

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
August 11, 2026
PCES
7:00 P.M.

A. **Call to Order:** *The meeting was called to order by Niki Fortier at 7:00 pm.*

Pledge of Allegiance: *Led by Niki Fortier*

B. **Members Present:** *Alexandra Barden, Thomas Cyr, Niki Fortier, Holly Hartford, Arthur Jette, James Karanis, Brian Levensailor, Thelma Regan, Tedianne Thurlow, and Joshua York.*

Members Absent: *Susan Garrettson, Danielle Gray, Jennifer Perigo, Christian Rowell, Maged Shahin and Jesse Soden.*

C. **Approval of Minutes:** *A motion was made by Brian Levensailor and seconded by Tedianne Thurlow to approve the Board Minutes from June 10, 2026.*

Vote: Yes ~9 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 1 Student Council: Yes ~ 0 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0

D. **Public Forum:** *none*

E. **Adjustments to Agenda:** *none*

F. **Educational Reports:** *none*

G. **New Business**

1. **Nomination:**

A motion was made by Brian Levensailor and seconded by Thelma Regan that the Board of Directors accepts the nomination of Genevieve Trafelet to fill the position of 7/8 Science Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.

Vote: Yes ~ 10 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0 Student Council: Yes ~ 0 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0

2. **Nomination:**

A motion was made by Thelma Regan and seconded by Brian Levensailor that the Board of Directors accepts the nomination of Alice Marshall to fill the position of Special Education Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.

Vote: Yes ~ 10 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0 Student Council: Yes ~ 0 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0

3. **Nomination:**

A motion was made by Thelma Regan and seconded by Brian Levensailor that the Board of Directors accepts the nomination of Alyson Pullen to fill the position of Special Education Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.

Vote: Yes ~ 10 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0 Student Council: Yes ~ 0 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0

4. Nomination:

A motion was made by James Karanis and seconded by Thelma Regan that the Board of Directors accepts the nomination of Nicholas Blethen to fill the position of PCSS Music Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.

Vote: Yes ~ 10 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0 Student Council: Yes ~ 0 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0

5. Policy Development:

A motion was made by Brian Levensailor and seconded by Arthur Jette that the Board of Directors approves the first reading of policies BEDH, JICJ, and KBF of the SAD #4 Policy Book.

Vote: Yes ~ 10 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0 Student Council: Yes ~ 0 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0

A motion was made by Brian Levensailor and seconded by James Karanis that the Board approves Policy JICJ with edit of “silenced” in 1st bullet and no second reading.

Vote: Yes ~ 10 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0 Student Council: Yes ~ 0 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0

6. Policy Development:

A motion was made by Alexandra Barden and seconded by Brian Levensailor that the Board of Directors approves the second reading of policy JICK of the SAD #4 Policy Book.

Vote: Yes ~ 10 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0 Student Council: Yes ~ 0 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0

H. Committee Reports:

I. Administrators’ Reports:

- PCES Principal – *attached*
- PCSS Principal - *attached*
- Special Education Director – *attached*

J. Chairperson’s Report: *Committee assignment handed out*

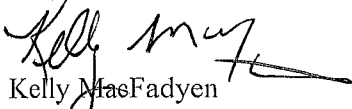
K. Superintendent’s Report: *attached*

L. Adjournment:

A motion was made by James Karanis and seconded by Brian Levensailor to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Vote: Yes ~ 10 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0 Student Council: Yes ~ 0 No ~ 0 Ab. ~ 0

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly MasFadyen
Superintendent of Schools

PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The primary purpose of School Board meetings is to conduct the business of the Board related to school policies, programs, and operations. The Board encourages residents to attend Board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the operations and programs of the schools and cordially invites any interested member of the public to attend and participate as provided in this policy.

The Board recognizes the value of public comments on school and educational matters. To permit fair and orderly expression of public comments at Board business meetings, while still allowing the Board to conduct its business efficiently, the Board has established the procedure below for regular business meetings.

At special, emergency, or workshop meetings, public comments will be limited to the topic(s) of the particular meeting.

In addition to speaking during the designated public comment portion of the agenda at Board meetings, members of the public are welcome to submit written comments on school and educational matters to the Board and Superintendent.

