our instruction is coherent from one year to the next.

Thank you to everyone who made these days both productive and genuinely fun. Our buildings look wonderful, and our students walked into classrooms that were ready for them.

26-27 Elementary Initiatives and Programs:
As we begin this new academic year, we would like to highlight some key initiatives and programs we'll be focusing on:

- **MTSS:** Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a proactive, data-driven framework for making sure every student gets the right level of support at the right time — academically, behaviorally, and social-emotionally. It's a set of systems and structures we have built, tested, and refined over time. This year we continue to strengthen our screening and data practices, clarify entry and exit criteria for interventions, protect and improve our team meeting structures, and make sure Tier 1 instruction stays the foundation everything else rests on.
- **Attendance**: Our elementary schools have seen real success with their attendance initiatives, reducing chronic absenteeism through proactive family outreach, consistent data monitoring, and building-level teams that made attendance a shared priority. Moving forward, we'll continue to refine this work within our MTSS framework — using universal strategies to build a strong culture of attendance, targeted supports for students showing early warning signs, and intensive intervention for families facing the greatest barriers. The same structures that support our academic and behavioral work will help us stay consistent, timely, and coordinated across buildings.
- **BARR Implementation** (Year 3 for MES and RES, Year 2 for MTVES): We're thrilled to continue the Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) model this year. This

evidence-based approach will help us better support our students' academic, social, and emotional needs while strengthening our school community.

- **WIN (What I Need):** This year, we're continuing to refine and expand the use of our dedicated WIN time to provide targeted support for each student's individual growth needs. This flexible intervention period allows us to address specific areas for improvement and challenge students at their instructional level.

Maranacook Community Middle School Board Report
September 2, 2026

Opening of School Training

We had an amazing week of professional learning, starting on August 24 with New Teacher Orientation followed by New Advisor Orientation. The entire staff returned on Tuesday, August 25, meeting at the high school for our District gathering, followed by working back in the middle school for Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday, working in classrooms, meeting as teams, learning about what's new this year, and focusing on our priorities for the year. On Thursday, we joined the high school at Camp Androscoggin for advisee training with Jenn Stanchfield.

Teachers New to the Middle School

Greg Hughes - Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Holly Daigle - Literacy Specialist
Dustin Haldane - Acadia Team Teacher
Tracy Hodge - Moose Team Teacher
Christina Spila - Royal Team Teacher

6th Grade Orientation

Our staff welcomed 6th graders to the building on Monday, August 31, for a day filled with getting to know their advisors and other students in their advisee groups, their team teachers, and all about the school. The 6th graders had perfect attendance! And the cafeteria staff commented on how polite they were (one even stuck his head in the kitchen and thanked them for making lunch!), how well they cleaned up after themselves, and how they all knew their lunch numbers!

Current Enrollment:

- 6th Grade - 94
- 7th Grade - 103
- 8th Grade - 91
- Total - 288

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Muir
Principal




I cannot thank our Custodial Team enough for their professionalism in preparing our buildings for school this year. Here you can see Mary B. cleaning even the highest windows, and the ramp floor has been updated, among other outstanding work. Thank you!

September 1, 2026

Dear Maranacook Community School Board,

Thank you supporting us through another school year. For our report this month, we are sharing much of the information our students received for your information and grounding.

Enrollment as of 9/1/26 is as follows:
9th grade: 104
10th grade: 92
11th grade: 96
12th grade: 92
Total: 384

Start of school information

School starts on Monday, August 31, 2026 for all 9th and 12th graders. For the 9th graders, this is the first day of high school, high school classes, and joining the high school community. For 12th graders, this is the first day of their Senior year and one in which they step up into a leadership role in the school community. All 9th and 12th grade students are required to attend and we had 99% attendance last year. I am looking forward to it!

UPDATE!



August 31, 2026
You are amazing! 100% attendance for our new fabulous 9th graders, and very, VERY close to 100% attendance for our fabulous 12th graders. Here is the first photo of the school year from this morning. I hope you are having a Monday that is as wonderful as ours is.
Michele and Cal

Tuesday September 1st is the first required day of school for ALL students at MCHS.
CATC has a new Director, Chad Bell, and CATC begins today Tuesday September 1.

A new year.
As always, during the first week of school at MCHS, Cal and I will be meeting with each grade individually to touch base around the new year. Each school year is special. Here are some things to know:

- Advisory. At the beginning of every year, Advisors have a full day of training and this year our focus is on supporting time-management, study skills, and groupwork within our Advisory system. Our Fall 2026 Advisory Day Out is Thursday, October 8th.

- Open House September 10th from 5:30 - 6:30 pm at Maranacook Community High School. We have had great participation in recent years and we hope to see you there! Students are always welcome at Open House.

5:30 - 6:05 pm Open House	6:10 - 6:30 pm Grade level meetings
Teachers and Staff in classrooms and school offices and spaces. Students will be available to help navigate and tour the building and you are welcome to stop by and meet our school faculty and staff.	12th grade: Performing Arts Center 11th grade: Student Center/Cafeteria 10th grade: Media Center 9th grade: Gym

- Fall Sports Season Is underway. Look out this year for updates from AD Trudi Cormier on what events are happening. I also post those updates.
- New staff. We have only one new staff member this year. With Trudi Cormier stepping into the role of Athletic Director, we interviewed and hired for a new math teacher. Caleb Valliere will be joining us this year in this role.
- School Photos will be taken on September 15th with a retake date of October 16th.
- Transportation schedules are best found on the BusRight app. If you need assistance getting this up and running, please contact us at 685-4923.

