

RSU 23 Board Minutes

**RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall (Virtual Meeting) on
October 15, 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

Roll Call: Christopher LaSalle, Sally Beatty, Michelle Violette, Peter Flaherty & Dave Boudreau

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Christopher LaSalle to accept the minutes from the September 17, 2020 board meetings as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; M. Violette, P. Flaherty, S. Beatty, C. LaSalle, & D. Boudreau)

Public Session

None

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie stated he had a few items. First item on his agenda is a farewell to Mark Beaudoin whose last day was yesterday. He worked for us a little over 4 years. It is bittersweet to let him go. He did a fantastic job for our schools. He left us better than he found us. He updated our van fleet, our buildings, (Look at his email). You will walk through and see many things he was able to improve. He has taken a job in the private sector. Something he has been thinking about for a while. We wish him well and we will miss him. He performed his job well. I can't say enough about him. Those are big shoes to fill. Don't be a stranger, Mark. The second thing I have is I would like to thank the entire community. Here we are at October 15th and we have not had to cancel a day of school over a COVID issue. That is a testament to families, staff and community members. They have to do a self-assessment daily prior to coming to school and if they answer yes to the questions they don't come to school. Teachers are doing the same thing with themselves and their families. It certainly is going to take a village for us to stay in school as long as we can. Everyone has been pitching in following the CDC and DOE guidelines. I am proud of how everyone has handled this tough situation. We are going to try and stack as many school days we can until something happens. Thank you to everyone and congratulations. Reservations will be out next week to parents for our annual teacher conferences. Parents will receive reservations next week and then links will be provided to the parents as to what time their meeting will be on either November 4th or November 11th.

Board Presentation

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Eric Hanson gave an update on the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Documents regarding the amount awarded to RSU 23 and what it was spent on can be found on the RSU 23 website under the school board section with the agendas/minutes.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded by Peter Flaherty to accept the nomination of Robert Kierstead as Director of Facilities & Transportation as presented. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; M. Violette, P Flaherty, S. Beatty, C. LaSalle, & D. Boudreau)

Peter Flaherty conducted first reading of policy CBI- Evaluation of Superintendent

Committee Reports

Finance: Dave stated that they did meet today. We went over a few things. One was the Jameson project. They are trying to wrap that up. They did go over the amount we voted in for them to spend. They are getting the numbers together and we told them to get very specific. It will be on next month's agenda in the amount we will have to approve. We are still waiting to hear from the insurance company if they will reimburse us for anything or not. We may want to look at our insurance policies on our buildings to see if we could get better coverage. They are old buildings and we will need coverage. I want to make sure that if something happens again, we don't have to spend \$160,000 to repair things. We got money from the CRF-2 grant in the amount of \$592,639.92. Between both CRF grants and another one we received close to 1.3 million dollars in grant money.

Building: Peter stated that we have not had a meeting, however, you gave us the update on Jameson School. It looks good from the outside.

Technology: Chris stated they have not met since the last board meeting but wanted to take the time to remind families that last week, we sent out a letter offering device insurance for the devices your students are taking home. It's a really good deal. We have had a good response already but if you haven't heard about it reach out to the technology department or your school principals for more information.

Board Remarks

Chris said welcome to Rob as the new operations director. I am looking forward to having fresh eyes on things. Farewell to Mark. Best of luck to you. I am hoping we will hear from him after some time on the job to see what he thinks of our buildings. I have been watching Jameson repairs and I too like the color scheme. Speaking to our COVID response and how well I think we have done and the administration has done in their preparations over the summer. Even listening to them tonight in getting funding early. When you compare and contrast what is happening in other districts, I think you guys have done an amazing job. You guys are so on it and I really think you could be held up as an example of how to do things right. Happy with everything you guys are doing as a school board member and as a parent.

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Sally stated we are going to get through this pandemic in time but I believe what we are all going to remember is how we treat each other and finding an upside to a problem. It was disappointing to the kids when we were put in code yellow and kids couldn't play sports. You all got a safe way to get the kids out on the field to get in some workouts instead of going home after school every day. The kids will remember that. Along with what Chris said, I give you all a thumbs up with what you have done. Biggest thing is supporting the kids. Welcome to Rob. I love to see him onboard and goodbye to Mark he did a great job.

Peter stated he just had to echo Sally and Chris. I am looking forward to meeting Rob and I noticed when I read his resume that he is used to having building needs committee meetings. John and Dean, the spread in the paper last week was fabulous. We had several pictures of OOB students and John has been the frontrunner as superintendent to do the best thing for the kids. Thank god we haven't had any cases and I hope that continues. Not enough kudos to you all for all the hard work you are doing.

Michelle stated once again kudos to everyone. It's been sad to see other districts struggling but comfort as a parent and board member to know that we have this well in hand. Just knowing that we are in yellow and if something comes up it's a great relief. You guys are working really hard. You remember what people have done well. My shout out this week is for technology, Pam Pothier and Donna Stearns. Last of all regardless of where you stand, vote, vote, vote.

Dave stated you never hear anything good. You always hear the bad things that may happen in schools. I haven't heard any bad but I have heard good and it's always good to recognize that. We just have to keep doing what we have to, to keep going. Evaluations, Chris and I will be getting together in the next week or two to get everything together and have an overview so that we have it set to go at our November meeting.

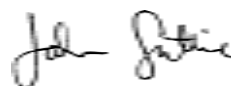
Adjournment

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Christopher LaSalle to adjourn the meeting at 6:50PM. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Helene Stevens,
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



John Suttie,
Superintendent