

RSU 23 Board Minutes

RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall (Virtual Meeting) on July 16, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order

Dave Boudreau called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Present: Dave Boudreau, Peter Flaherty, Christopher LaSalle, Michelle Violette, Sally Beatty, and Superintendent John Suttie.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded by Michelle Violette to accept the minutes from the June 29, 2020 board meeting. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; P. Flaherty, S. Beatty, M. Violette, C. LaSalle & D. Boudreau)

Public Session

None

Adjustments to the Agenda

Add approval of changing start of school until September 8, 2020.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie stated he had a few things to cover tonight. Our first ever July school board meeting but we are living in different times. He welcomed Kate Hersom, new principal at Jameson Elementary. Welcome to RSU 23, Kate. She has been working very hard the last few weeks getting acclimated. She will put out something to the families next week. Thank you to the RSU 23 community for passing our budget with the vote on Tuesday. Thank you to the school board for all the hard work you have done crafting the budget; to Eric & Cindy for formatting and formulating the budget. Everyone plays a big role in getting this done. Sally, thank you for joining the board as it gave me a chance to find our way into the retirement community. He then stated let's turn our attention to the start of school. We are planning to bring students back in the fall to start school. We are using guidance from the CDC, MEA and DOE. They would like us to use a stoplight fashion. Red- stop (virtual), green – go (all in school) and yellow -slow down (hybrid). We had a great meeting today with our association and education leaders to help us plan health and safety protocols if we are able to bring students back in the fall. They are asking us to prepare to open our schools in the fall. Parents if you are listening, we are making preparations for students to come in but be aware we may have to revert back to remote learning if we have community transmission. He will send out a communication to the community tomorrow with these talking points. RSU 23 is accepting public comment on the website so if anyone wants to make a comment please visit our website. August 7th is the date where we will have the final plan out on how school will open and the protocols.

Board Presentation

None

Old Business

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A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Sally Beatty to change the start date of school on the 2020-2021 calendar to Tuesday, September 8th. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved. (Roll Call: C. LaSalle, P. Flaherty, S. Beatty, M. Violette & D. Boudreau)

New Business

Peter Flaherty read 1st readings of policies GBN, GBN-R1 and GBN-R2

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Christopher LaSalle to waive policy BG-R tonight in order to adopt the policies tonight. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; C. LaSalle, S. Beatty, P. Flaherty, M. Violette & D. Boudreau)

Peter Flaherty read 1st readings of policies ACAA, ACAB, ACAB-R, ACAA-R and AC.

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Sally Beatty to approve policies; ACAA: Harassment & Sexual Harassment of Students, ACAB: Harassment & Sexual Harassment of School Employees, ACAB-R: Employee Discrimination/Harassment & Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures, ACAA-R: Student Discrimination/Harassment & Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures, , and AC: Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; C. LaSalle, P. Flaherty, S. Beatty, M. Violette & D. Boudreau)

Approval of job description for Title IX Coordinator was tabled.

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded by Peter Flaherty to approve job descriptions for social worker, speech pathologist, school psychologist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, instructional strategist, board certified behavior analyst, speech therapist and district technology integrator & support specialist as presented. Voted 4-1. Motion approved. (Roll Call; C. LaSalle, S. Beatty, P. Flaherty & D. Boudreau)

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Sally Beatty to certify the election results. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved. (Roll Call; C. LaSalle, P. Flaherty, S. Beatty, M. Violette, & D. Boudreau)

Accept/Certify Election Results:

“CERTIFICATION OF BUDGET VOTE: “THE RESULTS OF THE RSU 23 BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM: ARTICLE 1: YES: 1574, No: 397; ARTICLE 2: YES: 1391, No: 463; ARTICLE 3: YES: 1484 No: 366; & ARTICLE 4: YES: 1590, No: 253;” **DENOTES THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES FOR THE RESPECTIVE QUESTIONS AND CONSEQUENTLY THE SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM RESULTS FOR THOSE QUESTIONS.

VOTED that the Computation and Declaration of Votes dated July 14, 2020 and attached hereto be and it is hereby approved. FURTHER VOTED that the Computation and Declaration of Votes be entered upon the records of Regional School Unit No. 23 (the “Regional School Unit”). FURTHER VOTED: That a certified copy of the Computation and Declaration of Votes be sent to the Municipal Clerk within the Regional School Unit.

Committee Reports

Finance: Dave reported that we didn't have an official meeting but we did have some results. I should have the final numbers by our August meeting. We are waiting for some straggler bills to close out but we did have a carry over, which is good. We don't know the exact amount. Once numbers are finalized, we will have a finance meeting.

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Building: Peter reported that we did not meet as a committee. Jameson had a group go in to look at possible water mitigation in classrooms. We have not gotten the report as of yet. As soon as we get it, I will hold a building committee needs meeting.

Technology: Chris stated that technology has not had a meeting yet this summer.

Board Remarks

Sally wanted to say thank you to all the staff and the administration the work you all have put in. We have never been here before in this situation. I am very proud to be a part of RSU 23.

Michelle wanted to welcome Kate. You need broad shoulders to do what you do. I thank you all for what you are doing. Thank you to the voters and all the volunteers that were out there. Thank you for voting in the budget.

Chris stated that he didn't have anything major this month. I would like to recognize the administrative staff and teachers for trying to get ready in two different directions for the scenarios. I want to acknowledge all the hard work people are putting in.

Peter stated he talked to John yesterday and was telling him I can't imagine how difficult this is for administrators and teachers trying to balance if they are going to be teaching in front of a class or remote teaching. As a board member I want to try and support them as much as possible.

Dave wanted to welcome Kate. It's an interesting way to meet the team. You are starting a school year not knowing if you will be entering the building or not. You have joined a great team. John is very supportive of his team. This is a trying time. This summer will be the busiest summer for not only administration and teachers but kids. There are a lot of them that don't know what the new normal is or will be. Kids transitioning to a school environment they are not used to is scary. I know our team will be flexible and helping our kids feel good. The number one thing we will be working towards is the safety of our kids and our family at RSU 23 and we have to keep that in mind. Keep focused on the bigger picture as we don't know what the new normal is. This virus will dictate what we do. We will probably have a financial downfall in the next school year that we haven't felt yet. We are in a good position going forward that we will not be dependent on the state for funding. Keep doing what you are doing. I appreciate what everyone does. Until further notice we will have online board meetings.

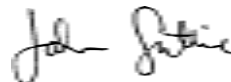
Adjournment

A motion was made by Christopher LaSalle and seconded by Michelle Violette to adjourn the meeting at 7:03PM. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Helene Stevens,
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



John Suttie,
Superintendent