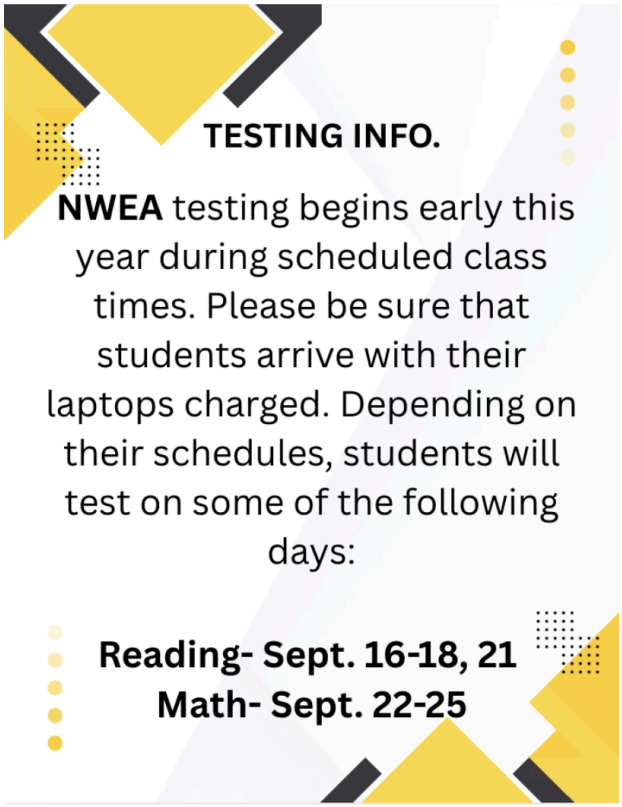
Cell-Phone-Free MCHS 2026-27 info here

Finally, we will be a student cell phone free school this year, along with all public Maine schools per the new law passed by the legislature. Here is all the information from the Maine DOE and legislature on this new law, but I suspect what you really want to know is how MCHS will be implementing this new law. Here is the digital guidesheet for this year. I have included it at the end of this email as well, and I am attaching it. The general guidelines for implementation were developed this summer by our district Administrative Team and specific implementation plans were developed by our school Administrative Team and our school Leadership time of teachers. I am glad to answer any questions you may have after reading.

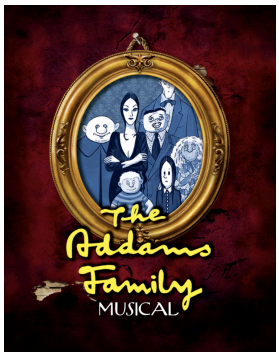
<u>On the first days of school, here's what we'll do:</u>

- For the first day 9th and 12th graders 8/31/26:
    - 9th graders go straight to the Cafeteria to meet by advisory, get their locker numbers, and put their phones in the cell phone cabinet by number.
    - 12th graders go straight to the Gym to meet by advisory, get their locker numbers, and put their phones in the cell phone cabinet by number.
- For the first day 10th and 11th graders 9/1/26
    - 10th graders go straight to the Cafeteria to meet by advisory, get their locker numbers, and put their phones in the cell phone cabinet by number.
    - 11th graders go straight to the Gym to meet by advisory, get their locker numbers, and put their phones in the cell phone cabinet by number.
    - 9th and 12th graders put their phones in the cabinets when they arrive.

FALL 2026 9th and 10th grade NWEA testing



2026 Fall Musical Audition information (*The Addams Family*)



Auditions for the MCHS Fall Musical production of "The Addams Family" will be happening on Wednesday, September 2nd (Mandatory Workshop), Thursday, September 3rd (Auditions Day 1), and Friday, September 4th (Auditions Day 2).

The Fall Musical does not cut any students, so all who show up for auditions will be guaranteed a place in the show, regardless of ability. Mr. Gilbert is also willing to work with students who are unable to attend audition dates due to unavoidable conflicts, so please reach out to him if you have any questions or concerns! Students interested in auditioning for the Fall Musical can find the audition packs outside of the PAC, Front Office, using this link, or by contacting Mr. Gilbert directly at dan_gilbert@maranacook.com.

Awesome Bear Society Golf Tournament!



50 years of Maranacook

We are celebrating 50 years of Maranacook Community Schools, founded in 1976. We will be celebrating this milestone and our special community all year long. More information to come, but for now, please notice the banners out in front of every district school and know that all alumni are invited to graduation on Sunday, June 13, 2027 at the Augusta Civic Center.



Monday (8/31)
No Events

Tuesday (9/1)
- Volleyball vs. Brunswick (Scrimmage) JV 4:00 PM & Varsity 5:30 PM

Wednesday (9/2)
- Golf vs. Madison 3:30 PM (Dismissal @ 2:00 PM)
- Field Hockey vs. Foxcroft Varsity 6:00 PM & JV 7:30 PM
- Theater Mandatory Workshop 2:30-5:00 PM

Thursday (9/3)
- Cross Country vs. Hall Dale, Spruce, Lisbon, Winthrop, Monmouth, Boothbay/Wiscasset 4:00 PM - ⭐Senior Race⭐
- Volleyball vs. Nokomis JV 4:00 PM & Varsity 5:30 PM
- Golf vs. Dirigo @ Oakdale Country Club 3:30 PM (1:15 Dismissal)
- Theater Auditions Day 1 2:30-5:00 PM

Friday (9/4)
- Girls Soccer vs. Spruce Mountain JV 4:00 PM & Varsity 6:00 PM (Field 3)
- Theater Auditions Day 2 2:30-5:00 PM

Saturday (9/5)
- Boys Soccer vs. Richmond Varsity 11:00 AM & JV 12:30 PM (Field 3)
- Football vs. Traip Academy @ Shapleigh Field 1:00 PM (Bus @ 9:30 AM)

Best Regards,

Michele LaForge, Principal
Cal Dorman, Assistant Principal

Getting ready for 2026-27 (MS and HS Staff, and our fabulous Ateam!)









