

RSU 23 Board Minutes

RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on
April 25, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order

David Boudreau called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present: David Boudreau, Peter Flaherty, Chris LaSalle, 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 Peter Flaherty to accept the minutes from the March 28, 2019 board meeting. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Adjustment to the Agenda

None

Correspondence

None

Public Session

John Nye, OOB resident and RSU 23 union president, stated the association is taking a strong stand that the proposed budget will not suffice. There is a reduction in staff. (The superintendent interjected that we will have 37 sped staff this year and will have 37 next year). We will be losing 2 teaching staff from special ed. Community supports education and the statement that the town will not support a higher than 3% tax increase is false. We feel like the taxpayers would pay more than that. Despite plans of the contrary teachers are not being heard especially not by the superintendent or the special education director. It seems like we are working to make our numbers match other districts and putting out the fires as they come instead of being proactive. They would like to maintain the JES behavior program, 3 resource teachers at LMS, a social worker instead of a guidance counselor who can work with the students on issues that extend past the classroom. Recommended, the budget would be increased by an additional 1.5%. He gave out other suggestions on how he thought RSU 23 should trim their budget.

Superintendent's Report

John spoke of the special education concerns in the district and stated the numbers for our special education programs and budget have been consistent throughout the years. He also spoke of the concerns at LMS, increased behaviors at JES and the plans they have come up with to address these in the upcoming budget. Three full time positions have been added; Prek-2 school counselor, school health aid and a Prek-2 behavior strategist assistant (ed tech).

Board Presentation

Hannah LaCourse spoke how this month has been a short month but they have had a lot going on. April 1st our studio art class took a trip to Boston. Students participated in the jazz festival. Everything the music program has done this year received a gold medal. Vernon Wells will be next year's drum major. Trevor Grenier received student of the month. Spring sports have now officially started.

Old Business

None

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New Business

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Chris LaSalle to approve the 2019-2020 proposed school calendar as presented. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Chris LaSalle to approve the proposed 2019-2020 RSU 23 budget as proposed. Voted 3 in favor and 1 against. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Dave reported on the finance committee. We met this morning. We discussed roof projects. We got a few bids and talked about upgrades on technology and cameras. We reviewed all the articles that will be presented in May so we all understood what is going on. We will meet shortly to look at additional bids.

Peter reported on the building committee. It ties in with the finance committee. Mark has been working very hard to get estimates for the roof repairs. We are now looking at a 5 year plan to fix the roofs.

Chris reported on the technology committee. We did not meet this month. JES received 5 new view boards installed to replace old smartboards. The tech team is working on the process to get the devices back at the end of the year.

Board Remarks

Peter wanted to congratulate Hannah, our student rep, on the board for her acceptance into UNE. I also wanted to make notice of the great luncheon at the high school for the 50+. There were a lot of happy people. Ann Nash was especially proud of how her students preformed. Mark Manduca's music groups received gold medal ratings in all of his groups this year. OOB continues to be the front-runner in the music business.

Chris wanted to congratulate the band and all of their successes this season. Thank everyone involved in the budget process. We had a lot of participation from the staff and public and that is much appreciated. I have had several conversations with people trying to understand the budget.

Michelle stated that she wanted to take a moment to recharacterized that once the vote is gone, you support the vote, and I will move forward on that. My vote reflects in no way that I don't trust my administrators to do their job. My positive piece for today is that my daughter is a junior and I remember being in high school and the guidance counselor's sole mission was to just ask what college you want to go to. Jackie and Beth have a great process of an organized calendar of dates to guide them on their 13th year. There are positives in our districts.

Dave stated that he wanted to address one of the people that came up here. I want to assure everyone that my sole purpose is the safety of the kids, their education and how they are taught. If anyone suggests we don't care I want to reassure them that is my mission. There is a lot of work in budgets. We have had a lot of open dialogue and workshops where people attended and others didn't. We can streamline the process next year so you all feel a part of it. I appreciate what you are looking for. We are under time constraints of when we have to present it to the town. I do have confidence with the administration and team that puts this together. If things are not going correctly or needs to be changed they tell us. There are things in the budget that are contractual that we cannot change unless we are negotiating a contract. There are a lot of pieces that get put into the budget

but at the end of the day our job is to vote a budget that is brought to us. I have to support that. I am keeping an eye on special education to make sure we are not going backwards.

Executive Session

None


Adjournment

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Chris LsSalle to adjourn the meeting at 6:453M. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Helene Stevens,
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



John Suttie,
Superintendent