The following rules apply to public participation in Board business meetings:

1. The Board includes a public comment period, not to exceed 30 minutes on the agenda of its regular business meetings. Individual speakers will be given equal amounts of time to speak during public comment period, limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. Individuals may not relinquish a portion of their allotted time to another speaker. The time limits in this paragraph may be modified at a particular meeting at the discretion of the Board Chair.

The Board will hear public comments from residents of the school unit first. If there is time remaining in the public comment period once all residents have had the opportunity to speak, the Board will permit comments from non-residents. Individuals who wish to speak are required to fill out the sign-in form available at each Board meeting, prior to the beginning of the public comment period, and review a copy of this policy. Each individual will be required to state their name and town/city of residence before beginning their remarks.

2. In order to make efficient use of meeting time, the Board requests that groups or organizations be represented by designated spokespersons.

3. Individuals shall stand, if able, by their seat during their allotted time for comment. Speakers will not be permitted to approach the Board or walk or stand elsewhere around the room during their comment period. Speakers must be recognized by the Board Chair, and all public comments should be addressed to the Board Chair.
4. The Board Chair is responsible for ensuring the orderly conduct of Board meetings and for ensuring compliance with this policy, including the following rules of order:
 - a. Speakers are expected to follow rules of common etiquette and decorum for the forum – a school business meeting at which students may be present – and are required to refrain from (i) using indecent and/or obscene language, (ii) engaging in disruptive conduct, including but not limited to inciting criminal conduct, shouting, threatening others using words or by other actions, making defamatory comments, exceeding the allotted time limits, talking over or interrupting others, offering repetitive comments, and offering comments on matters unrelated to school or education matters. For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

Indecent – the remark is uttered before 10:00 p.m. and describes or depicts sexual or excretory activities or organs in a patently offensive manner as measured by contemporary community standards.

Obscene – the remark appeals to the prurient (i.e., shameful, morbid, or unwholesome fascination with sex, nudity, or excretory functions) interest; depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way; and, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

- b. Discussion of personnel matters is not permitted during the public comment period due to the privacy, confidentiality and due process rights of school unit employees. For purposes of this policy, “discussion of a personnel matter” means any discussion, whether positive or negative, of the job performance or conduct of a school unit employee (whether the employee is named directly or, in the judgment of the Board Chair, the identity of the employee can be reasonably identified due to the content of the remarks).
 - c. Discussion of matters involving individual students are also not permitted during the public comment period due to the privacy, confidentiality, and due process rights of the school unit’s students.

- d. All concerns about personnel matters and/or student matters should be directed to the Superintendent or another appropriate administrator outside of Board meetings so that they can be addressed through an alternative channel and in a manner consistent with privacy, confidentiality, and due process rights of the individuals involved.
- e. The Board Chair will stop any public comment that is contrary to these rules.
- f. Individuals who disrupt a Board meeting may be asked to leave in order to allow the Board to conduct its business in an orderly manner. The Board Chair may request the assistance of law enforcement if necessary to address disruptions or safety concerns.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 1001(20)
20-A MRSA § 6101
1 MRSA § 405

Cross Reference: BE – School Board Meetings
BEDB – Agenda
BEDB-R – Agenda Format
BEC – Executive Sessions
KE – Public Concerns and Complaints

2nd Reading: September 10, 2026

CELL PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

The intent of this policy is to support a focused learning environment, minimize distractions, and promote student social and emotional well-being by setting expectations regarding the use of student personal cell phones, smart watches, and other personal electronic devices (PEDs) during the school day.

This policy applies to all student personal electronic devices with Internet or cellular network connection connectivity capabilities, wearable or handheld.

BELL TO BELL PROHIBITION

All students, from Pre-K through Grade 12, are prohibited from using cell phones and other personal electronic devices with Internet or cellular network connectivity capabilities for the duration of the entire school day, from starting to dismissal, except as otherwise permitted in this policy.

Students are not permitted to carry/wear or access personal cell phones, smart watches, or other PEDs during the school day.