A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO 38

WARRANT ARTICLE RECONCILIATION
2026-2027
September 9, 2026

Account Number / Description	Approved Budget 7/1/2026 - 6/30/2027	Revised Budget 7/1/2026 - 6/30/2027	Expended 7/1/2026 - 8/31/2026	Encumbered 7/1/2026 - 8/31/2026	Amount Remaining 7/1/2026 - 8/31/2026	Percent Remaining 7/1/2026 - 8/31/2026
ARTICLE 2 REGULAR INSTRUCTION	**$9,442,964.91**	**$9,442,964.91**	**$1,284,815.54**	**$47,440.16**	**$8,110,709.21**	**85.89%**
ARTICLE 3 SPECIAL EDUCATION	**$3,802,010.57**	**$3,802,010.57**	**$389,694.63**	**$0.00**	**$3,412,315.94**	**89.75%**
ARTICLE 4 CTE INSTRUCTION	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	
ARTICLE 5 OTHER INSTRUCTION	**$658,562.65**	**$658,562.65**	**$88,834.45**	**$1,098.73**	**$568,629.47**	**86.34%**
ARTICLE 6 STUDENT & STAFF SUPP	**$2,479,733.97**	**$2,479,733.97**	**$289,640.49**	**$13,440.93**	**$2,176,652.55**	**87.78%**
ARTICLE 7 SYSTEM ADMIN	**$847,865.51**	**$847,365.51**	**$165,090.85**	**$12,847.37**	**$669,427.29**	**79.00%**
ARTICLE 8 SCHOOL ADMIN	**$1,440,086.30**	**$1,440,086.30**	**$223,722.68**	**$3,180.56**	**$1,213,183.06**	**84.24%**
ARTICLE 9 TRANSPORTATION	**$1,340,162.15**	**$1,340,162.15**	**$123,488.34**	**$40,152.04**	**$1,176,521.77**	**87.79%**
ARTICLE 10 OPER/MAINT OF PLANT	**$4,031,360.60**	**$4,031,360.60**	**$509,783.91**	**$577,642.37**	**$2,943,934.32**	**73.03%**
ARTICLE 11 DEBT SERVICE PYMNTS	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	
ARTICLE 12 ALL OTHER EXP	**$114,337.20**	**$114,337.20**	**$801.35**	**$0.00**	**$113,535.85**	**99.30%**
GRAND TOTAL	**$24,157,083.86**	**$24,156,583.86**	**$3,075,872.24**	**$695,802.16**	**$20,384,909.46**	**84.39%**

As of today's date we are optimistic that the overall budget for Regional School Unit No. 38 remains sound as budgeted for fiscal year 2026-2027.
Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions through email at mandy_fitzgerald@maranacook.com or telephone 207-685-3336 x.1210

SBHC Board report - 9/9/26
Submitted by Sarah Morrill, RN BSN, Health Center Director

Since we have only been open for a few days this school year, I will share some information about the SBHC in lieu of a regular report.

The Maranacook School Based Health Center (SBHC) was founded in 1992 through the efforts of school staff and with broad community support. Our mission is to make quality health care services accessible to all students in the Middle and High School by bringing healthcare providers to the school during the school day, and minimizing financial barriers to care. The SBHC reduces the burden on parents, and decreases time away from school for medical and mental health appointments. Parents can opt-in their students to SBHC expanded services, in addition to the school nurse services available to everyone. We have a medical provider through MaineGeneral, behavioral health counselors through Kennebec Behavioral Health, and a partnership with Maine Family Planning for provider services, supplies and training. Providers are employed by the partner organizations, and operate under the Medical Directorship of Carol Mansfield, MD. The Maranacook SBHC is partially funded through a grant from the State, with additional funding provided by RSU 38 and a small grant from Maine Family Planning.

Last school year we had 326 students enrolled in expanded services between the middle and high schools. We did a total of 161 medical visits last year, and 760 behavioral health visits at school.

The SBHC has a great team this year. Anya Davidson is RN at the High School. Jenn Kelliher is the RN at the Middle School. Our incredible team of administrative support includes Tricia Dunton, Vanessa Freeman, and Val Simmons. We welcome any board members to visit the SBHC and take a quick tour.

- SBHC Medical Director Carol Mansfield MD from Winthrop Pediatrics sees students at school every Wednesday from 8-noon.
- Our SBHC medical provider is Mary Wright FNP-BC, from the MaineGeneral FMI/Dartmouth Clinic. She is at school on Fridays from 8-noon.
- Our KBH Behavioral Health counselors are Zoe Thomas and Laura Wheeler, who cover both Middle and High Schools daily to see students enrolled in that service.

Thank you again for your time and dedication to the success of the Maranacook schools! Please reach out with any questions to sarah_morrill@maranacook.com or x1019 at the High School.

MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS RSU 38

A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence

Superintendent's Office
Dr. Karen G. Smith
Superintendent of Schools

Michelle Lake
Assistant Superintendent
McKinney-Vento Liaison

Amy Therrien
Administrative Assistant

Christina Michaud
Human Resources Specialist

Finance Department
Mandy Fitzgerald
Director of Finance

Sherri Ouellette
Payroll Specialist

Dawne Townsend
Accounts Payable Specialist

Special Education Office
Ryan Meserve
Special Education Director

Nicole Fyfe
Administrative Assistant

45 Millard Harrison Drive
Readifeld, ME 04355
www.maranacook.org
Tel. 207-685-3336
Fax. 207-685-4703

September Board Report

Dear RSU #38 School Board:

The start of the school year is here and there are many things in motion that are exciting and positive for the Maranacook Area Schools Special Education Department. Amy Chaplin, our new Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator, is busy at work coordinating with staff, families and community providers as we transition to being responsible for pre-k/4 year-old programming. Our pre-k teachers and Amy have already consulted to prepare for the incoming students and plans are well in place to support their transition to our schools.

We are still actively searching for a resource room teacher at Manchester Elementary School to replace Amy's position and also a teacher at our Middle School Specialized program. In addition we do have some vacant Educational Technician positions in various buildings K-8. Luckily we have many layers of support to ensure those open positions are well supported and students continue to get their services and needs as we look to find the best candidates possible.

