Gardiner - Randolph - Pittston - West Gardiner

Maine School Administrative District No. 11

150 Highland Avenue
Gardiner, ME 04345

Kady Gould
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 207-582-5346
Fax: 207-582-8305
www.msad11.org

Angela Hardy
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MERLE E. PEACOCK, JR. BOARD ROOM
Thursday, March 5, 2026
6:30 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting will also be live streamed and available for viewing at www.msad11.org.

Present: Becky Fles, Chair, Anthony Veit, Vice Chair, Linda Caputo, Daniel Coutts, Jeff Hanley, Barry Manning, Kate Merrill, Molly Rogers, and Kady Gould, Superintendent of Schools

Student Representatives: Keira Blodgett and Ella Kruk

Excused Absent: Meaghan Carlson, Janelle McKinnon, Joanne O'Brien, and Michelle Tucker

I. Call to order 0:00:00 – 0:10:43

The meeting was called to order by Becky Fles at 6:32 pm.

II. Introduction 0:10:44 – 0:20:28

A. Board Members
B. Administrative Staff
C. The Pledge of Allegiance
D. Public Comment
4 Residents spoke.

III. Review and Approval of Agenda/Minutes 0:20:29 – 0:21:15

A. Prioritization of items and alteration of the established agenda format sequence as needed.
B. Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Anthony Veit and a second by Molly Rogers, the Board voted to approve the agenda as written.

Vote: 9,016 – 0 **Student Vote: 2 – 0**

Motion carried.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- Regular School Board Meeting – February 5, 2026

Upon a motion by Anthony Veit and second by Linda Caputo, the Board voted to approve the minutes for the Regular School Board Meeting held on February 5, 2026.

Vote: 9,016 – 0 **Student Vote: 2 – 0**

Motion carried.

IV. Recognition and Celebrations 0:21:16 – 0:22:03

A. Congratulations to our Cooperative Swim Teams - KVAC Swim Championships! The girls' team placed 1st and the boys' team placed 2nd! Coach Gabby Low was named Coach of the Year!
B. Congratulations to our Wrestling Team for winning the 2026 Class A North Sportsmanship Banner!
C. Congratulations to Taylor Coutts and Zarah Kristan for placing third in their respective weight classes at the Girls' Wrestling State Championship! Both have qualified for the New England Wrestling Tournament in March.
D. Congratulations to our Cheerleaders for their 4th place finish at the State Class B Competition! Coach Sidney Bartunek was named the KVAC Class B Coach of the Year!
E. Congratulations to the GAHS Boys Basketball Team for winning the Class B North Regional Championship!
F. Congratulations to Brady Atwater and Brady Peacock for being selected to the MABC Class B North All Star Team!
G. Congratulations to the GAHS Girls Basketball Team for a great season!
H. Congratulations to Zarah Kristan and Karlee Danis for being jury selected into the Maine K-12 Clay Exhibition at Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts!
I. Congratulations to the Boys Basketball Team for winning the Class B State Championship!
J. Congratulations to Cole Hickey for being 1 of 10 students competing at the Poetry Out Loud State Championships at Colby College on March 4, 2026

V. Correspondence 0:22:04 – 0:22:06

A. Resignation received from Aaron Toman, Baseball Coach, Gardiner Regional Middle School
B. Resignation received from Jordan Hersom, Assistant Track and Field Coach, Gardiner Area High School
C. Resignation received from Jordan Hersom, Assistant Football Coach, Gardiner Area High School
D. Resignation received from Jordan Hersom, Custodian (Part-time), Central Office
E. Resignation received from Kelli Boucher, Elementary Inclusion Specialist effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract
F. Resignation received from Christie Jernigan, High School Inclusion Specialist effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract
G. Resignation received from Ari Bouse (1 year leave of absence), Social Worker at Gardiner Regional Middle School
H. Retirement letter received from Christina Benedict, English Language Arts Teacher, Gardiner Area High School effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract

I. Retirement letter received from Kenneth Estabrook, Grade 4 Teacher, River View Community School effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract.
J. Resignation letter received from Dawn Horak, Ed Tech III – Title I, Laura E. Richards School effective March 1, 2026.
K. Resignation received from Jordan Hersom, Boys Freshman Basketball Coach, Gardiner Area High School

VI. Committee Reports 0:22:07 – 0:49:36

A. Administrator/Student Presentations –
B. Capital Area Technical Center Advisory Committee – February 9, 2026
C. Curriculum Committee – February 3, 2026
D. Dropout Prevention Committee – No meeting
E. Finance Committee – February 10, 2026
- Next Finance Meeting (Budget) – Tuesday, March 10, 2026 5:00 pm

Upon a motion by Molly Rogers and second by Linda Caputo, the Board approved adding a 4 hour per day Food Service Floating Sub.