- Prior to the starting bell, cell phones and other PEDs must be powered off or silenced and stored as determined by the building administrator.
- Exceptions to the prohibition on use may be granted for monitoring or management of a health condition in accordance with a health care provider's order as incorporated into the student's individual health plan (IHP) (e.g., glucose monitoring); implementation of a student's IEP; a documented Section 504 accommodation for an individual student (e.g., use of assistive technology); in language support services for emergent English language learners when no other translation option is reasonably available; or in an emergency situation as authorized by the building administrator in accordance with the school unit's health and safety and emergency management plan.
- Exceptions to the prohibition on use may be granted for co-curricular activities at the discretion of administration.

At all grade levels, violations of this policy may result in:

- A verbal warning and direction to store the device in the designated location.
- Forfeiture of the cell phone, smart watch, or other device for the remainder of the day.
- Repeated violations may require a parent/guardian meeting and/or result in additional interventions or disciplinary consequences.

In the event of a school emergency, the school/district will communicate with parents as promptly as possible in accordance with the school unit's Health and Safety and Emergency Management Plan.

The school unit will not be responsible for loss, theft, or damage to students' personally owned cell phones, smart watches, or other PEDs brought into schools or onto school property, including school buses, parking lots, athletic fields and/or any other school facilities.

The Superintendent/building administrators will be responsible for developing and implementing procedures to implement/enforce this policy. Students and parents will be provided notice of this policy through student handbooks and/or other means of communication prior to the beginning of the school year.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 1001(23)

Cross Reference: GBCC—Employee Use of Cell Phones
IJNDB—Student Computer and Internet Use and Internet Safety
JIC—Student Code of Conduct
JIH—Questioning and Searches of Students

Adopted: August 11, 2026

SAD #4 PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN TITLE I

The Board endorses the parent involvement goals of Title I and encourages the regular participation by parents/guardians in all aspects of the school system's Title I programs.

For the purpose of this policy, "parents/guardians" includes other family members involved in supervising the child's schooling.

I. DISTRICT-LEVEL PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

In compliance with federal law, the school unit will develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of children participating in the school system's Title I programs a written district-level parent involvement policy.

Annually, parents/guardians will have opportunities to participate in the evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school unit's parent involvement policy and in using the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent involvement and to make revisions to the policy.

II. SCHOOL-PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

As required by law, each school in the school unit that receives Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents/guardians of children served in the program a school parent/guardian involvement policy, including "School-Parent Compact" outlining the manner in which parents, school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement in meeting State standards. The school policy will be distributed to parents/guardians of children participating in the school's Title I programs.

The "School-Parent Compact" shall:

- A. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment enabling children in the Title I program to meet the State's academic achievement standards;
- B. Indicate the ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, monitoring television watching, volunteering in the classroom, and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their children's education and positive use of extra-curricular time; and
- C. Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an ongoing basis, with, at a minimum, parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents, and reasonable access to staff.

III. PARENT INVOLVEMENT MEETINGS

Each school receiving Title I funds shall convene an annual meeting to which all parents/guardians of eligible children shall be invited to inform them about the school's participation in Title I and to involve them in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I programs and the parent involvement policy.

In addition to the required annual meeting, at least one other meeting shall be held at various times of the day and/or evenings for parents/guardians of students participating in Title I programs.

These meetings shall be used to provide parents with:

- A. Information about programs the school provides under Title I;
- B. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency level students are expected to meet;
- C. Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children; and
- D. The opportunity to submit comments to the district level if they are dissatisfied with the school-wide Title I program.

Title I funding, if sufficient, may be used to facilitate parent/guardian attendance at meetings through the payment of transportation and childcare costs.

IV. PARENT RELATIONS

Parents/guardians of children participating in a small group intervention shall receive from the Coordinator, the building principal and Title I staff an explanation of the reasons supporting their child's participation and a set of goals to be addressed. Parents will receive regular reports on their child's progress and be provided opportunities to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers. Parents may access materials and make suggestions as to how they can assist in the education of their children at home.

V. DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Superintendent/Coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring that the school unit's Title I plan, programs, and parent involvement policies comply with applicable law and regulations and for developing administrative procedures, as needed, to implement this policy.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 6318

Adopted: January 8, 2008

Revised: March 8, 2011

Reviewed: December 17, 2019, February 5, 2026

2nd Read: September 10, 2026

BULLYING

The Board believes that bullying, including cyberbullying, is detrimental to student well-being and to student learning and achievement. It interferes with the mission of the schools to educate their students and disrupts the operations of the schools. Bullying affects not only students who are targets but also those who participate in and witness such behavior.