The staff across the district appears energized and excited to start and it is great to have students, staff and programming beginning again after a nice relaxing summer break.

Sincerely,

Ryan Meserve

RSU 38 MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Community Forums

RSU #38 invites all families, staff, and community members to attend a Maranacook Area Schools Strategic Planning community forum.

Please plan to attend the date assigned to your town, listed below.
If you have any questions, please contact the Superintendent's Office.

FORUMS SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 24 — THURSDAY — Manchester

SEPTEMBER 30 — WEDNESDAY — Mount Vernon

OCTOBER 1 — THURSDAY — Readfield

OCTOBER 8 — THURSDAY — Wayne

LOCATION

Maranacook Community High School Cafeteria



TIME

6:00–7:30 PM

WHY ATTEND

01 SHARE YOUR VOICE

Tell us what matters most for our schools — what is working well, what needs attention, and what you want in place for students in the years ahead. Every resident of our four towns is welcome, whether or not you have children in school.

02 HOW YOUR INPUT WILL BE USED

NESDEC gathers the input from all four forums, along with staff and student sessions, and identifies the common themes. Those themes shape the goals and priorities of the strategic plan presented to the School Board in March 2027.

NESDEC
New England School Development Council

RSU 38 MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS
45 MILLARD HARRISON DRIVE
READFIELD, ME 04355

RSU 38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

WENDY BROTHERLIN
PATRICIA CLARK
KRISTIN DUBOIS
NOAH EASTER
ANDREW GORRILL
DAVID GUILLEMETTE

DANIEL HOLAMN
CHIP JONES
LESLIE MARCO
BRIAN TARBUCK
DAVID TWITCHELL
CHAD WIGHT

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 3, 2026
2:00-3:00 p.m at Central Office

Board Members: Wendy Brotherlin, Daniel Holman, Leslie Marco

Administrators: Superintendent Dr. Karen G. Smith, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Lake

1. KF-R Facilities Use Procedures

Background. The Committee reviewed Policy KF (Use of School Facilities), which the Board approved on February 4, 2026. The revised policy opens with a facilities use philosophy statement affirming that district facilities exist primarily to support the educational mission, and that community use is welcome where it serves RSU 38 students and families, aligns with the district's mission, and does not displace school activities. It establishes seven priority categories for facility use, ranging from RSU 38 educational programs and sanctioned activities at Priority 1 through non-resident and for-profit users at Priority 7, and gives the Administration sole discretion to assign a category to each request. The policy also sets the conditions of use, including prohibited conduct, hours of use, kitchen approval, insurance and hold-harmless requirements, oversight and security, and staff personal use of facilities. Adoption of the policy left the accompanying administrative procedures and forms to be developed.

Review of the KF-R procedures. Superintendent Smith reviewed the draft KF-R administrative procedures with the Committee, walking through the application process, priority categories, fee schedule, insurance and liability requirements, supervision and oversight, kitchen use, programs involving direct student interaction, collaborative community partnerships, rules for facility users, cancellation and revocation, and staff use of facilities. The Superintendent noted that the procedures consolidate the district's former set of five separate forms into three: an Agreement to Indemnify and Hold Harmless, the Rules Relating to Rental of Facilities, and a Contract for Rental or Use of School Facilities.

Online submission and process efficiency. The Superintendent shared that all requests for facility use will be submitted through an online Facilities Use Request form posted on the district website. No account or software is required, and the form may be completed on a computer, tablet, or phone. The Superintendent explained that moving the request to the website improves the efficiency of the entire process. Requests arrive complete because the form collects applicant and organization information, the spaces and equipment requested, dates and times, the nature of the activity and expected attendance, food service and vendor details, and insurance information in a single submission, which reduces the back-and-forth that previously followed an incomplete paper application. Requests are then routed electronically to the building principal and to each administrator and director whose sign-off is required, rather than circulating on paper, so scheduling conflicts and staffing needs are identified before an event is confirmed. Applicants receive an emailed copy of their responses upon submission and are notified of approval or denial within seven business days. The district maintains a single record of all requests, approvals, and conditions. Kitchen and cafeteria requests are handled within the same form, eliminating the separate food service request form previously required.

Proposed update to Policy KF. The Superintendent advised the Committee that Policy KF will require a corresponding update before the procedures are finalized. Because the referenced forms have been consolidated and renumbered. Note: proposed changes are **not substantive**: they only correct references and make no changes to the philosophy statement, the priority categories, the conditions of use, or any obligation on a facility user. The Committee discussed that, while the changes are technical in nature, an amendment to an adopted policy still requires Board approval, and the update will be brought forward for the Board's consideration alongside the KF-R procedures.

Next steps. Superintendent will finalize the KF-R procedures and forms and prepare the housekeeping amendment to Policy KF for presentation to the full Board.

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
JUNE 10, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting

Board Members: ☑ Chair, Shawn Roderick, ☑ Vice Chair, Leslie Marco

☑ Wendy Brotherlin ☑ Dan Holman ☑ Patricia Clark ☑ David Twitchell (online)
☐ Kristin Dubois ☑ Noah Easter ☑ Chad Wight ☑ Andrew Gorrill
☑ David Guillemette ☑ Brian Tarbuck
☑ Chip Jones

Student Representatives ☐ Kate Parker ☐ Luke Tinckham

Administrators/Directors Present: Superintendent Karen Smith; Finance Director Mandy Fitzgerald; Special Education Director Ryan Meserve; Principals Michele LaForge, Mike Muir, Michelle Hood; Assistant Principal Cal Dorman; Technology Director Diane MacGregor; Transportation Director Jason Sirois

