

# RSU 23 Board Minutes

**RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on  
September 21, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.**

## **Meeting Called to Order**

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

## ***The Pledge of Allegiance was recited***

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Stu Hogan and seconded by Carol Marcotte to accept the minutes from the August 17, 2017 board meeting. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

## **Adjustment to the Agenda**

Add student report by Cierra Albert to board presentations.

## **Correspondence**

None

## **Public Session.**

None

## **Superintendent's Report**

John stated there were a few items to talk about tonight. He recently attended a conference on school consolidation with Drummond and Woodsum. What is different about this plan put forth by the DOE is that this is more of a "volunteer" program, but there is a carrot and a stick so to speak. The carrot is that the state will continue leveled funding for schools that decided to join in a SMLC (different regional centers). They will reduce the cost of system administration a little bit each year. It will go from \$96 to \$46. The problem for us as minimum receivers is different. It would cost us \$4 a kid, which is a grand total of \$3200 to stay independent. We have found some good programs to share already, like the IT director with Saco and our Adult Ed director with MSAD 55. Both districts would have to agree with everything and then it must be approved by the DOE. The timeline does not match up with the amount of work that goes along with this. He stated that he is always looking for ways to do this with other superintendents in the area. For many coastal communities, including us, there is no stick. What is concerning to most school districts, is the amount of work that needs to go into this. Stay tuned because the message they gave us was we have a new governor every 4 years. The DOE is coming to visit the Old Orchard Beach schools on November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. They will meet with building administrators and Mark Beaudoin to ask questions and tour each facility. If you have noticed around town we have some new buses that we have leased. We decided last year that it would be more cost effective. The 2018-2019 budget development schedule is now up on the website and the dates for all the meetings are available. The playgrounds are open for business at JES and LMS. From the superintendents point of view school has gotten off to a great start this year. New students are making new friends and old students have gotten back into the swing of things.

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## **Board Presentation**

Cierra Albert reported out for the first time tonight. She stated that she is currently a junior at Old Orchard Beach High School. She plays an active role in the community and school. She plays sports and is the president of her class. Apart from school, she enjoys volunteering and writes a column for the journal tribune weekly. She stated that Ipads are in the process of being deployed for educational purposes. School has been in session for a month and students are working hard. Students are getting ready for homecoming activities. The art club has made their first appearance. As for the sports team the girls soccer team is 3-1-1 and field hockey 1-1-3. OOB football team is having a strong season as well. Needless to say OOB HS students are enjoying the month of September.

Chase Walker presented on Wings to Wishes fundraiser happening September 30<sup>th</sup> in Old Orchard Beach. He stated that they currently had 34 planes planning on landing on the beach. He is very thankful to OOB 365 for all their help with this. To this point he had raised \$3300 for Make a Wish Foundation. He got this idea after he had spent some time at Camp Kieve and wanted to give back. The town was really enthused about the idea.

Jaclyn Hayes presented on the senior internship program and how great of an opportunity it has been for some students. She provided all the data from this past year's trial period and stated what worked and some things they can improve on. She stated that they are in close contact with businesses in the area and how the students are doing in their internships. Jacob Maloney spoke of his experience in the program and how it helped him decide on what he wanted to do after he got out of school.

Tim O'Connor spoke about the allocation of ESEA/Title funds for the 2017-2018 School Year. Monies were spent for interventionist. Title 2 funds used for classroom reduction. There were no public comments.

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Michelle Violette to accept Graciella Lamy as the .4 LMS ELL Teacher as presented. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

## **Committee Reports**

David Boudreau reported on the finance committee. The finance committee met today. As you know we had a carryover of \$163,000. Extra \$140,000 from state but had to give the town back 50%. Right now, the budget year to date we are in great shape. Funds are being spent, we are not over spending and people are getting what they need. We talked about purchase orders and how to help make things more efficient. We rolled out new buses and new vans, which look great. The more fixed costs we can have in the budget it helps.

Peter Flaherty reported out on the building committee. He stated that we will have our first meeting since coming back to school in October. We have taken off the summer months because a lot of staff were not available. We need a new school building. JES and LMS are in pretty bad shape and that everyone will agree with that. We are looking at a couple of options. We are minimal receivers as a

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district so we are not too hopeful but we have put together a good plan. We've visited schools in the area and have done environmental studies. The data is there so now we have to sit down as a community and decide which way we want to go with this.

## **Board Remarks**

Michelle stated that she has been of singular mind these past few weeks. Phase 1 of the JES/LMS playground update is complete. She is sure much to the relief of the teachers, staff and administrators, and hopefully to the enjoyment of the students. There is a nonexhaustive list of "thank you's" due to people, companies, and organizations that got the project to this point, but tonight she will focus on the equipment installation proper. Many thanks to the volunteers who unloaded equipment, "labored" on Labor Day Weekend and raked surfacing chips on a couple of the hotter/humid days of late. We had several parents, some students, a JES teacher, a JES custodian, Saco Bay Sunset Rotarians and even members of our central office staff; Helene Stevens and Jamie Turcotte among our ranks. Mr. Peter Flaherty chalked up double digit "Sweat Equity" hours mixing/pouring concrete, ranking chips, and just being at the ready to lend a hand. Thank you to Colonial Tree in Westbrook and Gendron & Gendron from Lewiston for the hardwood donations that comprise our natural borders. Ira Stockwell and the crane truck from Colonial Tree even made an early Sunday morning delivery free of charge. Finally, she wanted to highlight her heroes of the installation process; RSU 23's Mark Beaudoin, Dick Martin, Glenn Gilbert and the whole Old Orchard Beach Department of Public Works. The DPW made manpower and equipment available to us even to pick up a hardwood donation out at the Homewood Blvd. Dick and Glenn spent countless hours, weekend time, and had reliable good nature regardless of changes. Mark not only worked despite a physically challenging summer he was the lynchpin of the project day/night, weekday/weekend on top of school opening duties with transportation, custodial and maintenance. Thank you, the district is fortunate to have you gentlemen.

Stu stated that they were entertained a few times this past Friday night with the football team and the halftime marching band show. It is very different this year. Less uniforms and more eclectic.

Peter stated that he wanted to echo the playground and the presentations. I want to welcome Cierra Albert. I just met her tonight but have read her column all year long in the Journal Tribune. I'm so impressed with her writing ability. She is only a junior.

Carol stated that she thoroughly enjoyed this meeting. The experiences that were shared and we heard tonight were amazing. I love hearing about the students and how involved they were in the meeting. Can't wait to hear about curriculum too.

Cierra stated that she personally enjoyed the internship requirement because it was important to her. Her job as a youth columnist would not have happened for her, if it were not for that internship.

Dave stated that it was nice to hear other districts commenting on the great programs we have here. He had a few people ask about the bonfire. Are we not having a bonfire this year? John stated that we are going to discontinue the bonfire but will have a pep rally during the day instead. Fall sports again, all the teams are doing great. It is always nice to see the participation of all our students in sports. It's a great commitment by our students as many of them do many things.

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## **Adjournment**

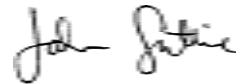
A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Carol Marcotte to adjourn the meeting at 7:20PM. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

Minutes prepared by:

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Helene Stevens,  
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



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John Suttie,  
Superintendent