"A CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE"

CORE VALUES

COLLABORATION FAMILY INTEGRITY PERSEVERANCE RESPECT TRUST

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARANACOOK COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
January 21, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.
ZOOM
AGENDA

1. **Call to Order:**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:**
3. **Executive Session to consider the expulsion of a student 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(B)**
4. **Action Following Executive Session (if needed)**
5. **Citizens' Comments (not related to budget):**
6. **Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda by Board and/or Superintendent:**
7. **Policy First Readings:**
    a. **BED - Remote Participation in School Board Meetings***
    b. **BEDH - Public Participation at Board Meetings***
    c. **KF - Use of School Facilities***
8. **Budget Workshop (60 min)**
    a. **Presentation by RSU 38 Budget Committee**
    b. **Deliberations/Board discussion**
    c. **Citizens' Comments (related to budget only)**
9. **Action following Budget Workshop (if needed)**
10. **Adjournment:**

***Attachments**

(Link to Board Private Shared Drive)

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 prior to the Board's next scheduled meeting.

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RSU #38 Board of Directors Meeting
January 21, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
Maranacook Community Middle School Cafeteria
Zoom Link

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REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38
REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The Regional School Unit #38 Board allows members to participate in a public meeting remotely in limited circumstances, as provided in 1 MRSA §403-B.

For this policy, *"remote methods"* means telephonic or video technology that allows simultaneous receipt of information and may also include other means necessary to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities. Remote participation by board members cannot be by text-only means such as email, text messages, or chat functions.

Members of the Board are expected to be physically present for board meetings except when being physically present is not practicable.

Circumstances in which physical presence for public meetings is not practicable include:

1. The existence of an emergency or other issue that requires the Board itself to meet remotely.

    a. An emergency may be a State-declared emergency (i.e., a Governor-declared state of emergency that applies to the school unit), a local emergency (e.g., adverse weather conditions), or an urgent issue requiring Board action.

    b. The Board Chair, in consultation with the Superintendent, will determine whether there is a local emergency or urgent issue that requires a remote Board meeting.

2. Illness, or other physical condition, or temporary absence from the area governed by the Board that causes a Board member to face significant difficulties traveling to and attending in person at the designated physical location of the Board meeting.

    a. Prior notice of the Board member's absence and the reason for it, with an indication that the Board member plans to participate remotely, should be communicated to the Board Chair as far in advance of the meeting as practicable.

When Board meetings are held in person, public comment shall be provided in person at the meeting location. When the entire Board meets remotely due to an emergency or urgent issue, as described in subparagraph 1 above, an effective means of communication between the members of the Board and the public must be provided for public comment (e.g., by allowing comments or questions via chat or by raising a hand on Zoom). The remote participation of individual Board members under subparagraph 2 above does not change the in-person nature of public comment at an otherwise in-person meeting. Individuals with disabilities seeking a reasonable accommodation should contact the Board Chair as far in advance of the Board meeting as practicable.

Members of the public participating in board meetings are expected to comply with the guidelines for public participation set forth in the Board's policy, BEDH, or in any rules the Board may develop specifically for remote meetings.

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Notice of all Board meetings is required (1 MRSA § 406). When the public may attend remotely, notice must include the means by which members of the public may access the meeting. The notice must also identify a location for members of the public to attend in person. The Board may not determine that public attendance at a meeting will be limited solely to remote methods except under the conditions in subparagraph 1 above (emergency or urgent issue meetings).

A member of the Board who participates remotely in a public meeting of the Board is considered present for purposes of a quorum and voting.

All votes taken during a public meeting of the Board using remote methods must be by roll call, with the vote visible and audible to all members of the Board and the public, whether using video technology or only audio technology.

The Board will make all documents and other materials to be considered by the Board available, electronically or otherwise, to members of the public who attend remotely to the same extent as customarily available to members of the public who attend public meetings of the Board in person, as long as the Board does not incur additional costs.

Remote participation is not permitted for meetings where voters of the School Administrative Unit meet to vote as a legislative body, such as budget meetings.

Legal Reference:1 MRSA § 403-B, 406
20-A MRSA §1001(20)

Cross Reference: BEC – Executive Sessions
BEDB – School Board Meetings and Agendas
BEDH – Public Participation at Board Meetings
KE – Public Concerns

Adopted: 12/01/21
Revised: _____

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REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #38
PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The primary purpose of School Board meetings is to conduct the Board's business related to its policies, programs, and operations. The Board encourages residents to attend Board meetings to become acquainted with the schools' operations and programs.

The Board also recognizes the value of public comments on school and educational matters. To permit fair and orderly expression of public comments at Board business meetings while still allowing the Board to conduct its business efficiently, the Board has established the procedure below for regular business meetings.

At special, emergency, or workshop meetings, public comments will be limited to the topic(s) of the particular meeting.