1. Call to order: 6:30 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Recognition of Retiring Staff Members 2026:

- Nancy Belanger, Assistant Cook, 20 years
- Deborah Elwell, Pre-K Educational Technician, 11 years
- Kathleen Farrin, Middle School Literacy Interventionist, 10 years
- Abigail Hartford, Manchester Elementary Principal, 8 years
- Joyce Norwood, Administrative Assistant, 26 years
- Sherri Pelletier, Middle School Teacher, 26 Years
- Penny Weibel, Assistant Cook, 16 years
- Tara Wicks, School Counselor, 21 years
- Jeffrey Tracy, Technology Support Technician, 12 years

4. Citizens' Comment:

- Colin Baeder (Mt. Vernon) — Argued the strategic planning committee should have equal representation from all four towns rather than proportional-by-population, since Wayne and Mount Vernon are smaller and have the most to lose given past signaling toward school closure. Cited the 2009 Reorganization Plan on local communities remaining stewards of their schools and said their voices must not be diluted by design.
- Deb Baeder (Mt. Vernon) — Asked whether the question of how many elementary schools the district should operate, referenced in the March *Building Stronger Together* document, will, in fact, be included in the upcoming strategic planning process.

5. Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by the Board and/or Superintendent:

- Superintendent requested to add — **7i.** Consideration of Out-Of-Country Field Trip to France, Italy, and Spain-April 2028

6. Reports/Updates:

a. Administrative Reports: No comments
b. Reminder: Awesome Bear Society Meeting - 6/10 @ 6:30 pm MCHS Media

7. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:

a. Move to approve the minutes from the June 3rd, 2026 school board business meeting.
- **Motion:** DG **Second:** WB **Yes:** 11 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 1 (absent 6.3.26); **Passes**

b. Move to accept the donation through June 5th, 2026, as presented.
The Chair acknowledged with thanks a $200 donation from Martha and John Peller to the food cupboard.
- **Motion:** PC **Second:** NE **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

c. Authorize Superintendent to file the proper and necessary application forms to participate in any and all selected federal programs for RSU #38 for the 2026-2027 school year. So moved.
- **Motion:** NE **Second:** WB **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

d. Authorize Superintendent to hire and accept resignations during the summer, in consultation with the Chair. So moved.
- **Motion:** NE **Second:** BT **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
JUNE 10, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

e. Move to approve the second reading for policy EEA drug and alcohol testing of school bus drivers administrative procedure and the second reading of policy BEDH public participation at board meetings.
- **Motion:** NE **Second:** PC **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

f. Move to accept the resignation of student service director Brent Remington.
- **Motion:** NE **Second:** CW **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

A request was made for email notification of summer hires and resignations. A question was raised about exit interviews for retiring staff

g. Move to accept the computation and declaration of votes as presented.
- **Motion:** NE **Second:** CW **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

h. Move to approve that the warrant for assessment of tax and the assessment schedule and notice of installments for each member municipality prepared by the treasurer for fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30th, 2027 be approved and be issued in form presented to this meeting and that the treasurer be authorized and directed to deliver to each member municipality its warrant for assessment of tax and its assessment schedule and notice of installment
- **Motion:** NE **Second:** BT **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

i. Move to approve the out-of-country field trip to France, Italy, and Spain on April 13, 2028.
- **Motion:** PC **Second:** NE **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

Announcement — Board Chair. Chair Sean Roderick announced that he is stepping down from the RSU 38 Board of Directors and that this would be his final meeting, concluding twelve years of service. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve. Under Board rules, Vice Chair Leslie Marco will serve as acting chair through the summer, with the election of a new chair to occur at the start of the 2026-27 school year. The Town of Readfield will appoint a member to fill the vacant seat for the remaining year of the term.

8. Executive session pursuant to confidential student matter: readmission following expulsion, 1 MRSA 405(6)(B). So moved.
- **Motion:** NE **Second:** CW **Yes:** 12 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

Time: 7:00 pm

Call to order: 7:31 pm

- Move to approve the readmission of student pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6)[B], effective for the 2026-27 school year, subject to compliance with all conditions set forth in the readmission agreement and district policy.
- **Motion:** NE **Second:** BT **Yes:** 11 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

9. Executive session pursuant to individual personnel matters, principal evaluations, 1 MRSA 405(6)(A). So moved.
- **Motion:** NE **Second:** BT **Yes:** 11 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

Time: 7:32 pm

Call to order: 8:31 pm
- Move to accept the evaluations and recommendations for the administrators as presented by the superintendent.
- **Motion:** NE **Second:** PC **Yes:** 11 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

10. Adjournment: 8: 33 pm **Motion:** BT

Any citizen who wishes to add an item to the agenda may do so by notifying the Board Chair or the Superintendent's Office, in writing, ten days before the Board's next scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Karen G. Smith, Superintendent

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
AUGUST 12, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting

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	☐ *Student*	☐ *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		

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1. Call to order: 6:30 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Local School Committees: Peter Felmly, Drummond Woodsum
- An examination of the legal responsibilities pertaining to the district's local school committees

4. Strategic Planning Update: Superintendent Smith
- Superintendent Smith provided a summary of the Strategic Planning initiative, noting NESDEC's appointment as consultant. The timeline encompasses data acquisition, focus group sessions, public forums, and visioning exercises, ultimately establishing strategic goals, actions, and performance metrics.
- Engagement will involve the District Leadership, Community Planning Committee, residents, and school personnel. NESDEC is tasked with evaluating metrics to produce a summary that will inform the joint development of a draft plan. Regular progress reports and feedback loops will be provided to the Board.
- A study regarding Facilities Use is currently occurring in conjunction with the strategic process.

5. Board Meeting Calendar & Subcommittee Membership:
- A review of the upcoming meeting schedule and subcommittee configurations was conducted. It was noted that the Communication Committee has been suspended for the current year to accommodate the Strategic Planning initiative. Subcommittees are slated to convene on a bi-weekly rotation.
- Directors wishing to participate in specific subcommittees should submit their preferences via email to Amy T. by the conclusion of the upcoming week. Finalization of these appointments will occur during the **September 9, 2026 Board meeting**.

