

**AGENDA**  
**Calais School Committee**  
**Wednesday, January 8, 2025**  
**Calais Middle/High School**  
**Library 6:00 p.m.**  
Or Join through Zoom  
Topic: School Board Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4790783101?pwd=RjFLQzBxRGRBNFhLeIZ3U3UwYnNNZz09>

Meeting ID: 479 078 3101  
Passcode: 111111

Committee Members: Chairman – Nicholas Barnett, \_\_\_\_\_, Vice Chair – Casey Carr, \_\_\_\_\_, Tomi Ellsmore, \_\_\_\_\_, Madison McVicar, \_\_\_\_\_, Tennille Hallowell, \_\_\_\_\_.

**I. Call to Order/Introductions: 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence**

**II. Consent Agenda**

**A. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Vote \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Approval of the Minutes of the November 20, 2024 meeting**

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Vote \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Public Participation**

**IV. Administrative Reports**

Superintendent of Schools- *Mary Anne Spearin*  
Director of Special Education – *Tamara Clark*  
Calais Middle/High School Principal – *Dean Preston*  
Calais Middle/High School Vice Principal/ AD – *Ben Collins*  
St. Croix Regional Technical Center Director – *Stanley Sluzenski*  
Calais Elementary School/ Calais Alternative School Principal – *Sue Carter*  
Calais Alternative School Vice Principal – *Vanessa Flood*

**V. Student Representative Report – *Leilani Welsh***

**VI. New Business**

- A. Act on the recommendation of the superintendent to hire Blue Devil Health Center part-time secretary – IF READY

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Vote \_\_\_\_\_

- B. Approval for overnight trip for Skills USA State Conference in Bangor on March 13&14

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Vote \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. Executive Session**

- A. To enter executive session under 1 M.S.R.A § 405 (6)(A) – Evaluation of Officials/appointees/employees

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Vote \_\_\_\_\_

Time in: \_\_\_\_\_

Time out: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. To see what action the board wishes to take following the Executive Session

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Vote \_\_\_\_\_

**VIII. Upcoming Meetings**

Calais School Department Liaison Meeting – January 22, 2025 at 5 pm  
Calais School Committee Meeting – January 22, 2025 at 6 pm

**IX. Requested Future Agenda Items**

**X. Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.**

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Vote \_\_\_\_\_

The Calais School Committee met on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at the Calais Middle/ High School Library. Attending were: Chair – Nicholas Barnett, Vice Chair – Casey Carr, Tomi Ellsmore, Madison McVicar, Tennille Hallowell and Mary Anne Spearin – Superintendent of Schools.

**I. Call to Order/Introductions**

Chair Nicholas Barnett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

**II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Motion by Casey Carr, second by Madison McVicar, unanimous vote to allow the following adjustments to the agenda:
- Approval to participate in a state-wide study on student behavior PK-12
- B. Motion by Nicholas Barnett, second by Madison McVicar, unanimous vote to approve minutes from October 9, 2024 & November 6, 2024 meetings.

**III. Public Participation**

**IV. Administrative Reports**

Superintendent of Schools- *Mary Anne Spearin*  
Director of Special Education – *Tamara Clark*  
Calais Middle/High School Principal – *Dean Preston*  
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Calais Elementary School/ Calais Alternative School Principal – *Sue Carter*  
Calais Alternative School Vice Principal – *Vanessa Flood*  
*\*See attached reports\**

**V. Student Representative Report – *Leilani Welsh***

**VI. New Business**

- A. Motion by Madison McVicar, second by Tomi Ellsmore, unanimous vote to act on the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Randy White as Varsity Baseball Coach.
- B. Motion by Casey Carr, second by Tomi Ellsmore, unanimous vote to act on the recommendation of the superintendent to hire Mary Johnson as ed tech.

- C. Act on the recommendation of the superintendent to hire part-time secretary for Blue Devil Health Center – NOT READY/TABLED
- D. Motion by Madison McVicar, second by Tomi Ellsmore, unanimous vote to approve youth recovery coach pilot in collaboration with Healthy Acadia Maine Alliance.
- E. Motion by Tennille Hallowell, Casey Carr, unanimous vote to approve to participate in a state-wide study on behavior PK-12.

**VII. Executive Session**

- A. Motion by Nicholas Barnett, second by Casey Carr, unanimous vote to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A 405(6)(F) – Information in confidential records; discussion or review of.

Time in: 6:34pm

Time out: 6:37pm

- B. Motion by Casey Carr, second by Tennille Hallowell, unanimous vote to accept that due to unforeseen circumstances and in agreement with Coach Hill, she will be hired as Girls JV Basketball Coach, and Coach Preston will be hired as Girls Varsity Basketball coach.

