

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

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MERLE E. PEACOCK, JR. BOARD ROOM

April 14, 2026
3:30 – 4:30 PM

MINUTES

Present: Linda Caputo, Meaghan Carlson, Michelle Tucker, Angela Hardy, Terry McGuire; **Guests:** Lauri-Beth Rankin, Aaron Toman, Elissa Carter, Freda Keyser

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Caputo at 3:31 p.m. The meeting was live streamed and is available for viewing at www.msad11.org.

II. **Outdoor Learning: GAHS experiences and staff professional learning**

To gain an understanding of how our district is meeting the goals of the strategic plan through flexible and evolving curriculum and student mental health, educators presented their outdoor learning strategies and curriculum. Each educator shared a slide deck and their slides and narrative are available in the online viewing of this meeting.

There was representation from GAHS Wellness, Lauri-Beth Rankin and Aaron Toman, with details about the canoeing unit as well as information about snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, weather permitting. The goals are to build confidence and to help students engage independently outside while maintaining or enhancing health and wellness.

GAHS Science Educator, Elissa Carter, shared the outdoor learning connections fostered through the freshman earth science course and forensics. In earth science, the focus is on place-based learning and includes daily outdoor activities, no matter the weather. Students learn about the environment, collect alevife data with community partners, learn about the biology behind fly tying and the connection to macroinvertebrates. The ability to engage outdoors physically requires careful planning, manageable class sizes, and additional staff, when possible, to reduce risk and increase impact of learning.

Lastly, Freda Keyser presented to the committee about the learning theme she facilitated for 19 staff this year focused on creating engaging lessons that tie the outdoors into our current curriculum. Staff connected in an ongoing manner throughout the year to: Practice learning and management strategies for the outdoors; Build comfort; Gain knowledge about grants that can support the

purchasing of helpful outdoor learning resources; and, Design instructional plans to try out with students this year.

III. ESEA Allocation Update, FY2027

Angela Hardy shared with the committee that the Maine Department of Education anticipates releasing the school year 2026-27 allocations for federal Title funding to local districts the last week of April. If this occurs, Angela requested a shift in the meeting time of the curriculum committee from May 12 to May 5 for the committee to review and possibly approve a budget and staffing model for the next school year prior to the full school board meeting on May 4. All committee members agreed to the shift in the May meeting date.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5 at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Angela Hardy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Angela" being more prominent than the last name "Hardy".

Angela Hardy
Director of Curriculum