

RSU 23 Board Minutes

**RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on
April 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.**

Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Carol Marcotte called the meeting to order at 6:06pm. Present: Carol Marcotte, David Boudreau, Peter Flaherty, Stuart Hogan, Michelle Violette and Superintendent Lloyd Crocker.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Stuart Hogan to approve the minutes dated March 8, 2016 as written. Voted unanimous. Motion approved.

Adjustments to the Agenda

Chairperson Marcotte: adjustments to the agenda are as follows: Committee reports will follow Chairperson's remarks, Public session to follow committee reports, and remove executive session from the agenda. Add SSL to new business for discussion.

Correspondence

Retirement letters: Superintendent Crocker - We have retirement letters from the following teachers: Ron Regula, Jeannine Bartlett, Jane Kerry, Piper Bolduc, Michael Angelosante, and Peter Barricelli.

Nick LaCourse –thank you to the three teachers from the high school that are retiring and I am sad to see that they will not be here to teach my peers.

A motion was made by Stuart Hogan to accept the retirement letters seconded by Michelle Violette. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Letter of resignation:

Susan Sinott Curran – teacher from Jameson. A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Stuart Hogan to accept the letter of resignation of Susan Sinott Curran. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

Public Session

None

Superintendent's Report

Would like to invite the retiring teachers to the May board meeting to recognize them publicly for their years of service.

Joint meeting for SSL happened last night in Biddeford with Saco and Biddeford. There were about 20 parents that were present at the meeting last night, as well as medical professionals, and school personnel. There was no one in the audience that voted against the proposal. Results of the vote: Dayton 2-0, Saco – 4-0, Biddeford – 5-2, and TA – no board but publicly endorsed the new start times.

RSU 23 Board Minutes

M.V. – Did Saco and Biddeford hold public meetings? John Suttie – they had the same presentation that we had at the board meeting and sent out a similar survey.

Would we run into challenges if we did not change our start time? We may run into something with the Biddeford Center for Technology – we are taking them to school already before our high school starts. I think that we will be able to provide transportation for them if that happens.

Chairperson's Remarks

Thank you to the staff who spoke at the budget meetings and for your patience, thoughtfulness, and sharing in regards to their positions, and details about their lives. I would like to thank the white house staff, and the district administration, I would like to thank Superintendent Crocker for his dedication and also I would like to thank him for working closely with John Suttie the new superintendent and thank the board for their hard work.

Committee Report –

Finance Committee: where we are at with the current budget. Based on this information and the line items. Our negative fund balance as it is going forward is going to be close to \$600,000. We are talking about how we are going to address that going forward together with the Superintendent so we can come up with some relief. I do not think that we will be able to come up to the \$600,000 unfortunately. The proposed budget and the recommendation from the finance committee would be to adopt the budget with the recommendation to the budget that has been presented in front of you. The recommendation to inform the full board in regards to what we can do and asked to look up options for Superintendent. It is the recommendation from the finance committee to remove \$100,000 from budget for Harriman and use that money to help pay down the negative fund balance and pause on this issue for one year to help us pay down the debt and we could pick right back up in a year.

Emergency/Safety/Wellness Committee:

Last meeting discussed remaining fire drills for the year. Looking at scheduling an off site evacuation for next. We will start putting that together for next year. Lockdown drill will happen in May and we will be trying to have students in atypical areas. We are looking at contacting central office and the rec department as well as a better way to notify parents that we are having a lockdown drill. Next meeting is on May 11th where we will review the lockdowns that we just had and concerns from police department. We will also be looking at CPR and AED training at our last meeting. We looked at going last year to Thornton Academy in the event of an emergency.

Facilities Committee:

Met on March 28th. Jeff from Harriman presented a final time to the committee. Brought us delaying the project for a year to his attention. Facilities and Town Council will be meeting on April 26th to provide the public and the town with a PowerPoint presentation and cover options and potential costs for new schools versus renovating the new schools.

RSU 23 Board Minutes

If we did delay we feel confident that we would be able to pick up where we left off. Reviewed work orders – we only have 2 open work orders at this time. Next meeting is April 28th or 29th. Facilities committee will be touring the school to help point out any issues that need to be addressed.

Board Presentation

Start School Later Survey Results: Mike Flaherty

Based on the responses that we received, most people were either in favor of the potential change in school hours based on the Start School Later initiative or they are not opposed to a changed.

John Suttie: 8 weeks into the school year we surveyed students about current later start time from last year and 87% of students were in favor and would consider starting even later. We have noticed a large difference in alertness in the students from last year to this year.