6. Action Item: Policy JICJ: Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices in School
- A deliberation was held on the newly proposed personal electronic device guidelines, highlighting core tenets, student benefits, and accommodations for diverse learning needs. The discourse further addressed logistical execution, disciplinary protocols, and the handling of confiscated hardware. Administrative leaders are charged with disseminating this information to the community, ensuring alignment with Maine statutory mandates.

7. Citizens' Comments:
- No citizens offered comments.

8. Action/Discussion/Informational Items:
- Move to approve policy JJ, cell phones and other personal electronic devices in school as presented by the policy committee.
  - **Motion:** NE **Second:** PC **Yes:** 11 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

9. Adjournment: 7:26 pm **Motion:** NE

Any citizen who wishes to add an item to the agenda may do so by notifying the Board Chair or the Superintendent's Office, in writing, ten days before the Board's next scheduled meeting.

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

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
AUGUST 31, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting

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	☐ *Student*	☐ *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		

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1. **Call to order:** 5:30 pm

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. Executive session pursuant to confidential student matter: readmission following expulsion, 1 MRSA 405(6)(B). So moved.
   - **Motion:** CJ **Second:** PC **Yes:** 8 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

Time: 5:32 pm

Call to order: 6:33 pm

- Move to approve the readmission of student pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6)[B], effective for the 2026-27 school year, subject to compliance with all conditions set forth in the readmission agreement and district policy.
- **Motion:** DG **Second:** BT **Yes:** 8 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0; **Passes**

4. **Adjournment: 8: 33** pm **Motion:** BT

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Karen G. Smith, Superintendent

INTERIM BOARD CHAIR
LESLIE MARCO

WENDY BROTHERLIN
PATRICIA CLARK
KRISTIN DUBOIS
NOAH EASTER
ANDREW GORRILL
JESSICA GORTON

RSU 38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS



BOARD VICE CHAIR
LESLIE MARCO

DAVID GUILLEMETTE
DANIEL HOLMAN
CHIP JONES
BRIAN TARBUCK
DAVID TWITCHELL
CHAD WIGHT

DONATIONS

(Received through 9/4/26)

DONOR NAME	AMOUNT	RECPIENT	NOTES
Jonathan Leahy	$250	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ronald Simons
Monnish Swaim	$10	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Melissa Maerz	$25	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Nancy Perkins	$450	Maranacook Food Pantry	Donation for the months of July, August, and September
Stephanie Morris	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Clark Breen	$25	Maranacook Food Pantry	In honor of Mr. Simons
Marjorie Eno	$50	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Allen Ford & Carol Hersey	$50	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Wolman Wealth Management	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ronald Simons
Jaclyn Tohn	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Christopher Reinacher	$25	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Jeff & Mary Ellen Tracy	$75	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Lewis Morton	$55	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Toni Day	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Cheyenne Lee	$25	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Town of Manchester	$1500	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Town of Readfield	$1500	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Meaghan DiSciorio	$25	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons

INTERIM BOARD CHAIR
LESLIE MARCO

WENDY BROTHERLIN
PATRICIA CLARK
KRISTIN DUBOIS
NOAH EASTER
ANDREW GORRILL
JESSICA GORTON

RSU 38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

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DANIEL HOLMAN
CHIP JONES
BRIAN TARBUCK
DAVID TWITCHELL
CHAD WIGHT

Michael & Nancy Moorman	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Joan Wiebe	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Joan Wiebe	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Craig McCall	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	
David Mandel	$500	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
United Talent Agency	$250	Maranacook Food Pantry	In remembrance of Ron Simons
Matthew Grondin	$55	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Florido Basallo	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Callie Love	$55	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ronald Simons
Julia & Brad Hall	$500	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Dennis Piehowski	$55	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Matthew Sharp	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ronald Simons
Ann Parker	$200	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Maranacook Education Foundation	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Michael Mejia	$20	Maranacook Food Pantry	
John Lord Debra Lordmace	$50	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Cindy & David McLean	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Joan Wiebe	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	
Caroline & Dean Emmerson	$50	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ron Simons
Richard Vieira	$25	Manaracook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ronald Simons
Amanda Dobbins	$100	Maranacook Food Pantry	In Memory of Ronald Simons

September 9, 2026

Motion: I move that the Resolution entitled, "Resolution to Authorize Lease Purchase of Technology Equipment in the Principal Amount of $350,000" be adopted in form presented to this meeting.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LEASE PURCHASE OF TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF $350,000

The School Board of Regional School Unit No. 38 (the "RSU") hereby resolves as follows:

1. That Superintendent of Schools (the "Superintendent") and the Finance Director, acting singly, are authorized to accept the proposal of Androscoggin Bank (the "Lessor"), to provide tax-exempt lease purchase financing for technology equipment with related peripherals, accessories, software, and licenses (the "Equipment") in the principal amount of $350,000 at an interest rate of 4.83% payable in four (4) annual installments and any prior such action is hereby ratified and confirmed;

2. That under and pursuant to the provisions of Title 20-A M.R.S. Sections 1001 and 1055, and all other applicable law, the Superintendent is authorized to execute and deliver a lease purchase agreement with Lessor, or its nominee, in the name and on behalf of the RSU for the Equipment, with an aggregate lease purchase price not to exceed $350,000, in such form and on such terms not inconsistent herewith as the Superintendent may approve (the "Lease");

3. That to the extent not inconsistent with this Resolution, the Superintendent is hereby authorized to select such date(s), maturity(ies), denomination(s), interest rate(s), place(s) of payment, form(s), and other details of the Lease, as the Superintendent may approve, said approval to be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery thereof;

4. That the Superintendent is authorized, as applicable, to designate the Lease issued pursuant hereto as a qualified tax-exempt obligation within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code");

