

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

Jonesport, Maine  
November 10, 2020

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 November 10, 2020 with members present as follows: Ernest Kelley Jr., Julie Farris, Suzen Polk-Hoffses, Morgan Merchant, Mariner Bunker, Velton Alley Jr., Debbie Kelley and Loren Faulkingham. Also present was Superintendent of Schools Lewis Collins.

Julie Farris called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

1. Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2020

The Joint School Committee voted (8-0) to approve the minutes of September 23, 2020.

2. Motion as follows: and seconded:

*“Having followed the process of advertising and interviewing qualified organizations as outlined in Maine Statute 15915, pursuant to Maine State Law 20-A M.R.S.A., the Board of School Union 103 hereby authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a non-binding letter-of-intent with Mechanical Services for the purposes of obtaining a cost savings and investment proposal from Mechanical Services. Specifically, the Board understands that a Board Workshop will be held in December to review the project savings and investment options and will vote shortly thereafter on a set of infrastructure projects that best fit the financial and educational needs of School Union 103”.*

The Board members debated and discussed the proposal and the idea of moving forward with this project. One member suggested that the cost of \$40 million for building repairs was just too high. Superintendent Collins stated that no one has ever mentioned a figure of \$40 million and that the projections from Mechanical Services were in the range of \$3-10 million.

Other members stated they could not support moving forward with this project unless the Town agrees to it. Other members wondered if we could just pay for the assessment of all our schools and decide from there. Superintendent Collins stated that the cost of this assessment is in excess of \$200,000 and involves numerous engineers studying all aspect of the facilities.

Superintendent Collins stated that the voters elected the Board to represent them and therefor School Board members are the town. Some members disagreed saying that this is far too important to not have the towns weigh in to support or reject it.

Members were reminded that this motion does not commit any funds to the facilities assessment or repairs but simply allows Mechanical Services to move forward and complete the assessment. Some members were concerned that we’d be “leading them on” if we weren’t going to approve the actual projects. One member mentioned that so many people and small businesses are hurting due to the pandemic and aren’t in a position to see their taxes raised.

The Board voted AGAINST the motion (8-0) by roll call vote.

3. Approval of new Central Office hire:

School Nurse Kristina Bailey. Motion made and seconded to hire Ms. Bailey as the school nurse for three days per week. Superintendent Collins stated that the local budget supports one day per week through this academic year and COVID funds can pay an additional two days week for this year only. Motion PASSED (8-0).

4. Other:

Superintendent Collins noted that the schools entered remote instruction on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> due to confirmed COVID case at Beal's and JES. He noted that this would continue through Nov 13<sup>th</sup> when a decision will be made to extend it or return to in-class instruction.

5. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Collins  
Superintendent of Schools