Bullying Prohibited

Bullying, including “cyberbullying,” harassment and sexual harassment are not acceptable conduct in M.S.A.D. #4 and are prohibited.

Retaliation for the reporting of incidents of such behavior is also prohibited.

In adopting this policy, it is not the Board’s intent to prohibit students from expressing their ideas, including religious, political and philosophical views that may offend the sensibilities of others, or from engaging in civil debate. However, the Board does not condone and will take action in response to conduct that directly interferes with students’ rights at school under applicable laws or with the educational mission, operations, discipline or general welfare of the schools.

Definitions

“Bullying” and “cyberbullying” have the same meaning in this policy as in Maine law:

Bullying

“Bullying” includes, but is not limited to a written, oral or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof directed at a student or students that:

- A. Has, or a reasonable person would expect it to have, the effect of:
 - 1. Physically harming a student or damaging a student’s property; or
 - 2. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or damage to his/her property;
- B. Interferes with the rights of a student by:
 - 1. Creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment for the student; or

2. Interfering with the student's academic performance or ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the school; or

C. Is based on:

- a. A student's actual or perceived characteristics identified in 5 MRSA § 4602 or 4684-A (including race; color; ancestry; national origin; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; religion; physical or mental disability) or other distinguishing personal characteristics (such as socioeconomic status; age; physical appearance; weight; or family status); or
- b. A student's association with a person with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other distinguishing characteristics;
- c. and that has the effect described in subparagraph A. or B. above.

Under Maine law:

"Sexual orientation" means a person's actual or perceived heterosexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, or gender identity or expression.

"Gender identity" means gender-related identity, appearance, mannerisms, or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, regardless of the individual's assigned sex at birth.

Cyberbullying

"Cyberbullying" means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including but not limited to, a transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted by the use of any electronic device including, but not limited to, a computer, telephone, cellular telephone, text messaging device or personal digital assistant.

Retaliation

Retaliation means an act or gesture against a student for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. Retaliation also includes reporting that is not made in good faith on an act of bullying.

Application of Policy

This policy applies to bullying that:

- A. Takes place at school or on school grounds, at any school-sponsored or school-related activity or event, or while students are being transported to or from school or school-sponsored activities or events; or
- B. Takes place elsewhere or through the use of technology, but only if the bullying also infringes on the rights of the student at school as set forth in the definition of "bullying."

Consequences for Policy Violations**Students**

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension, expulsion, or a series of graduated consequences including alternative discipline or other behavioral interventions.

The Board retains the right to impose disciplinary consequences for bullying and other conduct that occurs at any time or place that substantially disrupts the instructional program, operations of the schools, or welfare of students.

Any student violating this policy may also be subject to civil or criminal penalties.

School Employees and Others

Administrators, professional staff, and all other employees who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal, and in accordance with any applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Volunteers, contractors, and visitors who violate this policy will be excluded from school property until the Superintendent is satisfied that the person will comply with Maine's bullying law and this policy.

Any person violating this policy may also be subject to civil or criminal penalties.

Any school-affiliated organization that authorizes or engages in bullying or retaliation is subject to forfeiture of Board approval/sanctioning and/or suspension or revocation of its permission to operate on school grounds.

Staff Training

M.S.A.D. #4 will provide professional development and staff training in bullying prevention and response.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent/designee will be responsible for developing and implementing procedures in accordance with applicable law to implement this policy.

The Superintendent will designate the school principal and/or other school personnel to be responsible for implementation/enforcement of this policy and associated procedures on the school level.

A student or his/her parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a decision of the Superintendent or designee related to the taking or not taking of disciplinary action in the course of implementing this policy may appeal, in writing, to the Superintendent within 14 calendar days of notice or the decision.