**VIII. Upcoming Meetings**

Calais School Committee Meeting – December 18, 2024 at 6pm  
Calais School Committee Meeting – January 8, 2025 at 6 pm

**IX. Requested Future Agenda Items**

**X. Adjournment**

Motion by Nicholas Barnett, second by Tomi Ellsmore, unanimous vote adjourn meeting at 6:37 pm.

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**Mary Anne Spearin, Superintendent of School**

September 25, 2024

# Calais School Department

Mary Anne Spearin, Superintendent of Schools

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207-454-7561

[mspearin@calaisschools.org](mailto:mspearin@calaisschools.org)

## **ESSER III/ARP**

We have received approval for \$313,129 of reimbursements and an additional \$259,004 is in the approval process. We have 2 outstanding invoice periods to finalize and receive the last of the ARP/ESSER funding. This should reimburse approximately \$750,000 of the grant expenditures.

## **Vacation**

I will be away starting November 21 - November 29. There are only 4 school days in that time frame due to the holiday break. I have conveyed to my office staff and administration that I am available by text or phone almost anytime and that is the best way to reach me. I will be checking emails daily but only once daily. Don't count on that being a reliable method for emergencies.

## **Budget**

Budget season is sneaking up on us. We do have 2 union negotiations this year (Support staff and Teamsters). I will be requesting negotiations to start shortly after the ED 279s preliminaries are released. A goal is to have a solid budget to bring forward earlier than last year's budget. We were not behind the city budget preps, but I would prefer to have more workable time if needed.

## **Transportation**

We have had one of our bus drivers who was out for an extended medical leave return. We are now in good shape with our Calais runs and dedicated Robbinston run. Harry has also started training a substitute bus driver. For the remainder of FY '25, Charlotte has entered into an agreement with Calais for us to provide transportation for Charlotte students attending the Calais School Department. This agreement will be revisited at the end of the year to see they wish to continue contracting services in future years.

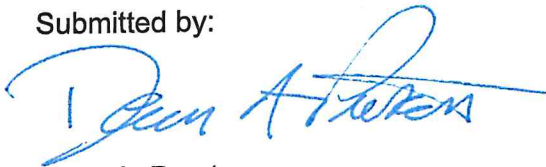


## School Board Meeting 10/9/2024

1. Researching and learning about the MPA meetings and other professional development opportunities. Hoping to attend a meeting in the near future to jump start some networking.
2. The Administrative team at the High School/Middle School continues to look at policy and review procedures that may need a fresh rewrite or at least a visit.
3. Preparing to stand up a security meeting to review such procedures and systems as Fire Alarm, Burglar Alarm, Door Locks, Building Classrooms, Building Exterior Doors, Game Day Security, etc.
4. We held a successful School Assembly to send off the Boys Soccer Team to the Northern Maine Finals; pretty well done to include a Tshirt Launcher made by the St Croix Tech; Noone was injured during these launches.
5. Still researching for the Capital Campaign for GYM Renovation to include:
  - a. Gym floor replacement and redesign
  - b. Weight Room renovation/build and redesign
  - c. Home Locker Room redesign, renovation and modernization.
6. Held a very successful Sports Award Banquet; 150-180 people attended; Booster club purchased email from Culinary Group @ St. Croix.
7. Have initiated a recognition program:
  - a. One way we are recognizing our students are the " Calais Blue Devil Pride" Cards: these are sent to students. I have challenged the staff to send them out. Once in awhile I will put one in a staffs mailbox to fill out and send. I receive them all back for send out. I track which kids have received a shout out and which teachers have sent them out. I have 43 going into mail tomorrow.
  - b. Will also be having a student of the month.
  - c. Teacher/Staff of the month.
8. Our Leadership Team has met several times and really provided candid, useful, professional feedback that has led to many changes and adjustments to daily business. Thanks to that team.
9. Took part in the NHS induction Ceremony. Team put a great event together with parents to celebrate this accomplishment. The advisor Mrs Scott assisted the team with this event. We now have 4 new members to the NHS: Peyton Beal, Maggie O'Rourke, Lena Chambers, Addison Ellsmore. I want to thank Artie Mingo for speaking at our event.
10. JMG going to UMM- Career Exploration Day. Nov 22;
11. Passmaquoddy Class is traveling to St Croix Island for an educational visit Friday; 22 NOV.
12. Held a great Veterans Day assembly: 30 Veterans and Spouses; plus whole school assembly. Event went well; AP English Class with Lori Ellis pulled it off.
13. Free Platform for students to do Career and College exploration- Level ALL- we are starting with our JMG class in January. Looks to be a pretty powerful tool that is free and adaptable.
14. The High School held their Homecoming event and it went super well. I really think everyone had a great time. Successful, Safe, and Fun. Thats a win!!

