

RSU 23 Board Minutes

RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall (Virtual Meeting) on November 19, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Roll Call: Dave Boudreau, Peter Flaherty, Michelle Violette, Sally Beatty, & Donna Moutsatsos

Nomination of School Board Chair & Vice-Chair

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Sally Beatty to nominate Dave Boudreau as Board Chair. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll call; P. Flaherty, S. Beatty, M. Violette, D. Moutsatsos)

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to nominate Peter Flaherty as Board Vice-Chair. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll call; D. Moutsatsos, M. Violette, S. Beatty & D. Boudreau)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Sally Beatty to accept the minutes from the October 15, 2020 board meeting as written. Voted 4 Yes -1 abstain. Motion approved. (Roll Call; M. Violette, P. Flaherty, S. Beatty, & D. Boudreau)

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Correspondence

RSU 23 has received a resignation from Erin Wheaton, High School Special Education Teacher

Public Session

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie stated he wanted to acknowledge and say farewell to Chris LaSalle who has been a member of our board for the past three years. I told him I appreciated him as a colleague, as a mentor and all the work he has done on the board. He was willing to work with our staff on any issues they had. Welcome to Donna Moutsatsos. I worked with Donna at the high school. She was there for a very long time and retired in the spring. She really does her homework and will be a welcome member. He gave a COVID-19 update. Currently thus far we have had 1 positive cases in our school. Fortunately, they were already in quarantine. We had a few kids that needed to quarantine and all tested negative and will return to school soon. The next five months are going to be difficult but we are awaiting a vaccine. Schools are doing twice as good a job containing the spread inside then outside. Kids are safer in school then they are outside of school according to Dr. Shah. With that in mind we are going to keep on keeping on. There will be a video going out to staff tomorrow regarding that. I don't

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know what tomorrow will bring but today we are okay. For a long time, we were building this plane while we were flying it. I don't feel that way anymore. The plane is built. We know how to keep our kids safe, our staff safe, communicating, and nursing staff know what they have to do. We are fully in control of things now. I am hopeful we will have a vaccine in the spring and can start school in the fall normally. Thank you to Michelle Lessard and the Lessard family. They dropped off a whopper of a donation to our families of Hannaford Gift Cards. It was amazing. Lastly, the State Department of Education just funded two more school projects and we are now 7th in line on the new school list. I was also told they are going to fund up to 16 projects this cycle and we are well within the range. We should be in line for approval of a project design in the next two or three years.

Board Presentation

None

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Sally Beatty to authorize the expenditure of \$11,719.20 from the emergency contingency fund for the water and mold project at Jameson Elementary School that this Board previously declared to constitute an emergency need, this amount to be in addition to the sum of \$161,219.00 that this board previously authorized for that project. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; P. Flaherty, S. Beatty, M. Violette, D. Moutsatsos, & D. Boudreau)

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded by Michelle Violette to accept the new Substitute Rate Structure as proposed. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (P. Flaherty, D. Moutsatsos, M. Violette, S. Beatty & D. Boudreau)

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Michelle Violette to accept policy CBI-Evaluation of Superintendent as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; P. Flaherty, D. Moutsatsos, M. Violette, S. Beatty & D. Boudreau)

Committee Reports

Finance: Dave stated that they met this morning. We went over the Jameson Elementary School repair, which we just voted on. We had the insurance broker we have for our building insurance at the meeting, and I had some questions for him. I asked if the company could look at our policy and see if they would cover any of it. They said no. I asked him for the February meeting if he could gather three quotes to what we have today for coverage, and then adding things based on the years of our buildings and other issues we have had. I'm glad we moved up the list for a new school. Financial overview; in food service we are under budget due to the reimbursements from the State. That will continue until the end of the year and will help us. We are talked about the COVID grant money and where they are with that. We talked about retirement incentive. John will talk more about that later. Building: Peter stated that we have not met yet. Rob is getting settled in and there is a lot on his plate. Technology: Did not meet this month. Once the committee members are reassigned, we will have a meeting. Tech department is running smoothly. Every in-person and remote student has successfully been issued their own computer. The tech department supports our remote learning academy in every way.

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Board Remarks

Sally wanted to welcome Donna to the school board. Congratulations. Looking forward to working with you and hopefully some day we can be in person again. Reaching out to Chris LaSalle, I really enjoyed working with him my first year. Also reach out to the administration and staff. What a wonderful job you have been doing for this RSU 23. All the extra hours, extra time and planning was a huge amount of time and it has worked out beautifully. When you look at all the communities around us, we are the only district with our students in school four days a week. It shows the planning you all have done to get us to this point. Thank you. Have a wonderful holiday and hopefully everyone can enjoy some family time. Stay safe and stay well.

Michelle stated she had a wonderful time being on the board with Chris LaSalle and thanked him for his service to OOB. I am happy to have Donna with us. Thanks to the Lessard family. That is no surprise but very much appreciated. When I heard we couldn't give out turkey's this year it was so exciting to hear we can still provide for families. Congratulations on the new school list. It has been a lot of years in the making. Just in general I want to thank you guys for all you are doing. It is very tough.

Peter stated welcome Donna on the board. I want to comment about the remote learning academy. That is going very well. I have a grandson in 6th grade doing everything remotely and he is thriving. He misses his friends most of all but it is working very well for him. Chris LaSalle was a great board member. I want to thank him very much for all he did for us.

Donna stated she is looking forward to working with all of you. I feel comfortable like I just slid into another chair. I am looking forward to being on this side and I think I will have a whole lot more to say next meeting. I wish all of you a very happy Thanksgiving as well. A well needed break I hear from people I know in the system. Rest up and enjoy yourself.

Dave stated welcome Donna. We worked together a little bit when I first got on the board and I look forward to working with you again. Committees, I'm going to put the committees together in the next day or two and share them with everyone.

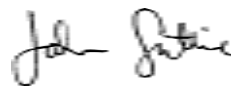
Adjournment

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to adjourn the meeting at 7:13PM. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Helene Stevens,
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



John Suttie,
Superintendent