The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

Dissemination of Policy

The Superintendent will be responsible for providing this policy, any associated administrative procedures and the names of the person(s) responsible for implementing the policy/procedure at the school level in writing to students, parents, school employees and volunteers in handbooks, on the school unit's website and by such other means (if any) as may be determined by the Superintendent.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1001(15), 6554

Cross Reference: AC - Nondiscrimination, Equal Opportunity
ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
ACAD – Hazing
AD – Educational Philosophy/Mission
ADAA – School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior
ADF - School District Commitment to Learning Results
CHCAA - Student Handbooks
GCI – Professional Staff Development
IJNDB-R - Student Computer and Internet Use and Internet Safety
JI - Student Rights and Responsibilities

JICC - Student Conduct on Buses
JICIA - Weapons, Violence and School Safety
JK - Student Discipline
JKD - Suspension of Students
JKE - Expulsion of Students
KLG - Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

Adopted: December 11, 2012
Revised: March 10, 2020, August 11, 2026

Special Ed Board Report August 2026

As we prepare for a new school year I want to take this opportunity to share information on new hires we have added to our team!

Alice Marshall will be joining our team as the 4-5 Resource Room teacher. Alice is joining us with 20+ years of experience as an elementary school special education teacher and we are quite fortunate to have her expertise on our team. She comes with experience in a special purpose program as well as a resource room.

Carole DuMonthier will be providing Speech Services to our 3-5 year olds. Carole brings with her experience in working with 3-5 year olds in special purpose programs as well as the general ed setting. We are so fortunate to have experience with non-verbal communication and communication devices to support our team.

Susan Gladney is joining us as an Ed Tech III in PCES. We are fortunate to have her experiences in special education and communication to provide the best support possible for our students.

Alicia Werenko will be joining us as an Ed Tech III with several years of experience in school and community based services for children with behavioral and academic challenges. Her experiences will support our students in PCES.

Lisa Madson is joining our Special Education team as an Ed Tech III. She has experience supporting students academically in a Resource Room but has also had the opportunity to lead a Resource Room in the past. Her experiences with students, academic needs and team work will be important to the PCSS.

Cadence Clukey is joining us as an Ed Tech III in the Middle School Resource Room. Her community experiences as a BHP will be beneficial in supporting students across settings with academics and behaviors as needed.

The Special Ed Department is preparing to use new tools in the 2026-27 school year. Ready Sign will be used to collect signatures from families and team members as appropriate. This will help ensure proper documentation is collected quickly. We are also returning to the use of ZOOM for any one who wants to join our meetings virtually. We had some difficulties with Google Meet in the past so we will now be using ZOOM. All IEP meetings are in person but there is always a virtual option for team members should they need it.

Special Education Director
Nicki Greene

August 2026

**P.C.E.S. Principal's Report
To the School Board**

The school is looking fabulous. Byron and Tammy Kelley and Mary Desjardins have been working hard to get us to shine. Leah Hobbs is painting the hallways and the new STEAM Lab. We are getting excited for the yellow buses to roll!

The Kent Fund, which provides students with gifts (headphones) at Christmas, had an exceptional financial year in 2025. The fund also afforded school supplies for all PK-5 students to start the year: crayons, markers, pencils and pencil boxes, erasers, glue sticks, zip pouches, pocket folders, etc. Each grade-level supply list shows families what has been purchased. The lists are on the School Webpage and were included with the teacher letters, which have been mailed.

Swim lessons are back! The pool is operational in Dover, and the Director of the Piscataquis Area Community Center emailed to offer 8 swimming lessons for students in grade 2. PCES is tentatively scheduled for October and November.

Preschool has only 14 new students this year, and they have 7-8 beginner gardeners.

The new Foundational Skills class has been fully planned and will assist up to 6 students in PK/K develop skills in 8 goal areas: being in a community, understanding their feelings, managing emotions, making friends and playing with others, communicating and resolving conflicts, thinking flexibly, building self esteem, and being independent. Rubrics have been designed, skills delineated and lessons matched to each goal area. Our school improvement goal is to increase from a collective score of 53% to 80% on the SAD 4 Social Emotional Rubric.

Title Update:

- The Title application for 2027 has been substantially approved. The final allocation total for all Title Grants was \$366,028.50. We have filled all the interventionist positions with this funding. The mathematics coach will provide instructional support to the middle school, and the literacy interventionist who was part-time is now full-time for the middle school. At the elementary school, several part-time interventionists are returning and Eliza DeWitt who joined mid year will return full-time, and Phillip Bennett will join full-time as an upper elementary mathematics interventionist. Also, Melissa Stearns and Kathy Richards are returning part-time to assist with interventions. It's a great line-up!