15. Honor Roll: 67 High School; 19 Middle School
16. High Honors: 43 High School; 29 Middle School
17. 58% Middle School Honors
18. 55% High School Honors

Submitted by:



Dean A. Preston  
Calais High School  
Principal

SPECIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
11/20/24

Special Education teachers and Ed Techs are providing quality programming to the students, and we continue to look for ways to support them with relevant training opportunities. We have partnered with Maine Health and will have a De-Escalation Strategies online training on December 4th, 2024 from 11:45 am to 2:15 pm. during early release for the elementary school staff. The training is focused on behaviors of younger children. We are working with Mr. Preston to plan trainings at the middle high school.

Compliance is a big part of everything we do in special education. There is much that goes into the individual educational plan of each student. Though there is a very limited amount we can share, general questions about special education are welcome.

The central office is once again fully staffed and Heidi Beal is quickly becoming an asset to the department of special services.

We are still looking to hire Educational Technicians III.

Thank you.

Tamara Clark  
Director of Special Services

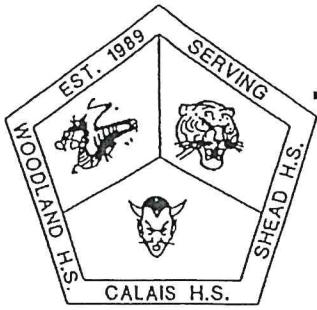


Spring season has officially wrapped up, and we are now gearing up for winter sports. We had a fantastic turnout with over 30 kids participating in our three-day Boot Camp. For tryouts, we welcomed 13 girls and 25 boys into the program. Wrestling practice started on Monday, and we were pleased to see 11 kids show up. Additionally, our cheering squad has begun with about 12 enthusiastic participants.

In terms of clubs, we are looking to start a band club/class, and Mr. Preston is also interested in launching a chess and ping pong club, which has already attracted eight sign-ups. We are actively discussing ways to encourage more students to get involved after school, though transportation remains a significant hurdle.

Sport Banquet was a big success ~~and~~ with  
A few hiccups to work out!  
Great feed back from the community  
Homecoming was a big Hit!

# ST. CROIX REGIONAL TECHNICAL CENTER



Stanley Sluzenski  
Director

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Admin Report November 20, 2024

Here is a list of some of the notable events, projects, and learning experiences from the past month.

- The Culinary Arts students made great use of their skills and catered the Calais High School Fall Sports Banquet.
- The Automotive program students spent an afternoon with the WCCC Auto program. They toured the facilities and got an introduction to the electric vehicle curriculum.
- Early Childhood Education students have started their clinical experiences. The morning session is operating a preschool three days per week for local children. The afternoon session is working three days per week in classrooms at Calais Elementary School.
- Building Trades students have started another shed in their shop. They are also renovating a room for Calais High School, turning an unused shower room into a physical therapy room.
- The Trades Exploration program has received some new equipment through the Perkins grant. The equipment will be used for wood finishing, dust control, and air quality.
- C.N.A. students are receiving their CPR/First Aid certifications this week.
- The Computer Tech students installed cameras in the CHS gym for livestreaming of events, then installed wifi and cameras for the CHS soccer field.
- Welding and Building Trades are currently collaborating to build a protective enclosure for the gym cameras.
- Tuesday was national play Monopoly Day. Our Business Studies students took advantage of this, of course. This opened the door to many mini lessons on real estate and finance.
- Eight of our staff were able to attend the statewide CTE conference in October. The day starts with Tech Updates where all the teachers from each trade area meet to share best practices and discuss industry trends. The rest of the day is filled with CTE related breakout sessions.
- We sent a busload of students to the NMCC open house on October 18. We are sending another busload to EMCC this Friday for a campus tour.
- Three dozen students attended the SkillsUSA Fall Leadership conference and received professional development on topics such as non-verbal communication, work ethics, and being a role model.
- Representatives from UMFK and Sargents Construction visited our school. Students learned about great opportunities and received even better career advice.

Respectfully,

Stanley Sluzenski

**Serving the Students of Calais, Shead, and Woodland High Schools**

ADMIN REPORT 11-20-24

I am sorry that I cannot be there in person. I am at the annual Principal Conference in Rockport.

We are continuing to receive donations for our playground, slow but sure. We now have three sand boxes made for us by Jerry James and crew. Thank you to them.

Our parent/teacher conferences are tomorrow night from 3-6PM.

We will be having our annual Polar Express on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Our annual winter concerts will be on December 11 and 12.

With basketball and cheering starting, there is a lot of activity at the school after hours.

That's it for now. Thank you

Sue Carter  
Principal