

RSU 23 Board Minutes

**RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall (Virtual Meeting) on
January 21, 2021 @ 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 (entered meeting at 6:19PM), and Superintendent John Suttie.

Roll Call: Peter Flaherty, Michelle Violette, Donna Moutsatsos, & David Boudreau

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Michelle Violette to accept the minutes from the December 17, 2020 board meeting as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved (4-0). (Roll Call; Peter Flaherty, M. Violette, D. Moutsatsos, & David Boudreau)

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Public Session

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie stated he had a few items to report. The COVID update for our district; we have maintained in person learning 4 days a week in all three schools since we have come back from Holiday vacation. We have had some positive cases in all schools; however, the number of people being asked to quarantine hasn't been enough to shut us down. Last Friday the DOE has left us in the yellow area but transmission has decreased. In school, transmissions are now 76% less than out in the community. Schools are proving to be a safer place for kids. Schools have done a great job following protocols. This is something we in RSU 23 should be proud of but really all around the state. This is a statewide statistic. Also, you may have heard a hot topic button in the media the last few days is that the State has changed the color-coded designations for sports, theater and music. That will be a local decision moving forward. Right now, we are going to try and create new opportunities for our kids in a socially distanced and safe way. Only change in athletics is that they can work on some things sports specific with maybe playing games later in the season. We are not there yet. Some more decision making needs to be made. I have a couple of budget updates. We are going to move our board budget workshop presentation from Thursday 25th to Tuesday 23rd at 6:00pm and the reason for that is that we have to move next month's board meeting from the 18th to the 25th because of school vacation. I would also like to tell the public that we reconfigured our website. On the home page of our website now there is a tab that says "COVID19 resources". If you click on that tab there is all kinds of information there regarding food service, healthcare. It's a really awesome resource the public can use. Everything COVID could be found there. Kudos to Gwyneth Maguire, Eric and the tech team for all the hard work they put into getting that up and running. It just went live tonight. Lastly, Cynthia Potenza who has been our Human Resources Coordinator who has been with us for 6 years will have her last day tomorrow. It was wonderful working with Cynthia and her replacement will start February 8th.

RSU 23 Board Minutes

Board Presentation

Pam Pothier, Technology Director reported out on the technology department and all the great things the district has been able to accomplish the past 10 months as well as all the hard work the team has been doing. Technology has played a major role in this new normal, more than it ever has. In an instant we had to worry about just having enough devices and bandwidth for people to be able to do their jobs. We had to ensure every student was provided with a device to use at home. The State provided districts with hotspots so that students were able access the internet when they didn't have it. We have become proficient and competent with the remote model learning. We support teachers, parents, students and staff. We have been able to upgrade our aging devices. We have gained more knowledge; more technology skills and we are definitely more resourceful. We are using a lot of new technology tools.

Caroline Trinder, Food Service Director reported out on all the great things food service has accomplished thus far and how many more meals they have been able to serve to students this year. We have served so far this year 17,422 breakfasts and 24,167 lunches. We serviced over 3,700 more lunches than last year in that timeframe. We can attribute that to the fact that all meals are free for all students. Other highlights, thanks to transportation for partnering with us and helping us deliver meals to families that cannot get here to pick up when we are remote. We have been able to keep our fresh fruit and vegetable program going. We are actually just sending it home each week. We are trying to do fun things that we can't do in the classroom. A thank you to my staff who have been amazing since this started in March. They showed up each and every day even when we were shutdown. They worked extra days over holiday break. Thank you to administration at each school working with us to help make meals a priority for our students.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Sally Beatty to approve policy BEB: Board Social Media Use as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (D. Moutsatsos, P. Flaherty, M. Violette, S. Beatty, & D. Boudreau)

Committee Reports

Building: Peter stated that the committee met on January 6th. Rob and Mr. Suttie did a great job as they went down the whole system on the work that is being done. Painting hallways in middle school. New purchase of passenger van and tractor. One of the biggest projects that we are looking at is the high school roof, which is a huge job about \$250,000. It is something we cannot put off. The Jameson roof over the kitchen needs to be repaired as well for \$26,000. District wide we are putting in LED lights. Many doors at Loranger you have to go outside to lock them so we are looking into replacing those. The roof at the high school near the big parking lot needs to have the metal roof finished. The gym floor at Jameson also has to be redone. We also talked about the pavilions coming in the future.

Technology: Donna stated that Pam touched on a lot of this information. They have resolved all of the wi-fi problems that they were having. All students have a new security system on the computers so students are being monitored 24/7 now. The new MacBook's for teachers are getting ready.

RSU 23 Board Minutes

Finance: Dave stated they met today. March 25th was added by the finance committee as an additional day for budget workshops to review any last-minute changes before John presents it to the public. Update on the Federal and State grants; we spent the entire CRF-1 and CRF-2 grants. We have another grant that doesn't need to be spent until 2023 and we have \$204,000 still left to spend on that. There is another round of funding coming. We are unsure what that is as the applications have not been completed as of yet. Today the Finance committee decided to issue a memorandum of an incentive of \$5000 for people retiring this year. March 1st is the deadline for retirees to indicate that they will be taking this incentive. Looking forward I don't believe we will be offering this next year.

Board Remarks

Michelle Violette exited meeting at 6:40PM

Sally stated she wanted to thank everyone for the hard work they are doing and working in the conditions we are. What a wonderful lunch program we are offering to our community since this has all started.

Donna stated she will reach out to Cynthia with an email as well. She helped me when I was retiring. Thank you to teachers for working in the conditions they are working in. I know that they are not easy.

Peter stated Cynthia Potenza has been a great employee and wish her the best of luck.

Dave stated he wanted to thank everyone for all they are doing keeping our kids safe and staying safe. Appreciate everyone working through the positive cases we have had. We are hoping everyone stays safe. It's good to hear you are safer in school then you are on the outside. Budget is starting so information will be coming. Be prepared for the budget workshop in February. There is a lot of work that goes into making the budget especially with no knowing what is happening with funding.

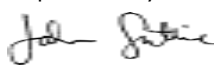
Adjournment

A motion was made by Donna Moutsatsos and seconded by Sally Beatty to adjourn the meeting at 7:02PM. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Helene Stevens,
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



John Suttie,
Superintendent