PE/PG Handbook:

Barb Fletcher – the handbook is required and contains teacher evaluation rubrics, professional practice standards, added student learning and growth standards as well as the MEA data as part of teacher effectiveness rating, peer review process, training of evaluators. The self-reflection piece – data is not required but we want the teachers to reflect on the data. There will be one more edit, which will include the principal evaluation piece. At the May board meeting will have the full book that has been edited and ready for final submission.

Student School Board Representative:

Congratulations to Erik Hogan and Jenny Cobb for receiving the Western Maine Conference Citizenship Award on March 1st. Erik Hogan also received the MPA's Principals Award on April 2nd. Brianna Plante and Peyton Feitz received the 1st Team Western Maine Conference All-Conference Awards and to Vanessa Hebert who received the All-Conference Award on the 2nd Team. OOBHS Drama Club performed at the Regional One-Acts Festival on March 4 at Marshwood High School. Jazz Choir performed at their Festival last Saturday, April 2nd, and placed third in their division. The High School Jazz Band placed third at the Division IV Maine State Jazz Festival on March 20th. March 25th, the OOBHS student council hosted their annual Island Day celebration at the High School. On March 15, the OOBHS guidance department hosted a Scholarship Evening for graduating seniors – several organizations were represented including Senator George Mitchell Scholarship, Capt. Christopher Cash Memorial Scholarship, and the Sylvio LaCourse Memorial Scholarship. OOB HS graduates received upwards of \$15,000 last year alone.

Old Business

None

New Business

RSU 23 Board Minutes

Approval of Proposed 2016-2017 RSU 23 Budget: A motion was made by David Boudreau and seconded by Peter Flaherty. Chairperson asked for Comments. David Boudreau asked for the Superintendent to clarify the budget and what that would look like if we had to include the \$600,000 deficit. Superintendent Crocker: The first option to address the deficit – instead of a 3% increase in the 2016-2017 budget, we would go forward with a 5% increase on the budget. The idea would be that the additional 2% in the budget – about \$236,000 with an additional \$100,000 from Harriman would go towards the negative fund balance by \$326,000. Option 2, with the help from Kim the Town Clerk was finding out if we were able to present a 3% budget, and then have as a separate question ' would the community support paying \$600,000 to address the negative fund balance that we have'. There are not any clear answers at this point and what we found out was that it is not clear-cut and we would need to seek legal council. There are only certain items on the ballot that are allowed – if we were able to do that it would involve proper wording. If we were to approve the budget and ask the question that the deficit would fall to the town, they would need to go out to bond for this to pay for our debt. If this is an option that the board would like to pursue we would need to reach out to Bill Stockmeyer from DW. The third option was to have referendum vote on June 14th, pass the budget and then come back and have a separate election for the remaining \$600,000 on a ballot question – that presents the same challenge.

David Boudreau – if we pass a 5% budget we would still have \$250,000 that have not been addressed.

Lloyd Crocker – Explained dates for budget process and the timeline that we have with the referendum.

Chair Carol Marcotte – budget presented is 3% is there any discussion?

Michelle Violette – does any portion of the current budget go towards negative fund balance?

Lloyd Crocker - \$100,000 for Harriman would be earmarked for that.

David Boudreau – Want to build a new school, which we need to. If we do not address the \$600,000 our bond rating will not be good. If we get the 5%, we still have \$250,000 negative fund balance. The financial responsibility for the town is to lessen the burden on the taxpayers. We did have a negative fund balance and we inherited debt with the withdrawal. We have paid this down somewhat. Finance committee is committed to addressing this before we even build a new budget.

Peter Flaherty – We need new schools – Jameson and LMS are both in bad shape and anyone can tour the schools at any time. If we cannot borrow money due to our bond rating we are in trouble – especially if something happens on a larger scale with one of the roofs, boilers etc.

Jay Kelley– If we do the 5% budget could we not spread the debt out over 2 years?

David Boudreau – if we could cut \$250,000 from budget plus get \$250,000 from the town we could pay down the debt and then show that we are being frugal with the money. 5% of the budget is the debt.

RSU 23 Board Minutes

Carol Marcotte – Everything that we have talked about is 3% and I am concerned in terms of what we have presented at our budget meetings and doing 5% is different than anything we have discussed.

David Boudreau – I will retract the motion I made and Peter retract your second of the original motion.

David Boudreau – I made a motion to adopt the 3% budget with looking into the second questions on the ballot. If we cannot have the second question on the ballot. Since there was no second I will redo my motion.

