

**MOOSABEC COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Jonesport, Maine
February 17, 2021

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

A meeting of the Moosabec CSD School Committee was held at Jonesport-Beals High School on February 17, 2021 with members present as follows: Ernest Kelley Jr., Julie Farris, Velton Alley, Suzen Polk-Hoffses (On Zoom), Mariner Bunker (On Zoom), Morgan Merchant (On Zoom), Debbie Kelley (On Zoom) and Loren Faulkingham (at 5:08). Also present were Principal Michael Kelley and Superintendent of Schools Lewis Collins.

Ernest Kelley Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Attendees in-person and on Zoom. The pledge followed

1. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 2021

The School Committee voted (7-0) (Loren not yet present) to approve the minutes of January 6, 2021. Zoom participants all voted "aye"

2. Motion and 2nd to authorize the Superintendent to apply for and receive \$110,473.80 in new COVID ESSERF 2 federal funds.

The School Committee voted (7-0) to pass the motion.

3. Presentation by Mechanical Services of the school building engineering assessment.

The Board heard a presentation of the findings from a months-long study of the school buildings heating, ventilation, lighting, roofing and other building system needs. Deficiencies were noted in overall ventilation and air quality issues, excessive CO2 levels in classrooms, heating system and controls, poor lighting, and roof wear. The total estimated cost for the package of renovations and updates is \$2,970,984.

With guaranteed energy savings, operational savings and the use of \$350,000 in carryover funds, the cost drops to \$2,206,501 over a 15-year lease/purchase agreement. Superintendent Collins stated that the actual tax bill for a \$100,000 home would rise \$200 per year to cover both the CSD and Jonesport Elementary building renovations. For a \$200,000 home the cost rises to \$400/year. If the Kingfish plant is added to the tax base, those annual increases could be much less.

Several questions were raised by Board members regarding public input and support, how this affects taxpayers on a fixed income, why this is a lease and not a bond, if the actual amount has been audited independently, whether or not the guaranteed savings are truly guaranteed, and how the public gets to vote on any of this.

Superintendent Collins noted that he would be putting out an informational packet to be sent home with all students next week. He also mentioned that state education statute has included this lease option for public schools as a way to address air quality and ventilation needs. He also stated that the contract for all renovation work would be a performance contract that stipulates the guaranteed savings in the signed document. The total amount has not been audited by an independent entity but several independent engineers were involved in the building assessment. Persons living on a fixed

income would be offered state energy efficiency audits and repairs that could lower their energy bills substantially.

4. Adjournment

The Board voted (8-0) to adjourn at 6:47 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Collins
Superintendent of Schools

srb