



MeASBO

Maine Association of School Business Officials

<http://www.measbo.org/>

September 20, 2019

Minutes

Jeff's Catering

Colin Walsh	Brigitte Williams	Shirley Waning	Rhonda Byers
Scott Vaitones	Donna Lodge	Donna Ekman	Sue Bell
Mark Bouchard	Heather Lanpher	Katie Gourley	Michele Coates
Bill Adams	Kelly Michaud	Barbara Grindle	Marcia Weeks
Jen Soper	Elizabeth Barnes	Marion Huntley	Sherry Moody
Carolyn Heller	Gary Smith	Barbara Crocker	Alison Gamache
Kris Pottle	Andrea Disch	Gretchen Gardner	Barb VanDeventer
Lynn Gray	Bridget Hopkins	Luci Milewski	Carla Franzose
Holly Eggleston	Kathleen Pearce	Adam Hanson	Dawn Pooler
Sherrie Procter	Lucie Tabor	Teresa Scott	Hollis Cobb
Trish Hayes	Stacey Webster	Jackie Smith	Lisa Swift
Sara Ippolito	Kirstie Hale	Holly Vining	Scott Eldridge
Joya Maynard	Vesta Wyman		

1. Association Business

- a. Welcome – Introductions
- b. Approval of Minutes, April 26, 2019 – Motion & Second - approved
- c. Approval of Treasurer's Report – Motion & Second - approved
- d. Committee Reports –
 - i. Tri-State – May 13-15, 2020 in Burlington VT, at the Sheraton; committee just met in VT on Monday; looking for topics – send to committee members; briefly explained the conference format; there is a low attendance from Maine due to distant & encourage more people to attend; discussion about time of year is difficult for Maine due to budget season which is different from NH & VT; moved one week earlier this year; networking is very beneficial.
 - ii. Certification – communicate with the board if this is important to the organization; it is great PD but time is limited and will need more people on the committee if we are to continue with this offering; it would be beneficial if the DOE would buy into Certification – Deb Roberts gave some history on how this certification committee & process came about;
 - iii. Technology – Luci M. & Sherry M. – will give a presentation during website presentation
 - iv. Legislative – need members
 - v. Other Association Business - none

2. **President's Introduction & Updates** – Colin Walsh – reviewed the agenda for today; discussed volunteerism that is needed within the association; passed out handout on ways members can help with the organization; discussed topics from the summer executive meeting and asked members to list topic suggestions on a sheet in the packet; another sheet in the handouts is for suggestions on how to use the organization fund balance; need to promote MeASBO statewide; need to use the website; introduction of current leadership in MeASBO; mugs have been purchased as a marketing tool, there should be one for each member; Nov 8, March 6, April 10 will be the other meetings this year (Portland, Lewiston, Augusta, but not sure which date will be at which location); Annual Law Seminar is Oct 4; DOE Financial Training on Oct 15 Lewiston & Oct 22 Brewer; mentorship – there is a section on the website that list some people who can help new business managers and can set up time to work with you; retiring members – please notify executive committee if you know that someone is retiring; would like to know how the dues process went this year – the system automatically renews you if you are a returning member and will send you an email which contains the invoice for the dues payments;

3. **Vendor Spotlight** – Siemens; Tom Seekins & Darryl Joudrey – no vendor presentation
4. **Legislative News & Update** – Vicki Wallack, MSMA – enjoys presenting to this group; she wrote testimony on 174 bills this past year (a record) in both education & labor committees; next year “should” be easier because it is a short season, but that may not happen.

Pay Averaging – have to provide a pay averaging option for anything over 21, only need to provide ONE option, should only be averaging on regular hours, district can set an enrollment period, the unions will negotiate this because it effects wages, this applies to all employees not just those who are part of the associations, should get a MOU from every employees that they are choosing pay averaging, DOL has stated if employee chooses pay averaging minimum wage will not be an issue.

Reduced Lunch is now covered by the State and are free at the district level.

Increased minimum receiver share to 45%.

RRF fund was funded for \$18M, but is not enough because it is widely used, they added to the list of projects that can be covered through this fund (question if it is actually 25M).

\$200,000 more trying to get CTEs on a formula by 2024.

System Administration currently is at \$141 for district that are part of a RSC or \$47 if you are not, it will be going to \$134, but it previously was \$240.

Ramp up to \$40,000 for teachers – not sure how to do this without bankrupting towns, this was divided into three steps – first year \$35,000 (FY21), second \$37,500 (FY22), third \$40,000 (FY23), the only year the State has funds budgeted is FY21 because that is part of the current biennium, this change also adjusts the rest of the scale (MEA is pushing for this) and this will cause towns to go bankrupt, this will cause budgets to fail, this change needs to be done thoughtfully & the right way, but this is the right goal.

