

RSU 23 Board Minutes

**RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on
January 19, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Meeting Called to Order

David Boudreau called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Present: David Boudreau, Peter Flaherty, Stuart Hogan, Michelle Violette and Superintendent John Suttie.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Stu Hogan to accept the minutes from the December 15, 2016 board meeting. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Correspondence

None

Public Session

None

Superintendent's Report

John discussed where they were at with the budget process. Administrators have met in the last few weeks to present their budgets to each other. Everyone has been in the same room and presented their budgets at the same time. It saves time but also allows us to problem solve in areas that we need to save some funds. There is another meeting Monday and then we will present our budgets to the board last week of February/1st week of March. We have done a good job planning for next year. Public budget workshops dates and times are listed on the website. There was a building committee meeting earlier in the month. We did commission and individual to do a population study to see population projections so they can weigh that in how needy we are as far as state funding. The state is offering 3 million dollars in grants for districts to regionalize. This is different from consolidation, which we were forced to do. He has been reaching out to other districts to see how we may collaborate around this. Stated that we are now at the mid point of the school year. Our high school students will be taking their midterms next week. Everything is on the website if you don't see something there please let us know. NEASC final report came in and OOB high school will receive full accreditation status. Michelle Violette stated that she would like to give kudos to John, his staff, and the students. She knows that it was a long process and congratulations.

Board Presentation

A review of this years audit was completed by Tim from RKO. He wanted to thank Cindy for being so efficient and always prepared for their visit here. As part of the audit they issue a bunch of different reports that are all geared towards different standards. He explained some of the problem areas that we ran into with the same person doing multiple roles and having their hands in several things. It just doesn't look good from a financial standpoint. He also touched upon the student activity accounts and how they needed to be tightened up. If anyone would like to review the reports they are available at central office.

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Gabe Reed, student school board representative talked about what was going on regarding the students and activities at the high school. He stated that they would be doing midterms soon and some of the activities that the Natural Helpers have coming up in the future.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Peter Flaherty to add the Technology Committee to the list of standing committees. Voted Unanimously. Motion approved.

Peter Flaherty read through the IJOC: School Volunteers and DKC: Expense Authorization and Reimbursement policies.

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Stu Hogan to accept the following policies as written; BDE: School Board Standing Committees, IMG: Animals in School, IMGA: Service Animals in School and DJ: Bidding/Purchasing Requirements. Voted Unanimously. Motion Approved

Committee Reports

David Boudreau reported out for the finance committee. He stated that they met two weeks ago and as you heard from the auditors we have some areas that we need to work on. We have been working on them all this school year. With our deficit everyone has been working really hard on the finances of the school. At the meeting we are in the plus little over 50,000. Good work and keep focusing on that. This year we will meet some good goals.

Peter Flaherty reported out for the building needs committee. He stated that the first building committee meeting was 1/5/17 and would like to tell you that in his opinion we have put together a very good committee that represents all kinds of folks from the town. It is a good committee and everyone participated very well. Next meeting 2/1 and committee decided to meet the first Wednesday of the month 4-6PM. Jeff Larimer (Harriman) did a presentation and explained the 17/18 cycle proposed timeline to apply. Application is due by April 14, 2017. He answered all the questions the committee had. John explained all that he was doing to work on this project. John was going to be in contact with Scott Brown at DOE with some funding questions that pertain to OOB and minimal receiving school districts. That means we don't receive a lot from the state. We have an agenda we are working on for February 1st. All of the committee members will get into the schools to see them for themselves as well as the fire department to outline the condition of our schools. John stated he asked Scott Brown because we are a minimal receiving district, would we get funding from the state if we were high enough on the list. Scott informed him that it is clearly based on our schools conditions. The building committee decided to see the application through to July 2018. We will not seek anything out until we go through the funding application. If we get funding we will go that route in 2018 and if we do not fall in a good spot on the list we will then go to the public for funding or look at other resources. We did talk about the fact that we will need to keep our schools open for that next 8-10 years regardless of the funding that we get. What do we need to do to keep the schools up and running and how do we fund those. Windows, heating systems running, our roofs and whatever else needs to be done on our buildings at that point. Michelle Violette asked what were the three litmus tests for the state. John replied modulars indicate the need for new buildings also upcoming population. We will be doing an application for all three of our schools. We are not lumping them all

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together. Michelle Violette asked if he said at the last meeting that our boilers are falling apart. John stated that Mark has factored that into his budget for next year and we are looking at how to keep this to a minimal cost. Stu Hogan asked in the process of the state funding the schools, is it a standard to fund just classes or offices? Is there anything else the town would have to absorb like gyms, libraries, etc. The state gives a per pupil cost on what they will reimburse. In Sanford the town is pitching in to build other things like a turf field, etc. The state will build the school but not the extras that we desire we would have to fund them.

Board Remarks

Michelle Violette wanted to thank the chair for doing that. Wants to take a moment to recognize our district website. It is a great resource and has been improved significantly. You can find policies as well as the full NEASC report. Thank you Cindy for what you did with the audit process and to commend you guys. Most of the things that were brought up we are already handling.

Peter Flaherty stated that he was very pleased with the transition from one superintendent to this new model. Everyone that he has talked to seems to be happy.

Stu Hogan stated that its the time of the year where our former students that have received scholarships receive their GPA's and send them off to college with some of our gifts of kindness. Christopher Cash Race- This will be the last year that Nancy Kelly holds this fundraiser. This race will go on, however, she will no longer be the organizer of this.

David Boudreau wanted to thank Mr. Reed for coming. Appreciate it. Any time you have a question reach out to us and let us know what you need. Thank everyone that has been a part of the audit process. This time of year around the budget gets really busy. Hopefully this year won't be as painful as last year. Thank everyone on the board for electing him to be the chair.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Stu Hogan and seconded by Peter Flaherty to enter executive session at 6:58PM. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Peter Flaherty to end executive session at 7:35PM. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Peter Flaherty to adjourn the meeting at 7:36PM. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Respectfully submitted by:

Helene Stevens,
Transcriber

John Suttie,
Superintendent