5. That the Superintendent is authorized to covenant on behalf of the Lessee that no part of the proceeds of the Lease or the Equipment shall be used, directly or indirectly, in a manner that would cause the Lease to be an "arbitrage bond" or a "private activity bond" within the meaning of Sections 141 and 148 of the Code;

6. That the Superintendent is authorized to execute and deliver such tax certificates, arbitrage and use of proceeds certificates, and other documents and certificates as may, in the Superintendent's opinion, be necessary or convenient to effect the transactions herein authorized, to be in such form not inconsistent with this Resolution as the Superintendent may approve, said approval to be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery thereof;

7. That the Superintendent and other appropriate officials of the RSU, acting singly, are authorized and empowered in its name and on its behalf to do or cause to do all such other acts and things as may be necessary or desirable in order to effect the sale and delivery of the Lease in accordance herewith, and any such prior action by them is hereby ratified and confirmed;

8. That if the Superintendent or any other RSU officer or official is for any reason unavailable to, as applicable, approve, execute or attest the Lease, or any related financing documents, the person or persons acting in any such capacity, whether as an assistant, a deputy or otherwise, is authorized to

act for such official with the same force and effect as if such official had herself/himself performed such act, and any such prior action by them is hereby ratified and confirmed;

9. That the Treasurer of the RSU, in consultation with Bond Counsel, is authorized to implement written procedures with respect to the Lease for the purpose of (i) ensuring timely "remedial action" for any portion of the Lease that may become "non-qualified bonds," as those terms are defined in the Code and regulations thereunder; and (ii) monitoring the RSU's compliance following execution of the Lease with the arbitrage, yield restriction, and rebate requirements of the Code and regulations thereunder;

10. That the Superintendent is authorized to covenant on behalf of the RSU to file any information report and pay any rebate due to the United States in connection with the issuance of the Lease, and to take all other lawful actions necessary to ensure the interest portion of the rental payments under and pursuant to the Lease will be excludable from the gross income of the owners thereof for purposes of federal income taxation and to refrain from taking any action which would cause such interest portion of the rental payments to become includable in the gross income of the owners thereof; and

11. That an attested copy of this Resolution be filed with the minutes of this meeting.

A true copy, attest:

_____
Karen Smith, Secretary
Regional School Unit No. 38

September 9, 2026

Motion: I move that the Resolution entitled, "Resolution to Authorize Lease Purchase of One (1) New School Bus in the Principal Amount of $155,800" be adopted in form presented to this meeting.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LEASE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW SCHOOL BUS IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF $155,800

The School Board of Regional School Unit No. 38 (the "RSU") hereby resolves as follows:

1. That Superintendent of Schools (the "Superintendent") and the Finance Director, acting singly, are authorized to accept the proposal of Androscoggin Bank (the "Lessor"), to provide tax-exempt lease purchase financing for one (1) new school bus with related accessories and equipment (the "Equipment") in the principal amount of $155,800 at an interest rate of 4.83% payable in five (5) annual installments and any prior such action is hereby ratified and confirmed;

2. That under and pursuant to the provisions of Title 20-A M.R.S. Sections 1001, 1055 and 5401(15), and all other applicable law, the Superintendent is authorized to execute and deliver a lease purchase agreement with Lessor, or its nominee, in the name and on behalf of the RSU for the Equipment, with an aggregate lease purchase price not to exceed $155,800, in such form and on such terms not inconsistent herewith as the Superintendent may approve (the "Lease");

3. That to the extent not inconsistent with this Resolution, the Superintendent is hereby authorized to select such date(s), maturity(ies), denomination(s), interest rate(s), place(s) of payment, form(s), and other details of the Lease, as the Superintendent may approve, said approval to be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery thereof;

4. That the Superintendent is authorized, as applicable, to designate the Lease issued pursuant hereto as a qualified tax-exempt obligation within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code");

5. That the Superintendent is authorized to covenant on behalf of the Lessee that no part of the proceeds of the Lease or the Equipment shall be used, directly or indirectly, in a manner that would cause the Lease to be an "arbitrage bond" or a "private activity bond" within the meaning of Sections 141 and 148 of the Code;

6. That the Superintendent is authorized to execute and deliver such tax certificates, arbitrage and use of proceeds certificates, and other documents and certificates as may, in the Superintendent's opinion, be necessary or convenient to effect the transactions herein authorized, to be in such form not inconsistent with this Resolution as the Superintendent may approve, said approval to be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery thereof;

7. That the Superintendent and other appropriate officials of the RSU, acting singly, are authorized and empowered in its name and on its behalf to do or cause to do all such other acts and things as may be necessary or desirable in order to effect the sale and delivery of the Lease in accordance herewith, and any such prior action by them is hereby ratified and confirmed;

8. That if the Superintendent or any other RSU officer or official is for any reason unavailable to, as applicable, approve, execute or attest the Lease, or any related financing documents, the person or persons acting in any such capacity, whether as an assistant, a deputy or otherwise, is authorized to

act for such official with the same force and effect as if such official had herself/himself performed such act, and any such prior action by them is hereby ratified and confirmed;

9. That the Treasurer of the RSU, in consultation with Bond Counsel, is authorized to implement written procedures with respect to the Lease for the purpose of (i) ensuring timely "remedial action" for any portion of the Lease that may become "non-qualified bonds," as those terms are defined in the Code and regulations thereunder; and (ii) monitoring the RSU's compliance following execution of the Lease with the arbitrage, yield restriction, and rebate requirements of the Code and regulations thereunder;

10. That the Superintendent is authorized to covenant on behalf of the RSU to file any information report and pay any rebate due to the United States in connection with the issuance of the Lease, and to take all other lawful actions necessary to ensure the interest portion of the rental payments under and pursuant to the Lease will be excludable from the gross income of the owners thereof for purposes of federal income taxation and to refrain from taking any action which would cause such interest portion of the rental payments to become includable in the gross income of the owners thereof; and

11. That an attested copy of this Resolution be filed with the minutes of this meeting.

A true copy, attest:

_____
Karen Smith, Secretary
Regional School Unit No. 38

RSU 38 Maranacook Area Schools
Superintendent's Report



To: Members of the RSU 38 Board of Directors
From: Dr. Karen G. Smith
September 2026

🍎 Welcome Back!