- Attendance at our Summer School programs was lower than previous years. The students in attendance received a lot of 1-1 attention and reinforcement of skills in reading and math. Teachers are finishing their data reports for analysis of individual successes and needs.
- The Parent Compact and the Parent Involvement Policy have been added to the Back-to-School Paperwork.

Staffing & Professional Development:

New teacher orientation is next Wednesday, the 19th. I will meet with them to discuss management topics such as: responsibilities, schedules, supports, gradebook, 1st 20 days, etc., and I will schedule two follow-up meetings to address curriculum/Schoolology, observations and evaluations, grants, field trips, etc. Too much information seems to overwhelm and not be productive.

In the opening days, differentiated professional growth opportunities will be introduced.

- Korah Sohl will meet with Kathy Jarret to discuss themes and timelines to explore where the Computer Science Framework and science curriculum intersect. Throughout the year, teachers in grades 4 and 5 will have common planning time and team teach with Kathy in an effort to create experiential learning and extend PCES instructional capacity in technology.
- On August 25th, science teachers in grades 4 and 5 will work with Melissa from The Audubon Society. They are embedding place-based and nature-based learning opportunities into the Amplify units. Students engage when the learning comes alive. Dawna Blackstone from Rural Aspirations will also be present. She is helping to map these experiences onto the curriculum. Ultimately, both of these resources are funded through the Onion Foundation.
- Lauren Taylor, our literacy coach, will meet with teachers in grades 2 and 3 to continue to map their literacy sequences
- PK-1st grade will host a Meet & Greet to welcome our youngest learners and help them feel confident for the 1st day.
- PE and music teachers will be preparing for their new curricula. Mr. Gaw will be teaching 7& 8th grade health and Mr. Fogg and Mr. Blevin will be co-teaching at both PCES and PCSS.

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The What's What at PCES

August 25
September 9
September 21

PK-1st Meet & Greet
PCES Open House
Picture Day

MSAD#4 SCHOOL BOARD

Principal's Report

August 11, 2026

Enrollment - 222 Students (net increase of 19 Students)

Grade 6	22 Students
Grade 7	38 Students
Grade 8	40 Students
Grade 9	27 Students
Grade 10	31 Students
Grade 11	29 Students
Grade 12	35 Students

Summer News...

- Changes abound at PCSS! This year, we are excited to welcome 6th graders to our Middle School as the district moves toward a traditional middle school model, with grades 6 - 8 at PCSS and elementary grades remaining at PCES.
 - Open House - 8/12 and 8/13

Another change this year involves student cell phone use and access. In accordance with Maine's new bell-to-bell cell phone law, PCSS will begin using the Yondr pouch system during the second week of September - pending MSAD#4 School Board Approval of Policy JICJ.

- Students will keep their phones and other personal electronic devices with them throughout the school day, secured in their individual Yondr pouches and unavailable for use until the end of the day. More information about the Yondr system, including how families can communicate necessary messages to their children during the school day, will be shared prior to implementation.

New Hires...

- Mr. Nicholas Blethen and Mr. Gunnar Berling-Haugh are joining the MSAD4 Music Department and will collaborate with Mr. Matt Fogg - sharing their time between PCES and PCSS.
- Mr. Matthew Chadbourne and Mr. Zachary Wilson make up the 6th Grade core teaching team.
- Ms. Genivieve Trafelet is teaching Grade 7 and 8 Science.
- Ms. Nora Foss is the new Special Education Teacher in the Middle School Resource Room.
 - **Cadence Clukey, Lisa Madson**, Alison Quimby, and Kim Read will join Ms. Foss by offering Ed Tech support services at the middle school level.
- Ms. Alyson Pullen is the new Special Education Teacher in the High School Resource Room.
 - Adam Brown, Jayme Buck, **Whitney Kain**, Kathy Panciera, and Tom Panciera will join Ms. Pullen by offering Ed Tech support services at the high school level.
- Chris Shorette - JMG Teacher

MSAD#4 SCHOOL BOARD

Principal's Report

August 11, 2026

Open Positions...

- HS Life Science

Upcoming Events of Significance...