PreK initiatives \$1.7M increase & based on anticipated enrollment, space is an issue & staffing is an issue state wide.

CDS - explained where does it stand right now; DOE is having stake holder meetings right now; biggest question is funding for this; the farther north in the State children are more spread out; there is a carryover bill that would ramp up to this 2024-2025; there is a request for a “picus” type study but no one have been hired yet; national trend that programs like CDS are already in the public schools in other states.

Labor bills – Educational Policy & Binding Arbitration were vetoed by Janet Mills which was very good for districts, this would have bankrupted towns.

Food Shaming – DOE put out a document on this subject on how to handle this in the schools, still not sure how to handle funding that is not received due to this change.

Lead in School – worked with rural water district, has not seen the rules yet, major substantive rules & will have to follow once they are passed, hoping to get the rule out.

Will the “normal” cost of teacher retirement ever go back to the way it used to be, there was talk about giving it back to the State, there “may” be some adjustment but does not think it will ever go away.

LD577 after school food service program for districts that are 50% poverty in a single school, there is an opt out if the Superintendent goes to the school board showing how much this would cost the district; internet based application process will be offered; alternative breakfast programs.

Deb Roberts spoke to two bills – Pay Averaging from MePERS on how it effects reporting & guidance, still report the employee hourly rate, still working on how to report hours worked & will offer guidance when that decision is made, this may be different than what districts are doing now.

LD696 security breach – the law states that requirement of notice is 30 days on impacted individuals unless there is a police investigation.

Bills that have financial impact should have more presence from districts when testimony is being given at the State. Testimony from the “experts in the field” have great weight to committee members.

5. **Website Update** – Luci Milewski – reviewed the website since there are many new faces in the room; under “Resources” there are many links to sites that Luci goes to often and can add additional sites that members give her; the membership list for this year is now updated in a spreadsheet on the website; Forum is a place to post topics

and the post will go out to the entire membership; there is a section with sample – RFPs, RFQs, policies, etc.; looking for things/topics to post on the website; Luci demonstrated how easy it is to post items to the website; only those who have paid their dues can get into the details of the website. Vendors can advertise and have links showing on the website, but we need additional "help" to add this information and this is where members can volunteer to help.

6. **ED-279 and Other Important Updates from DOE Finance** – Tyler Backus, School Finance & Compliance Coordinator – topics - Increasing funding, spending disparities, GASB84 update, teacher coding, reports in MEFS for funding model.

Increase your funding – ESC (previously RSC) has a different formula for FY21; accuracy in data which will be covered by DOE in their trainings taking place in October (this past year there was \$4M in corrections that could not be adjusted); email Tyler, Paula, Kathy if any data in NEO is not correct; superintendent's agreements – should be receiving the per pupil amount of the district of student's resident, notify Tyler to make these adjustments that you want this to happen for FY21; MaineCare billing (RFP coming soon for central processing), the State is hoping this will facilitate more districts billing for MaineCare; sending your special education students to a Regional Service Center instead of private school will give more subsidy for high cost out of district allocation; request ALL parents turn in F & R paperwork to make sure you capture as many eligible students as possible (offer incentives). Per Pupil Valuation versus Per Pupil Expenditures graph and talked about how we could we better distribute funds. GASB 84 no reporting for FY20, possibly not even for FY21, but the Feds are pretty clear they will want this information, explained the OMB process, is hoping auditors will comment to OMB that this information is not useful for auditing purposes, Feds are looking at larger states that have a lot of funds in student activity accounts but not rural states.

GASB 87 Lease & lease purchases may need to be tracked differently for things like buses, computers, etc. it has to do with the value of a product vs what you have paid.

Coding teachers to cost centers 950/990 – special education, gifted & talented, EL – the State really wants teachers being coded to the school level but wants information from districts as to any reasons districts are still charging to 950/990.

Reports in NEO that are useful to look at when comparing your ED279 that are based on previous year's information, Tyler reviewed some reports that are useful in reviewing information, all of this information will be reviewed at the DOE workshops in October.

7. **Panel Discussion – Current Topics Affecting Maine Business Officials – Lucie Tabor, Adam Hanson, Hollis Cobb – Colin asked for topics and brought up several subjects**

Capital Reserve Funds – the panel responded how their districts are handling, using, or establish Capital Reserve Fund. Members that have capital reserve funds were asked how they established their funds – many different ways. Fund balance – how do districts handle their year end fund balance – the panel responded how their districts are handling it.

Communication with superintendent & school board – panel responded how things work in their districts – trust, honesty, respect, transparency, truthful, admit when you make a mistake, admit when you do not know something.

Thank you to Tom Seekins & Darryl Joudrey of Siemens for being our Breakfast Sponsor!