

RSU 23 Board Minutes

RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall (Virtual Meeting) on September 17, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order

Dave Boudreau called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Present: Dave Boudreau, Peter Flaherty, Christopher LaSalle, Sally Beatty, and Superintendent John Suttie.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded by Christopher LaSalle to accept the minutes from the August 20, 2020 board meetings as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; C. LaSalle, S. Beatty, P. Flaherty, & D. Boudreau)

Public Session

None

Adjustments to the Agenda

Add word "Extension" to the Approval of Superintendent's Contract (Extension) in New Business.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie stated school has started and crisis doesn't create character, it builds it. I think we have learned a lot about ourselves, how we work together. A quote from Mr. Rodgers, "In times of crisis look for the helpers. You will always find people helping." We found out we have a lot of helpers in RSU 23 and a lot of people that stepped forward to making the kids transition back to school smooth. A big shout out to our transportation department who is assisting custodial staff on these remote Wednesday's to get things cleaned and sanitize. As we are ending our second week of school, I am pleased to let you know that despite the changes in our normal school routines, our students and staff have adapted in a heroic manner. Mask compliance, hand sanitizing, cleaning, and social distancing efforts have been excellent and everyone has gone above and beyond our expectations to make in-person learning work. Seeing our students back in school with their friends, teachers, educational technicians, bus drivers, custodians, food service staff, and administrative assistants has been a wonderful experience. Although we can't see the smiles all of the time because of the masks, we can hear the laughter, and see the joy in everyone's eyes. In order for us to remain in school we all must keep doing our part. Please continue to do wellness checks each morning with your child and keep them home if they answer yes to any of the questions. Also please alert the school nurses if there is a wellness concern. When your child is outside of school please continue to ask that they wear a mask in public, frequently wash and sanitize their hands, and practice social distancing. At any time, any one of our buildings could go remote for two weeks due to the virus. Please be prepared for this.

Board Presentation

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School administrators presented an update on the start of school. JoAnne Dowd spoke on the opening of Remote Learning Academy, Kate Hersom spoke on the opening of Jameson Elementary School, Matt Foster spoke on the opening of Loranger Memorial School and Eric Hanson spoke on the opening of Old Orchard Beach High School.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Sally Beatty to approve the superintendent contract extension as presented. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; S. Beatty, C. LaSalle, P. Flaherty, & D. Boudreau)

Committee Reports

Finance: Dave stated we did not meet as a committee but I wanted to review the CRS grant (total grant is \$564,197.74 with \$343,219.35 spent. A new bus and equipment that went with the new bus along with tent rentals to space out students, PPE materials and money towards technology. We are paying out stipends. They are still meeting with staff and students so we will pay 50% right now in case they play in the spring. I hope everyone is happy with what we are doing. The kids really need that interaction with their coaches and staff. Hopefully we get changed to the green and have some normalcy going forward. We should have a finance meeting before the next board meeting in October.

Building: Peter stated that we have not had a meeting, however, there is a lot of work going on at Jameson school. I have been going by there daily to see the progress being made. I have not been inside but the outside is looking pretty complete.

Technology: Chris stated they have also not met as a committee. We have enough devices for our students to be 1:1. 95% of our students have received their devices and we should get the rest out by early next week. You can submit a technology ticket on the website. If you go to www.rsu23.org and click technology ticket you can fill out your request.

Board Remarks

Peter stated aside from the obvious and thanking everyone on the great job they did on reopening school. The remote academy looks great and it looks like it is going to be special. A big thank you to Mark Beaudoin for his service to RSU 23. He will be leaving us, which I am sad about as he has been a big part of the team. Wish him luck.

Sally stated thank you to all the staff. You have worked so hard to get things up and running. Very happy to hear all the comments. Congratulations on all the positive press you have been getting in the newspaper, etc. Great to see RSU 23 in the spotlight. Very impressed with that. Thank you to Mark as well. You have done a remarkable job and you will be missed.

Chris said congrats to all the staff for a successful return to school. Appreciate everyone's update on how things have been going. I have two kids in two schools and I have heard good things from them

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but it's good to hear from the staff as well. Remote academy looks great and super informative. Well done there. Thank you to Mark Beaudoin for everything he has done. He will be missed and has done a great job in his tenure here.

Dave stated he is grateful on how well the school openings went. You made everyone feel normal, whatever that is. A lot of students said they missed the hugs, fist bumps and high fives. Hopefully someday we can go back and do that with the kids and be normal. I appreciate what everyone has done through the summer to get prepared for this. I am hearing good things. Communication and good team work are things I am hearing we are doing great with. Mark and I have gone through many many projects and bid packages but I can tell you I have been doing this for a very long time and I have not met or worked with such a wonderful person who cares so much about our buildings and knows what he is doing. I appreciate everything you have done. I wish you well in wherever you are going. I will try to change your mind until then.

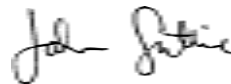
Adjournment

A motion was made by Christopher LaSalle and seconded by Sally Beatty to adjourn the meeting at 6:44PM. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Helene Stevens,
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



John Suttie,
Superintendent