- **Wednesday, August 19 - New Employee Orientation**
- **Monday, August 24 - Day 1 of Beginning of Year Workshops**
 - Afternoon = Building Specific
 - PCSS = Staff Meeting
 - Cell Phone Bell to Bell update
 - Work in Rooms
- **Tuesday, August 25 - Day 2 of Beginning of Year Workshops**
 - Staff Meeting
 - Emergency All Hazards Plan = Guests = Sheriff Bob Young and Deputy Sheriff Jamie Kane
 - Content Specific PLC Work
- **Wednesday, August 26 - First Day of School for Grades 6, 7, and 9 and Gold Day TCTC Students**
 - The 6th Grade Team has a day planned for an introduction to middle school life and what it means to be a PCSs Pirate.
 - The Middle School Team is excited to welcome our 7th graders with a day designed to help them start the year off strong. Getting to know teachers, the layout of the school, routines, and expectations will be on the agenda on this fun filled day.
 - Ninth graders will explore the Borestone Mountain area—some will hike to the summit, while others may enjoy a more relaxed pace with scenic stops and time at the check-in cabin. **A permission slip for this team-building hike is enclosed.** These forms can be **dropped off at the school prior to the first day or brought in on the first day.** All students **must have a signed permission slip on file in order to attend.**
 - **First TCTC day for students scheduled to attend on GOLD days.** The TCTC bus will leave campus at 8am.
- **Thursday, August 27 - First Day of School for Grades 10–12 – AND second day of school for Grades 6, 7, and 9!**
 - This will be a **BLUE Day**, and
 - **Students scheduled to attend TCTC on BLUE days** will board the TCTC bus for TCTC at 8am.
- **Tuesday, September 1, from 5–7 p.m - Open House – Enjoy supper on us while getting to know our staff and connecting with other families.**

MSAD#4 SCHOOL BOARD

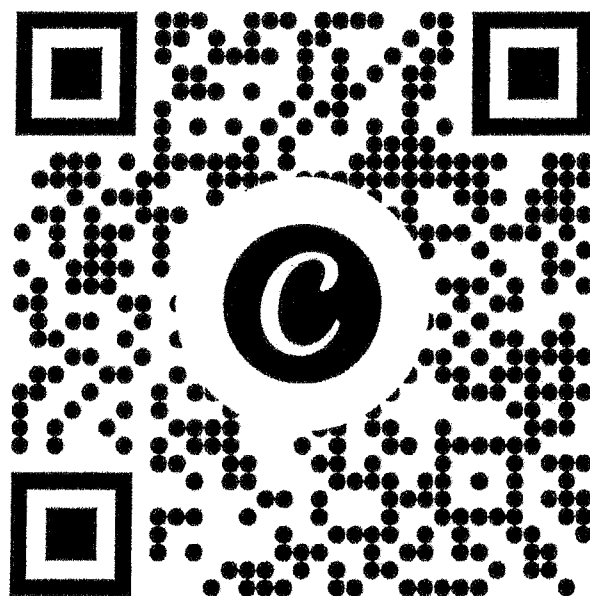
Principal's Report

August 11, 2026

Handbook Updates...

- **2026/27 Student/Parent/Guardian Handbook**
 - QR Code and updated on the SAD4 website
 - Most notable update pending MSAD#4 School Board approval of Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices Policy JICJ
 - Addressed Maine's Bell to Bell Cell Phone Prohibition that went into effect on 8/1/2026
 - The mandate requires every public school board in Maine to adopt and enforce a policy prohibiting student use of personal electronic devices from the morning starting bell until the final dismissal bell.
 - Awesome and Good Attendance addressed quarterly at Musters with certificates and drawings for Pirate Swag - End of year drawing will incorporate all 4 quarters.
 - Tardiness
 - Response = after 3 tardies, students will serve lunch detentions on same day - if no improvement - will address other responses
 - Scent Conscious v Fragrance Free

2026/27
PCSS
Student/Parent/Guardian
HANDBOOK
QR Code



August 11, 2026

Board of Directors Meeting Superintendent's Report



STAFFING

Resignations:

- Briana Ricker, Ed. Tech 3 at PCES
- Karen Libby, Special Education Self Contained at PCES
- Summer Yelverton, Life Science at PCHS
- Haley Burns, K-5 Art teacher at PCES

