

MOOSABEC CSD AND SCHOOL UNION NO. 103
JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

A meeting of the Moosabec CSD and School Union No. 103 Joint School Committee was held at the Jonesport-Beals High School on August 17, 2021 with members present as follows: Ernest Kelley Jr., Debbie Kelley, Suzen Polk-Hoffses, Mariner Bunker, Calvin Beal, Clifford Norton, Velton Alley and Adam Merchant. Also present was Superintendent of Schools Lewis Collins.

August 17, 2021
Jonesport, Maine

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE: Vice-Chair Kelley called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. The pledge followed.

1. Approval of Minutes of April 27 and May 12, 2021 was considered. Motion and second to approve minutes as written. Motion carried 8-0.

2. There was a motion and second to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue and to hear from the Board attorney. Motion passed 8-0. The Board entered ES at 5:03pm

Vice-Chair declared the Board out of Executive Session at 5:15 pm

3. Motion and second to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a settlement agreement of the pending litigation consistent with the terms discussed in executive session. Motion carried 8-0.

4. Superintendent Collins reviewed the Center for Disease Prevention and Maine Department of Education recommendations for school reopening. Handouts of the recommendations were provided to Board members and the audience. He reviewed the various options the Board has with regard to mask wearing and other COVID protocols. He also reviewed the pooled testing program that the schools could participate in. He stated that his recommendation would be to have the two elementary schools have mandatory masking and that the High School have a mask optional policy. He explained that since the majority of students in grades K-8 have not had the chance to receive vaccinations, it would be safer if masks were worn in those schools. There were several questions about pooled testing from the audience.

Motion and second “that the Board authorizes the Superintendent to revise the current School Reopening Plan to remove references to mandatory masking, except on school busses, and all other COVID related protocols that are no longer recommended by the CDC and DOE. In addition, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to seek consent from parents for pooled COVID testing and to implement said testing on a weekly basis if at least 30% of parents in a school provide consent”. Motion carried 8-0.

5. Adjournment: Board voted 8-0 to adjourn at 5:37 pm