In addition to speaking during the designated public comment portion of the agenda at Board meetings, members of the public are welcome to submit written comments on school and educational matters to the Board and Superintendent.

1. The Board will include a public comment period, not to exceed 20 minutes, on the agenda of its regular business meetings. Comments by individuals are limited to a maximum of two (2) minutes at a meeting. Individuals may not relinquish a portion of their allotted time to another speaker. The time limits in this paragraph may be modified at a particular meeting at the discretion of the Board.

2. The Board will first hear public comments from residents and employees of the school unit. If time remains in the public comment period after all residents and employees have had the opportunity to speak, the Board will permit comments from non-residents. Individuals who wish to speak are required to fill out the sign-in form available at each Board meeting, before the beginning of the public comment period, and review a copy of this policy. Each individual will be required to state their name and town/city of residence before beginning their remarks.

3. The Board Chair is responsible for ensuring the orderly conduct of Board meetings and for ensuring compliance with this policy, including the following rules of order:

    a. The Board Chair will recognize speakers, and comments should be addressed to the Board Chair. Requests for information or concerns that require further research may be referred to the superintendent for further action, if necessary.

    b. Speakers are expected to follow standard etiquette and decorum, including refraining from using vulgar and/or obscene language, yelling, threatening others using words or other actions, making defamatory comments, or otherwise engaging in any activity that disrupts orderly meeting progress. Examples of disruptive conduct include, but are not limited to, exceeding the allotted time limits, talking over or interrupting others, offering repetitive comments, and offering comments on matters unrelated to the school unit’s programs, policies, or operations.

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c. Discussion of personnel matters is not permitted during the public comment period due to the privacy, confidentiality, and due process rights of school unit employees. For purposes of this policy, "discussion of a personnel matter" means any discussion of job performance or conduct of a school unit employee, including complaints or positive/complimentary comments about them.

d. Discussion of matters involving individual students is also not permitted during the public comment period due to the privacy, confidentiality, and due process rights of the school unit's students.

e. Any concerns about personnel matters and/or student matters should be directed to the Superintendent or another appropriate administrator outside Board meetings so that they can be addressed through an alternative channel and in a manner consistent with the privacy, confidentiality, and due process rights of the individuals involved.

f. The Board Chair will stop any public comment that is contrary to these rules.

g. Individuals who disrupt a Board meeting may be asked to leave so the Board can conduct its business in an orderly manner. The Board Chair may request the assistance of law enforcement if necessary to address disruptions or safety concerns.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 1001(20)
20-A MRSA § 6101
1 MRSA § 405

Cross Reference: BED – Remote Participation in School Board Meetings
BEDB – School Board Meetings and Agendas
BEC – Executive Sessions
KE – Public Concerns

Adopted by RSU# 38 Board of Directors: 04/07/05
Revised: 04/27/09
Revised: 03/02/16
Revised: 03/04/20
Revised: 12/04/24
Revised: _____

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REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 38
USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Facilities Use Philosophy Statement *– RSU 38 facilities exist primarily to support the educational mission of serving our students. We welcome community use that serves RSU 38 students and families, aligns with our mission of being "a caring school community dedicated to excellence," and does not displace school activities or compromise educational primacy. We will prioritize programs serving our local students over revenue-generating opportunities, while recognizing our responsibility to be good stewards of taxpayer resources.*

The RSU 38 School Board encourages the use of its school buildings and grounds by school and community organizations as provided in this policy. At the Board's discretion, the Superintendent retains the right at all times to decline individual requests for building use when the Superintendent determines that such use is not in the best interest of the schools.

A. PRIORITY USE OF FACILITIES

The use of school facilities for school educational activities and authorized extracurricular activities shall, at all times, take precedence over any community use of said facilities.

For purposes of this policy, the *"Administration"* refers to the building administrator and/or Director of Student Services, in consultation with the Facilities Director, Adult Education Director, Food Services Director, and the Finance Director, as appropriate. The Administration is authorized to approve and schedule the use of school facilities by non-school-affiliated organizations in accordance with this policy and related procedures and will adhere to all policy conditions.

At all times, use of school facilities as needed by any of the District's municipalities for municipal elections or in the event of a weather or civil emergency when school buildings are required for official emergency management use shall take precedence.

The School Board shall define facilities use categories and priorities as defined therein:

1. School educational programs and sanctioned co- and extracurricular activities (RSU 38 activities always take priority). Should the need occur, an RSU 38 event may 'bump' other scheduled events if deemed necessary by the Building Administrator (non-profit).

2. Non-profit organizations that exist solely to support RSU 38 or to directly serve RSU 38 students, families, and community members in alignment with the district's educational mission. This includes organizations that raise funds to support district programs (e.g., Awesome Bear Society, PTO, Maranacook Education Foundation) as well as district-integrated community service programs (e.g., Maranacook Area Food Pantry, Maranacook Community Cafe).