A motion was made by David Boudreau and seconded by Peter Flaherty to adopt the 2016-2017 budget of \$13,316,762.55, which is a 5% increase with the additional 2% increase being dedicated to the negative fund balance. Voted 3 in favor 2 opposed. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Stuart Hogan to adopt the 2016-2017 Adult Education Budget of \$492,917.00 with local contribution for Old Orchard beach of \$114,802.50 as presented. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Approval of 2016-2017 School Calendar – Several committee meetings with representation from school board, adult ed, administration and committee worked hard to adopt the calendar and aligns with Biddeford center for technology. Does anyone have any questions? Michelle Violette – If we were to accept the draft and then change the start times can we just re accept the calendar afterwards? George Shabo – yes we can do that.

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by David Boudreau to adopt the 2016-2017 school calendar as written. Voted Unanimously, Motion approved.

1st reading of ADA, ADAA, and DJH = First reading and these policies will be posted on the website after the first reading. ADA – School district goals and objectives. ADAA – School system to commitment for standards for ethical and responsible behavior. DJH – Purchasing and Contracting: Procurement Staff code of conduct.

2nd reading of policy JHIC-R – Regulation and Enforcement of Drug and Alcohol Policy: A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by David Boudreau to approve the policy as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved

Approval of Probationary teachers:

Probationary II teachers:

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Michelle Violette to accept Probationary II Teachers as follows: Jameson School: Angela Loffey, Bethany Rocheleau, Jennifer MacDonald, Mackenzie Holland. Loranger Memorial School: Mike Burke, Jessica

RSU 23 Board Minutes

Groleau, Rachel Presby. OOB HS: Emily Blazek, Nate Rende, Deron Sharpe, Lindsay Artes, and Mark Oliver. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Peter Flaherty to accept Probationary III teachers as follows: Jameson: Jennifer Drapeau, Erin Coffey, Tracy McLaughlin. Loranger Memorial School: Sarah Wilder, Elaine Lees, Megan Huckins, Brittany Elwell, Michelle Hiltz. OOBHS: Kaitlyn Austin. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Peter Flaherty to accept Continuing teachers as follows: Loranger Memorial School: Cynthia Nye, Trevor Lavenbein, William Corcoran. OOBHS: Michael Davis. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Finance report: David Boudreau - Personnel chair start working on new job descriptions that are in the budget. Michelle Violette - We have a meeting scheduled for April 26th to make an agenda.

Start School Later: Michelle Violette - Would like to ask the boards opinion of where to go next and if we need to involve the public. Peter Flaherty: I think we are in favor of getting kids to school later based on the presentations that we have seen. I think it would make a significant difference for the students. John Suttie – some data that I received today = 27% of our Jrs. and seniors would be attending the Biddeford Voc. Center so changing our times to what the surrounding schools are doing would help.

Peter Flaherty: people were just not available to attend the meeting not because we did not want to go but because we were not available/had prior engagements.

David Boudreau – on the survey = 41.9% agreed with not changing the school hours. Based upon this how do we move past this. Mike – I interpreted this in a way that more were in favor than not in favor of it. There are a lot of factors that go into making this. Stuart Hogan – I am in favor of this change based on the science and the research that was presented. My concern is that in our small school system other places outside of our regional area for games. Superintendent Crocker– I am going to hand out a survey that addresses this information from Jack Trull our athletic director.

Carol Marcotte – have the parents been able to give enough input on this start time? Lloyd Crocker – I would remind the board that shortly after the presentation at the board meeting we had attempted to plan an additional workshop. We were not able to have this meeting and maybe we can revisit having this workshop and invite as many parents as possible. We may not get very many but at least we could solicit as much information as possible and more discussion. Tracey Collins and Joan Pelletier would be happy to come out and speak to the board again.

RSU 23 Board Minutes

Michelle Violette – Quick answer to Stu – having an early practice defeats the purpose of starting school later. I would like to have another opportunity to discuss and have a forum for parent involvement. I would like to move that we set a date to have a forum to have the start school later presentation. Michelle Violette – rescind motion. Peter Flaherty – rescind second.

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Peter Flaherty to hold an additional school board meeting at a time TBA in May regarding the Start School Later initiative. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Executive Session:

NONE

Adjournment

A motion was made by David Boudreau and seconded by Peter Flaherty to adjourn the meeting at 7:49pm. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Pam Ouellette,
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



Lloyd Crocker,
Superintendent