

# RSU 23 Board Minutes

**RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall (Virtual Meeting) on  
March 18, 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, and Superintendent John Suttie.

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

## ***The Pledge of Allegiance was recited***

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded by Michelle Violette to accept the minutes from the February 25, 2021 meeting as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; Michelle Violette, Sally Beatty, Peter Flaherty, Donna Moutsatsos, & David Boudreau)

## **Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

## **Correspondence**

Superintendent Suttie informed the board he received a resignation from Tony Lucchese; OOB High School Math Teacher.

## **Public Session**

None

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Suttie stated he had a vaccination update on staff. As you know vaccines were opened up to all educational staff and openings are become plentiful. Our teachers have been signing up and several if not many have gotten their first vaccinations. We are looking pretty strong that most of our staff will have their vaccinations by the end of next month. The American Rescue Plan was approved by President Biden last week. What that means is that there will be additional funding coming to schools and municipalities. I am anticipating that the amount will be significant, if not equal to what we have already received, and tied to the safe reopening of schools. Conversations will be had in the upcoming weeks as to how to use the funds. I have also heard, but this is not confirmed, that we will have a couple of calendar years to spend the money. We have a budget workshop scheduled for Tuesday, April 6th at 4:00pm. We will have to make some changes to the budget timeline. Thursday, April 8th I have scheduled my formal presentation to the public, which gives us a week to put it in its final form for the April 15th board meeting. I think that we have talked about in the past, meetings that the governor has waived the regional budget meeting with people present, so at the May board meeting we will do what we did last year. Dave will read a statement and allow for public comments on the budget. We will have the regular referendum meeting in person in June. Shout out to the staff. We made it through a long dark winter. We came back in January and somehow managed to not lose one day of in person learning. Not sure how we did that. I know that there is an uptick in the younger population right now so I don't want to predict tomorrow or the future. I want to praise the staff from ed techs, maintenance, admin assistants, bus drivers, food service workers, teachers, and administrators.

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We held it together and have done a great job. We have kept our feet firmly on the pedal with our kids and what we did. You will be pleasantly surprised at the progress our kids have done.

## **Board Presentation**

Joanne Dowd gave an update on the great work that has gone on throughout the district this year. She also shared data on growth of our students this year. Please refer to the video for the complete presentation.

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded Sally Beatty to approve policies IGA: Curriculum Development & Adoption (Revised) and KDB: Public's Right to Now/Freedom of Information as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; Michelle Violette, Sally Beatty, Peter Flaherty, Donna Moutsatsos, & David Boudreau)

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded Michelle Violette to approve the Special Education Coordinator job description as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; Michelle Violette, Sally Beatty, Peter Flaherty, Donna Moutsatsos, & David Boudreau)

## **Committee Reports**

Calendar: Michelle stated that we putting it in the form of non-state of emergency. Over the last five years I am proud at how this is put together. You take into consideration; student days, teacher days, voting, and teacher conferences don't overlap if you have students in different schools. On March 11<sup>th</sup> we met, which is part of a timeline of development, which starts in March. We meet and developed a draft calendar. Eric Hanson stated, as we have done this with a common group the last few years, we are getting pretty efficient with the process. He presented the first draft of the proposed 2021-2022 school year.

Finance: Dave stated the finance committee met today. Highlights of the meeting were; we are where we thought we would be with the budget at this point. The COVID-19 grants that we have received have not changed from last month. John did mention getting another round of that. Again, it's the same process, once they know what they are getting they have to put in their requests for what they need. Budget workshop will be April 6<sup>th</sup> and the presentation to the public on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. I want to really utilize everything we have so that people know that it is happening. If we can get some sort of message on the sign outside the high school stating it will be that day and time. We don't have the in person and I want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to know about it. We have been negotiating a contract as you know. All I can tell you is that is progressing nicely. We are only meeting every other week so we can prepare. I think by the next board meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April I hope to be able to tell you we have more to talk about.

Building: Peter stated the building committee has not met since the last school board meeting. The meetings we have had have been very well organized by Rob and John.

Technology: Donna stated they did have a meeting. I think the tech team or Pam in particular are gearing up for the end of the year to collect all devices. Their plan is to collect them all and get them

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all cleaned up and see where they stand. The district, next year, will be offering insurance again. It was a little difficult this year to get the devices out with the way they had to get them out. It will be different next year and parents will have to sign a form to get a device. Students without internet connections next year may be offered by the State to pay for hotspots so students will have access to the internet.

## **Board Remarks**

Michelle stated she wanted to wish Mr. Lucchase the best. My daughter had him as a teacher and enjoyed him, so the best to him and his family. Kudos to the little district that could. From Joanne's presentation; caring, persistence, and creativity has obviously been utilized. Not just in reading, writing and arithmetic, which is obviously important, but emotionally as well. I can believe that we are not only holding but progressing because I have nothing but admiration for all of you during this. I know that is not only the people in the building but out in the community so thank you all. As John said, spring is coming, vaccines are getting in arms, and hope is coming.

Sally stated she wanted to go along with that and thank Joanne for the wonderful presentation showing all the improvements and the great work that our staff and students are doing. Along with John, I want to praise the staff for all they have done this year. Truly unbelievable that we have kept our schools open and it's because of all the work everyone has done. Just wonderful. The kids are doing well and the staff are doing well. Very impressed with how well things have gone.

Peter stated that was where he was going to jump in. I was very impressed with the numbers Joanne showed us tonight. Great presentation. I knew as a small school unit that we were doing pretty well compared to all the schools around us but now I am really proud to tell people how well we are doing.

Donna stated that she would like to ditto what everyone has said about getting through this COVID time. It is nice to know that the end of the year is close and we can all rest up and recuperate and get back to September, hopefully a more normal school year. Thanks to Joanne for the presentation you gave us tonight. I had a hard time seeing it but was very interesting to hear all the successes we are having. Thank all of you.

Dave stated it is budget season as we said. We are almost done this year already and it's crazy. I too want to thank everyone for what they have done through this trying time. Hopefully there is light at the end of this tunnel here. I hope John didn't jinx us saying that we haven't had any cases since break. Asked John when or if he talked about going back to full time as well as will there be a graduation this year.

Superintendent Suttie stated that no decisions have been made about if/when we will be going back to school full time. We are going full fledge ahead for graduation for Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> outside at the stadium field. We are also hopeful we will be able to have a Prom this year as well.

## **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Peter Flaherty to enter Executive Session per 1M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(A) Compensation of Employees with no action. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; Michelle Violette, Sally Beatty, Peter Flaherty, Donna Moutsatsos, & David Boudreau)

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A motion was made by Donna Moutsatsos and seconded by Sally Beatty to adjourn the meeting at 7:13PM. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (Roll Call; Michelle Violette, Sally Beatty, Peter Flaherty, Donna Moutsatsos, & David Boudreau)

## Executive Session

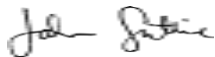
Entered Executive Session at 7:13PM per 1M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(A) Compensation of Employees

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Donna Mousatsous to exit Executive Session at 8:10PM. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

Minutes prepared by:

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Helene Stevens,  
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



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John Suttie,  
Superintendent