3. RSU 38 School Board approved student feeder programs comprising at least 80% of RSU 38 students (Town Recreation Programs, non-Rec Youth sports programs; non-profit).

4. Municipal and civic/service functions and organizations (non-profit).

5. Organizations and groups that support youth in the area but are not exclusively for RSU 38 students (nonprofit or for-profit).

6. Non-student-related groups and non-profit organizations located within RSU 38, including religious organizations and clubs.

7. Non-resident groups and individuals, and resident/non-resident profit-making businesses/groups.

The administration will have sole discretion to determine which priority category organizations/ individuals wishing to use the RSU 38 facilities fall under.

It is not the intention of the School Board to make its facilities available to commercial/business enterprises or for private functions such as weddings, funerals, parties, reunions, or similar events; nor is it the School Board's intent to make its facilities available to individuals or groups outside the RSU 38 community.

B. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

The following conduct is prohibited:

1. No school facility shall be made available to any group or individual advocating unconstitutional or illegal acts, or to any group or individual that is contrary to the best interests of the District or the welfare of students and employees, as determined by the administration.

2. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, marijuana, schedule 1 controlled substances, or tobacco products on school property, including all buildings, athletic fields, parking lots, and recreational fields (*See Policy ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession).*

3. The possession of weapons (knives, guns, etc.).

4. Use of the district's facilities during the school year is between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on weekends, school vacations, and summer months, unless approved by the administration.

5. Any activity which, in the opinion of school officials, would cause or be substantially likely to cause damage to school property (for example, playing fields should not be used during

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inclement weather or when their use will damage their condition for school purposes).

6. No school facility shall be made available for any purpose that may present a risk of damage to school buildings, grounds, or equipment, which includes: use of open flames, including candles, fireworks, or other special effects.

7. Parking in landscaped areas. Vehicles must be parked only in designated areas.

8. Animals other than service animals are not allowed on school property without prior authorization from the administration.

C. CONDITIONS OF USE

1. A designated school employee selected by the administration will be assigned oversight duties unless waived (*See Policy KF-R*).

2. Use of the kitchen requires approval from both the Food Services Director and the building administrator. The Food Services Director shall determine the conditions of kitchen use, including whether food services personnel must prepare the food, supervise its preparation, or whether the user may operate independently. This determination shall be based on the nature of the event, food preparation involved, and applicable state regulations. Groups providing pre-cooked foods that do not require kitchen equipment may do so without the food services staff's involvement. Based on the priority designation, applicable fees will be charged in accordance with the fee schedule. *All food and beverage sales on school property must comply with Policy EFE (Competitive Food Sales).*

3. All applicants for the use of the school facilities shall hold the RSU Board, its members, employees, and agents free and harmless from any loss, damage, liability, or expense that may arise during or be caused in any way by such use or occupancy of the school facilities. All applicants shall execute a release and hold harmless agreement. The administration shall require an applicant to furnish proof of adequate liability insurance to the Finance Director.

4. The user shall leave the facilities in the same condition that they were received. In the event of unanticipated custodial services, which may be necessary after an event, the using organization will be billed by the RSU for all expenses.

5. The administration will determine if security is deemed necessary. In that event, the user shall pay all applicable expenses.

6. The school/district administration may exercise its authority to prohibit access by any group if the group’s presence on school grounds disrupts the school's programs. In addition, the school/district administration may withdraw any invitation to use the facilities from any group that does not meet the expectations for appropriate building use and supervision.

7. When facility use involves direct interaction between non-employee adults and students during school hours, all adult participants must comply with Policy IJOC (*School Volunteers*), including completion of the district's volunteer intake process. See KF-R for detailed procedures.

8. District employees may use school facilities for personal, non-work-related purposes outside of their work schedule, subject to administrative procedures. Such use is limited to the employee and their immediate family members, must have no or negligible impact on the facility, and must not interfere with school operations or require additional custodial or maintenance support. Staff use of facilities for private parties, gatherings, or group activities beyond immediate family requires submission of a *Facilities Use Application (See Policy KF-R3*). *It is* subject to standard approval procedures and applicable fees. Employees are responsible for the conduct of any family members they bring and for leaving facilities in proper condition.

It is the responsibility of the user, whether individual/organization, to comply with the specific obligations outlined in the "Procedures for the Use of School Facilities."

CROSS REFERENCE:
KF-R1 Agreement to Indemnify and Hold Harmless
KF-R2 Rules Relating to Rental of School Facilities
KF-R3 Facilities Use Application Form with Fees
KF-R4 Contract for Rental or Use of School Facilities'
KF-R5 Food Service Function Request Form
ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession
EFE – Competitive Food Sales
IJOC – School Volunteers

Adopted by RSU #38 Board of Directors: 04/27/09
Revised: 10/06/10
Revised: 04/06/16
Revised: 01/18/17
Revised: 06/05/24
Revised: _____

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