

Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf
School Board Meeting
Falmouth, Maine
December 7, 2017

Board Present: John Shattuck, Michelle Ames, Laurel Keith, Roxanne Baker, Terry Morrell, Amber Oakes, Samantha Hebert, Jason White, Robin Foster, Emma Foster

Board Absent/Excused: Anna Perna, Debbie Camire, Frances Frost, David Gaul

Administration: Karen Hopkins, Traci Drake, O.J. Logue

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:35

II. CONTRACTS

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- David Gaul resigned from the Board.
- John Shattuck will be stepping down as the Chair of the BOD, due to Lease Agreement conflict between GBSD and DRM.
- Jason White has been asked to step in as Chair Pro Temp until the remainder of the school year.
[Motion to approve Jason White as Chair Pro Temp. Vote: 8 in favor 0 opposed 1 abstention \(Jason White\)](#)
- Discussion related to the open seats on the BOARD.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-November 9, 2017

[Motion to approve Minutes of November 9, 2017. Vote: 8 in favor 0 opposed abstention \(Robin Foster\)](#)

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Congrats to the Academic Bowl Team, going to regionals in Iowa in February 2018.
- We were at risk of losing E-Rate, a discounted internet use at a reduced cost, but were able to convey enough information that we believe we will continue to receive the savings of will save \$15k to \$20k a year.
- Disability Rights Maine now occupies the C-Building temporarily. Due to a Legislative Act passed many years ago, GBSD is limited to organizations it can lease space to and needs to develop a new proposal to submit regarding who is able to occupy space in the buildings on the Island.
- In order to proceed with a permanent lease with DRM, GBSD has met with the Town of Falmouth, Code Enforcement and has contracted with the Port Architect Firm to ensure things are proceeding as they should be.
- Angie Bruno, Director of PSO, retires on December 15th. GBSD was asked the develop and submit a plan of action regarding coverage and replacement. An Interim PSO Director's position was posted internally and externally to cover until we are able to finalize a structural change in development. If no candidates apply, Angela Bruno has agreed to return in February to provide 3 days of support.
- For the month of January, David Sherry has been asked to return to provide support and to continue alongside Angela until a permanent solution has been decided upon.

[Motion to approve Contracting services with David Sherry. Vote: ALL in favor 0 opposed 0 abstention](#)

- In 2015, the State passed an Act that required MECDHH to assume all financial costs related to transportation for all students involved in Portland school district. The State funded us \$300,000 for this year, but we are projecting over the \$500,000 mark for this year alone. We continue to appeal to the State for costs for transportation that impact the budget.
- MECDHH/GBSD will be submitting a Residential Life RFP. The last one was in 2009 and continues to be held by Spurwink. They are requesting a rate increase and the discussion provides us with the opportunity to seek competitive bids for a contract that suits the Students and the school's needs. The Board does not need to vote to approve the school the proceed with the RFP, which it intends to do in January 2018.
- A Staff Holiday Party will be held on December 11th, where we hope to distribute embroidered vests with the school's logo as a Thank You for all of their hard work. Board Members are welcome to join us.
- There will be a retirement party for Romy Spitz on December 15th. Board Members are welcome to join us.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:10pm.

Vote: unanimous