

RSU 23 Board Minutes

RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall (Virtual Meeting) on
September 16, 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.

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 August 19, 2021 meeting as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Correspondence

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie stated that first of all he would like to thank the staff, parents, students and everyone for a smooth start to the school year. We had a great 3 days of professional development before bringing in the students. Thank you to everyone for being patient with all the changes that needed to happen on the fly. It really was the staff and families that made that happen by pulling together. Anyone that watches the news can see there are contentious things going on everywhere and we don't seem to have that in the Old Orchard Beach Community. We started pool testing on Tuesday and we had 120 kids tested and the surprising thing is that no one tested positive. We thought we would have some asymptomatic cases in there. We hope that more students sign up so that we can make sure everyone can be in school 5 days a week and not have to quarantine. The state released vaccination rates for the entire state. The Jameson staff rate is 95.1%, Loranger is at 91.2%, OOB HS is at 97.7% and the general operations staff is at a 90.3% rate. Those rates are on the DOE website. You can look up any school in Maine. We are very much ahead of the curve with our vaccination rates. Later in the meeting David is going to report out on the American Rescue Plan and how we are going to involve the public. I am happy to report that fall sports and activities are back on their way after a year hiatus. The sports schedules are on the website if any of you would like to attend.

Board Presentation

None

Public Session:

None

Old Business

None

RSU 23 Board Minutes

New Business

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded by Michelle Violette to approve policy BED: Remote Participation in School Board Meetings as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Finance: Dave stated that the finance committee met today. It was very short. We went over the financials up to date and everything is on schedule and going well. The second thing is as you know we mentioned about the roof project and we declined the 1 bid that was almost twice as much as we budgeted for. It is currently off the table and we are going to revisit it in the new year. The project was going to be done in the summer regardless of when we accept the bid. We have the new grant American Rescue Plan that we are applying for approximately 1.9 million. To apply for this grant masks are required. This is similar to the previous grants we have applied for. We are going to hold a virtual informational meeting on 9/21 at 6:00pm where you can ask questions, give suggestions or recommendations. The information will be posted on our website after tonight.

Building: Peter stated the building committee did not meet this month. The schools are looking to be in great shape.

Technology: Donna stated the technology committee did not meet this month. All computers have been dispersed and things seem to be going smoothly. We have received some applications for insurance plan.

Board Remarks

Sally stated it is wonderful to hear that we have had such a positive start to our school year, especially with everything going on. That says a lot about our administrators and staff, and how they are communicating with the community and parents. She is happy that pool testing has started and our vaccination rates are impressive. Glad the students are back on the field playing sports and band is back to playing music. All positive things happening.

Michelle stated that the two words that are most in my mind are gratitude and compassion. She is very thankful of all of you including parents and community members. Grateful to be back in person and looking at that blue ocean. It is hard sometimes to just get through the door so I am thankful for that. The first Seacoast marching band which is a combination of OOB and Biddeford and they will be having their first competition this weekend. Our combined PTO/Boosters are still looking for volunteers. Wonderful to have these things going again after 17 months.

Donna stated that her and Peter went to Jameson and Loranger for a visit. It was nice to see everyone. she wants to thank Kate and Matt for taking us around and introducing us to anyone that was available. The schools look great and the kids look excited to be there. Thank you for everything that was done this summer to get ready for this. Elementary teachers are so upbeat. Great job.

Peter stated Mr. Foster and Ms. Hersom were very great guides today going through each school. We were in each school for an hour and appreciate them giving their time. He state he was anxious to see the 4 year old's. They acted like they were there for 6 months and happy to be there. He appreciates

RSU 23 Board Minutes

that we got the updates from the three principals. Old Orchard Beach looks very good for vaccination rates when compared to other districts.

Dave stated thank you for making the opening of school smooth and seamless. The communications coming from superintendent and staff is great. It's almost like we are there. I am very happy that sports are going on with people in the stands. As things go, we need to make sure people are safe and continue to do a great job.

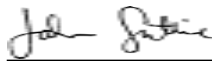
Adjournment

A motion was made by Michelle Violette and seconded by Peter Flaherty to adjourn the meeting at 6:20PM. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Helene Stevens,
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



John Suttie,
Superintendent