

Superintendent Update
Friday, February 17th, 2022

Good morning,

The school board met on Monday night and discussed a variety of topics.

- I. We will be constructing our 2023-2024 budget these next several weeks. With decreased funding from the state we will be coming up with creative strategies to save money and maximize our resources.
- II. Policies JKE-R - Expulsion Guidelines, JLCB - Immunization of Students, JLCD - Administration of Medication to Students were all approved for their first reading.
- III. We are looking at two different projects to choose from when addressing our PFAS water supply issue.
 - A. We would be connecting to the Houlton Water Company system and run our water off of their system. This would eliminate any future water testing issues we would have. This is a rather large undertaking and a lot of things would have to fall into place, such as state funding, town approval, and logistics.
 - B. Carbon Filters- This is the most common solution schools tend to go with when dealing with excessive PFAS standards. Filters would go into Mill Pond and the Middle/High School. They would have to be changed out periodically for the entire time they are used.

Late this month HWC will have more information if option A is something we will explore or not. I would plan on both schools using the secondary water sources for the rest of this school year and I will know more this spring about the 23-24 school year.

IV. Rhonda Foster and Brian Fitzpatrick's retirements were announced. The board expressed their gratitude to Rhonda and Brian's years of service at MSAD #70. Both of you have positively impacted so many lives in our community and will be truly missed by all of us.

V. We welcomed our new bus driver Rebecca Woodcock who started officially last week. We're very excited to have her come onboard and she has really helped in an area that we desperately need. **Continue to spread the word about the need for bus drivers at MSAD #70 and our ability to start each new driver off with a monitor position, as well as training them.**

VI. Co-op varsity lacrosse is being offered to our high school students again this year. They will be playing alongside Houlton this spring.

VII. We also welcomed our newest staff member, Trinity Mincy at Mill Pond. We have needed to add support in our special education program at Mill Pond so we are excited to have Trinity as a part of our team.

VIII. Student Rep. Meghan Peters submitted her student report to the board on Monday night. She shared with them that the students are excited about the upcoming Bangor tournament for the girl's varsity basketball team (They play on Monday, February 20th) and their pep rally on Friday, February 17th during Color Wars. She also stated that the Class of 2025 raffled off a basket for Valentines Day recently and the Class of 2024 sold carnations. Both were very successful, the juniors sold 998 in total! Meghan informed the school board that the students were excited for the last week of school before break.

Meghan has done an excellent job as our district's student representative. She attends the monthly meetings, policy meetings when needed, and shares updates with the board members. Meghan does this while balancing a hefty academic load, playing multiple varsity sports, and the requirements of this position. We're very proud to have her representing the student body and we are looking at other ways to use her position to benefit our schools.

IX. After School Program- I have some disappointing news about our After-School Program. We will be ending the program the **week before April break**. I did not come to this decision lightly and realize how effective ASP is for student success. It is my hope that by ending it early this year then we will have an opportunity to continue with it next year. As I mentioned above our budget will need some creative strategies if we hope to have the least amount of negative impact on our student's academic success. Please keep this in mind as you plan your instruction for the month of May and June that this service will not be provided during that time.

I hope everyone is able to rest over February break.

Thank you,

-Tyler