Vote: 9,016 – 0 **Student Vote: 2 – 0**

Motion carried.

F. Policy Committee – No meeting

Second Reading

Job Descriptions
- Education Technician III – Library
- Social Worker

Handbooks
- Gardiner Area High School Student Handbook 2025-2026
- Gardiner Regional Middle School Student Handbook 2025-2026
- MSAD 11 Elementary Schools Student Handbook 2025-2026

Upon a motion by Linda Caputo and second by Molly Rogers, the Board approved the above job descriptions and handbooks.

Vote: 9,016 – 0 **Student Vote: 2 – 0**

Motion carried.

G. Wellness Committee – No meeting
H. SBHC Advisory Committee – Next Meeting March 23, 2026
I. Student Representatives Report

VII. General Information 0:49:37 – 0:52:22

A. Out of State Field Trips
- New England Wrestling Tournament in Providence Rhode Island – March 7-8, 2026

- New England High School Cheering Competition in Worcester Massachusetts – March 21, 2026

Upon a motion by Anthony Veit and second by Jeff Hanley, the Board approved the Wrestling Team attending the New England Wrestling Tournament and the Cheer Team attending the New England High School Cheering Competition.

Vote: 9,016 – 0 **Student Vote: 2 – 0**

Motion carried.

- Gardiner Iron Tigers – Robotics Competition at University of New Hampshire, Durham NH – March 27-29, 2026

Upon a motion by Anthony Veit and second by Barry Manning, the Board approved the Gardiner Iron Tigers attending the Robotics Competition.

Vote: 9,016 – 0 **Student Vote: 2 – 0**

Motion carried.

B. Coaches:
   - Jessica Merrill, Unified Basketball Coach, Gardiner Area High School
   - Jessica Merrill, Unified Volleyball Coach, Gardiner Area High School
   - Jessica Merrill, Unified, Bocce Coach, Gardiner Area High School
   - Paul Rubashkin, Wrestling Volunteer
   - Luke Delgallo, Wrestling Volunteer
   - Eric Waters, Boys Lacrosse Volunteer

C. Transfers 2025-2026 School Year:
   - Amy Nisbet, transfer from Custodian 2nd Shift at Pittston-Randolph Consolidated School to Custodian 2nd Shift at Gardiner Regional Middle School

D. Transfers 2026-2027 School Year:
   - Kelli Boucher, transfer from Elementary Inclusion Specialist to Special Educator at River View Community School

E. New Hire
   - John Giordano, Custodian 2nd Shift, Pittston-Randolph Consolidated School

VIII. Nominations 0:52:23 – 0:53:03

A. Jennifer Hembree, Teacher – Special Ed, Gardiner Regional Middle School - $52,868 (prorated to number of days worked)

Upon a motion by Anthony Veit and second by Becky Fles, the Board approved the hiring of Jennifer Hembree as recommended by the superintendent.

Vote: 9,016 – 0 **Student Vote: 2 – 0**

Motion carried.

IX. New Business 0:53:04 – 1:10:30

A. Discussion and possible approval of the Kennebec Valley Garden Club request to plant a memorial tree at Gardiner Area High School.

Upon a motion by Molly Rogers and second by Anthony Veit, the board approved the request from the Kennebec Valley Garden Club to plant a tree at Gardiner Area High School in memory of Shirlene Gosline and asked that they include a plaque to make it recognizable and remembered.

Vote: 9,016 – 0 **Student Vote: 2 – 0**

Motion carried.

B. Approval of the 2026-2027 MSAD 11 School Calendar

Upon a motion by Molly Rogers and second by Anthony Veit, the board approved the 2026-2027 MSAD 11 School Calendar as presented by the superintendent.

Vote: 9,016 – 0 **Student Vote: 2 – 0**

Motion carried.

X. Old Business 1:10:31 – 1:10:39

A. None

XI. Reports 1:10:40 – 1:35:06

A. Board Chair
- None

B. Superintendent
- Update on the meeting with Scott Brown and School Construction team at the Department of Education
- Update regarding weather impacts on the 2025-2026 school calendar - Last Day of School will be Monday, June 15, 2026 pending further weather events.
- School Revolving Renovation Fund next steps

Upon a motion by Linda Caputo and second by Barry Manning the Board approved moving forward with the School Revolving Renovation Fund Project.

Vote: 7,684 – 1,332 **Student Vote: 2 - 0**
(Jeff Hanley voted against)

Motion carried.

XII. Executive Session

A. None

XIII. Adjournment 1:35:07 – 1:35:22

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Attest a True Record,

Kady Gould
Secretary