

RSU 23 Board Minutes

**RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall (Virtual Meeting) on
December 17, 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.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to accept the minutes from the November 19, 2020 board meeting as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; M. Violette, D. Moutsatsos, Sally Beatty, Peter Flaherty & David Boudreau)

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Public Session

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie stated we received a very generous gift yesterday from Paul Landry from Landry's Hannaford and Julie Bayley from Bayley's Camping Resort of gift cards that will benefit 70 of our families in RSU 23. Once again, I cannot say thank you to the community enough. We had a nice cash donation from Biddeford Saco Savings this week and we had a little ceremony with them on Tuesday and thanked them for their donation. The community has continuously stepped up in helping those in need. For the COVID 19 update; we went on a hot streak from the start of school until Thanksgiving and then we had 11 positive tests and all three schools were classified by outbreaks by the CDC so we ended up having a couple of meetings with those folks. An outbreak is when you have 3 or more cases that are linked in a week. No additional cases have occurred. Interestingly, in the meetings with the CDC there is a shift in their emphasis where they are telling us that kids are safer in schools and they wanted us to do what we can to keep them open. Over Christmas break Waltz and Sons will be installing touchless bathroom facilities in all three of our schools. We are able to use the CRF funds for that cost. We are excited to have them come do that during the break. Since this will be the last meeting of the year and a very unique and trying year, I want to give big thank you's to the custodial staff and food service, maintenance, and bus drivers for all the work they have done. I am very proud of the way our district work to collaborate over the summer to create a strong back to school plan. I want to thank the education association for their work alongside of us in creating that plan. I am appreciative of all the work that Mark Beaudoin did early on getting the jump on other districts on purchasing and securing all of the PPE. I am proud of technology team, which has gone above and beyond in a time where we had to learn how to teach remotely on the fly and all the support that is required by those people. A lot of shinning bright stars emerged in our school district during this time. It has been quite an amazing thing and someday look back on it and be proud at what we did to make it all work in 2020. I know we are all looking forward to the vaccine to get back to normal times and for

RSU 23 Board Minutes

now I think everyone can take a breath, relax and be proud of what they have accomplished. Really happy to be able to tell you all that tonight on behalf of me to everyone that work all the good things in our schools happen.

Board Presentation

Timothy Gill from Runyon Kersteen Ouellette presented RSU 23 2019-2020 Audit Report (Please see online for full presentation)

Old Business

None

New Business

Peter Flaherty read 1st reading of policy; BEB: Board Social Media Use

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Peter Flaherty to accept nomination of new hire Thomas Offit as OOB HS Special Education Teacher as presented. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (M. Violette, D. Moutsatsos, S. Beatty, P. Flaherty & D. Boudreau)

Committee Reports

Finance: Dave stated they met this morning on a lot of things. First thing we talked about was the audit. I can assure you that the items that were brought up, we talked about and there is a plan in place to present to the Finance committee on how we will strengthen those areas. Our budget was phenomenal. Everyone has issues that we have. With COVID it was a challenging ½ year and we understand that. We also talked about retirement incentives and there were some areas that were offered to us if there were different amounts being offered and how it would affect the budget. The finance committee has decided and is making a recommendation that we will revisit it in February and anything we may know from the state. We will be in a better position to make a decision when we get that information. He gave an update on our Coronavirus relief funds.

Building: Peter stated they have not met this month but we are on the calendar now moving forward. I am looking forward to the next meeting.

Technology: Donna stated that they met and talked mostly about the challenges COVID brought us in Spring 2020. What that is important, I began to realize how much technology we have in our district and how important it is. Every student, teacher, supervisor, and administrator in our district has a device or two that needs to be maintained. Counting students and staff we have over 800 devices. Counting everything this department is responsible for aside from devices like apple tv, smart boards and projectors, it's a big job even for a small district. I can tell just from listening to Pam that the pressure is on every day. Our technology department is a four-person team. They deal with every program, makes repairs and deals with any issues as they arise as well as with the remote learning students. We are using COVID money to purchase additional tools for teachers to use while teaching remotely such as document cameras and web cams. They are also providing hotspots for students to use who do not have internet while learning from home. We are also upgrading elementary student ipads and teacher computers. They have also made improvement to the WIFI network in the district. The technology director is creating and implementing a permission/responsibility and procedure form that will be ready before the next school year. The department also offers families device insurance. I would like to thank

RSU 23 Board Minutes

Pam, Donna, Gwyneth and Melissa for the job they have done keeping our head above water. Please know that I appreciate and the board appreciates everything you do for us.

Board Remarks

Michelle wanted to thank Tim Gill again for coming in. I find his reports easy to digest and very appreciative of that. I want to thank everyone that is stepping up in the community. It is why I love Old Orchard Beach. We come to support our own and now more than ever we are relying on it. This is a really unusual time and I am very thankful of everyone that is involved in our school system. That includes students and parents. We will see an evolution in what school is going to be but it is not an easy transition for anyone. I am thankful for everyone that has stuck with us. Very appreciative as a parent and a board member. Those hot spots are vital and I'm hoping there is at least some evolution of the availability of internet access. Wish you all a healthy and happy holiday.

Donna stated, I as well want to thank every employee in the district. I know how hard you work and how much you care for your students. We will get through it because we have heroes here. Go rest, relax and refresh. Eat, drink and be merry you deserve a vacation.

Sally stated she wants to also thank Tim for his great financial report and it was wonderful to hear in our meeting how our financial affairs are in great shape. Welcome Dr. Offit to our district. Thank you to the community members that stepped up to help our families in need. Wear a mask and wash your hands.

Peter stated, I have to tell you that this year, especially this year I reflected back on my own teaching and what that involved. I am amazed at what the teachers are doing now. There are just many, many hurdles they have to overcome and I'm happy I don't have to do it. Thank you to Cindy and the finance committee for the great report we heard. We are doing very well financially. Paul Landry, Saco Biddeford Savings and all others John mentioned in the meeting have been so fantastic to our school system especially in this time of need and I want them all to know we appreciate their support. Happy Holiday and get some well needed rest.

Dave stated for the folks donating to the community it tells you how wonderful of a community we have and how much they care for our school system. Thank you to Cindy for her work and all the updates she is giving us. It is refreshing to see the place we are in. She is keeping tabs on everything. With what could be a rough few years ahead, it is good to keep a tight ship on that. Happy Holidays. Wind down, recharge, enjoy your family and don't think one second about the school district. Enjoy your holidays and families. I do appreciate everybody and what they do for our district. I hope everyone stays safe, healthy, wear a mask, and wash your hands.

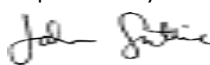
Adjournment

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Michelle Violette to adjourn the meeting at 7:10PM. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Helene Stevens,
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



John Suttie,
Superintendent