Hires:

- Alice Marshall, Special Education Resource Room (4-5)
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- Alice has a BS in elementary education from UMO. She is a certified teacher in both regular education and special education. She has taught at Highview Christian Academy, and Sedomocha.
- Carole Dumonthier, part-time speech therapist.
 - Carole has a M.S. in Ed.S-L-P. From the University of Nebraska. She is certified and has many years of experience as a speech-Language pathologist.
- Melissa Stearns, Title 1 Ed. Tech. 3 PCES
- Kathy Richards, Title 1 Ed. Tech. 3 PCES
- Phillip Bennett, Title 1 Ed. Tech. 3PCES
 - Phillip has a M.Ed. from Grand Canyon University. He has a conditional teacher certification in social studies. He has experience as an Title Interventionist at Corinth. He also has experience teaching 9th grade social studies at RSU 67 in Lincoln.
- Susan Gladney, Ed. Tech. 3 PCES
 - Susan has a BA in creative writing from California University. She has been an Ed. Tech. 3 at Sedomocha.
- Alicia Werenko, Ed. Tech. 3 PCES
- Alyson Pullen, Special Education Teacher, Resource Room (9-12)
 - Alyson has a BA from UMPL. She has been an Ed. Tech.3 at Waterville Public Schools. She will be a first year teacher and has a conditional certification in Teacher of Students with Disabilities.
- Nicholas Blethen, Music Teacher PCSS
 - Nicholas has a B.S. in Audio Engineering/Music Production. This is his first year teaching and he is eligible for a conditional certification.
- Genevieve Trafelet, Science 7/8
 - Genevieve has an MS in Environmental Science and Geoscience. She is certified in Life and Physical Science.
- Cadence Clukey, Ed. Tech. 3 PCSS
- Lisa Madsen, Ed. Tech. 3 PCSS
 - Lisa completed the Ed. Tech. 3 program through EMCC. She was most recently an Ed. Tech. 3 at Carrabec High School in Anson.
- Gunnar Berling-Haugh, Ed. Tech. 2 (Music)

- Gunnar has an Associates in Applied Science from KVCC. He was a Music Ed. Tech. 2 at Sedomocha m.s. for two years.
- Rachelle Perkins, Food Service PCSS

Transfers:

- Nora Foss, From Special Education Resource Room (4-5) to Special Education Resource Room (6-8)

COMMITTEES

- Committees did not meet in July. I am attaching the new subcommittee schedule for 2026-2027.
- TCTC:
 - ◆ I sat on the interview committee for the TCTC Director Position. The committee interviewed five very good candidates and the person offered the position did accept. I do not know if the MSAD #46 board approved the superintendent's nomination yet, so I will give the School Committee more information once I know it has been approved.
- Effective July 29, 2026, changes to the law on Child abuse or Neglect Reporting, Prevention and Education were enacted. We will need to update our Policy JLF to include the following:
 - The list of mandated reporters was consolidated and "school personnel" was specifically added to it. Now there is no longer any question which employees are mandated to report -- they all are.
 - Reports must be made within no more than 24 hours of when the school employee knows or has cause to suspect abuse or neglect.
 - Whenever possible, the person with first-hand information about the suspected child abuse or neglect must make the report (although it can be done in consultation with a "designated agent").
 - The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will now share mandated reports with the appropriate District Attorney's office (although mandated reporters may still make direct reports to the appropriate District Attorney's office).
 - Mandated reporting training must be completed every two years (instead of every four years). Your school district may have personnel who are in need of refresher training.

COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE

- I attended the annual Commissioner's Conference in Bar Harbor, June 21-23. The keynote speaker was Annie Duke, Author, Speaker and Consultant. She spoke about the Science of Decision Making.

ADMINISTRATIVE RETREAT

- I had the Administrative retreat on July 16 & 17. We reviewed our vision and mission statements and planned our professional development for the year. We have booked an all day training in October with the *i love u guys foundation* for standard response and reunification methods for emergencies. We are also working with Rural Aspirations to plan a tri-district training collaboratively with GCS, SAD #4 and SAD #12, as we are sharing resources for the ELO grant.

Enclosures: (1)

MSAD #4 Committee Dates 2026-2027