We opened the 2026–2027 school year with all staff together — teachers, education technicians, custodians, bus drivers, food service staff, office staff, and administrators. My opening day presentation laid out where the district stands as we enter this year and the two efforts that will shape much of our work: the fiftieth anniversary of Maranacook and the strategic planning and facilities process now underway.

Video presentation: RSU 38 Opening Day 2026–2027

🎡 Celebrating Fifty Years of Maranacook

This year marks fifty years of Maranacook and the beginning of its fifty-first year of operation this fall. Rather than mark the milestone with a single event, we are treating it as a year-long celebration with opportunities to take part in every building between now and June. Details are still being developed and will be shared as they are finalized

🧭 Strategic Planning

The strategic planning process with NESDEC is now in its community engagement phase. The Community Planning Committee was seated in August: seventeen members drawn by blind lottery from fifty-eight interest forms, with representation from all four towns — four from Manchester, five from Mount Vernon, four from Readfield, and four from Wayne. The committee held its introductory meeting with Dr. David DeRuosi in August and its first visioning session on August 19.

Four community forums are scheduled. Each is open to all residents, and residents are asked to attend the forum for their town. All four sessions run from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the MCHS cafeteria: Manchester on Thursday, September 24; Mount Vernon on Wednesday, September 30; Readfield on Thursday, October 1; and Wayne on Thursday, October 8.

Staff will take part in visioning sessions on September 30 and October 9. Student voice will be gathered in grades 6–12 through advisory sessions. Work moves to themes and strategic objectives in October and November, drafts initiatives in December, and drafts the vision, mission, and core values in the winter, with the final plan presented to the Board in March 2027 to inform the FY28 budget cycle.

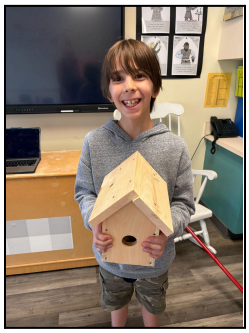
The signed NESDEC agreement, which describes the full scope of work, remains posted on the district website.

☀️ Summer Programming Overview

The district ran three summer programs this year, serving students from kindergarten through grade twelve. All three ran July 7 through July 30, four hours a day.



Elementary. Five classrooms (K–1, grade 1, grade 2, grade 3, grades 4–5), with most students in grades K–2. Interventionists and principals identified students using intervention data, socioeconomic status, and judgment about who would benefit socially and emotionally. Enrollment was evenly distributed this year — nine or ten students from each of the four elementary schools. Average daily attendance was 89 percent, up markedly from last year, with full attendance on the final day. Instruction reinforced previously taught literacy and math using Amplify, DreamBox, Bridges intervention, and UFLI; interventionists recorded where each student left off so summer teachers could pick up where they left off rather than start over. Enrichment included guidance, music, physical education, screen printing and tie-dye, and a birdhouse-building session led by a high school staff member. Math games and manipulatives purchased through the ESEA grant went home with families at the Family Engagement Celebration.





Middle school math. Seven students in grades 7–9 with two instructors. The day balanced number talks, whole-group instruction, math games, small-group work by grade, and individualized DreamBox practice. Every student improved from pre- to post-assessment, averaging a 21-point gain (from 48.6 to 72.1), with the largest gains in fractions, equivalent numbers, and ratios and proportions. Attendance was 90 percent, students completed more than 200 DreamBox lessons, and all seven reported improved confidence in mathematics. Because transportation was already running, two students accessed counseling around the program day, and one combined the ride with after-school tutoring. Recruitment remains the program's biggest opportunity for growth: outreach reached more than 40 families, and transportation was the barrier families cited most often.

High school. Edgenuity credit recovery in English, social studies, science, and mathematics, with three certified staff on site. Twenty-three students were invited and fourteen enrolled, a 61 percent participation rate. All fourteen completed every assigned course, recovering thirteen semester courses — a 100 percent success rate, compared with 91 percent last year. Attendance averaged 78 percent, the highest in four years. Several students needed close to one-to-one support and succeeded with it; the coordinator is clear that certified content-area instructors, not software alone, are what make the model work.

Attendance improved at every level. Transportation was the largest barrier to participation at the middle and high school levels, and where we solved it, students came. And in every program, staff reached the same conclusion: academic gains depended on adults who knew the students and could work with them in small groups.

My thanks to the coordinators, the summer teaching staff, and the transportation, food service, technology, custodial, and central office teams who made all three programs run.

🔔 Opening the School Year

A great deal of work happens between the last day of school in June and the first day in September, most of it out of public view. Buildings were cleaned and reset, summer projects were completed, grounds were maintained, and six schools were made ready for students and staff to walk into on day one.

Transportation, food service, technology, and central office staff also spent the summer preparing routes, kitchens, devices, and records, and building administrators and teachers were back well before their contract days began. My thanks to all of them.

👥 Personnel Update

Eighteen new employees joined the district for the 2026–2027 school year, and twelve current employees moved into new roles. Eleven positions remain open, several of them in the final phases of hiring.

📊 Fall Assessment

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Lake sent the annual state assessment letter to families on September 1. The fall testing window runs September 14 through October 16. Grades 3–8 and second-year high school students take the Maine Through-Year Assessment in math and reading, which produces RIT scores we use to track growth over time. We also assess grades K–2 and grade 9 with MAP Growth during the same window, giving us comparable growth data across all grade levels rather than only for the tested grades. Principals will share school-specific schedules as the window approaches, and questions about scheduling or a particular building are best directed to the principal.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Karen G. Smith, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

