

RSU 23 Board Minutes

**RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on
January 20, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Meeting Called to Order

John Suttie called the virtual meeting to order at 6:00pm. Present: Dave Boudreau, Peter Flaherty, Donna Moutsatsos, Craig Evans, 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 Donna Moutsatsos to accept the minutes from the December 16, 2021 meeting with correction of "adult ed to alternative ed". Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Donna Moutsatsos and seconded by Peter Flaherty to accept the minutes from the December 21, 2021 meeting with correction of "unanimous vote to 3- yes, 1-abstention and 1- did not vote". Vote unanimously. Motion approved.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Correspondence

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie stated he would like to announce he received notices of retirement from a few of our long-term employees and they are binding retirements. Jane Allen- 36 years of service, Mark Manduca -22 years of service Matt Michaud -29 years of service, Barb Roberge-23 years of service and ed tech, Gisele Sullivan - 26 years of service. We are saddened to lose all of this experience and knowledge. These are some pretty legitimate people that have been showing up every day for a very long time. They always say the last 2 or 3 years of your teaching career are the hardest as you have an uncontrollable factor with the students. We are excited for their next chapter and they get to enjoy it. You probably know the DOE over the last couple of weeks provided us with two new standard operating procedures to go by. We are not notifying close contacts or doing contact tracking. Those that test positive are the only ones that have to quarantine and that would be for 5 days. We literally could not have the capacity any longer, nor did anyone else to contact trace, notify close contacts as we would not be able to run schools. COVID19 is in our society like the flu. We just have to figure out how to protect ourselves from getting it. As far as masks go, I don't see any way, shape, or form of changing the indoor mask mandate before the end of the school year. We are hoping that someday we can come to work without wearing masks indoors. I want to give a shout out to our Health Services Team, Sarah Burnham, Katie Gagnon and Lisa St. Louis, who have been working very hard. We have a high number of cases between our staff and students right now and they are doing a tremendous amount of working notifying people. Also, in that vein, whenever someone goes out someone has to cover for them. We have a good amount of subs but there are always gaps. Our staff have been doing this all year long and it has never been more challenging than it has been since Christmas break.

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Folks that are out are out and we need to get them healthy. The ones that are in are really pitching in and doing a great job. It is amazing how unselfish they have been filling in during these times. Lastly, I would like to welcome Santino Perrone as the student representative of the RSU 23 school board committee.

Student Representative's Report:

Santino stated he is a senior at OOB high school and now the student body school board representative. Thank you for having him. Currently as we all know COVID19 is impacting our schools by making students do remote learning if they test positive, which is causing stress. It is also making others confused especially if they were to have a sibling get COVID and test positive. When that is happening the schools are still telling those students to attend school and that is confusing and stressing students out as they are close contacts. We all have the same goal and hope that things go back to normal soon. For the most part, teachers are pretty lenient when students are missing school, however, students are still feeling anxiety about missing school. Students should not have to worry about missing school due to COVID or having to quarantine. School spirit, despite anxiety throughout all this, is very high. With spirit and love like this in a small town and community we can all work together to get through this.

Board Presentation

None

Public Session:

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Peter Flaherty read 1st reading of policy GBEB: Staff Conduct with Students and JLCB: Immunization of Students.

A motion was made by Craig Evans and seconded by Sally Beatty to approve policy BHC: Board Relationships & Communications with Staff as written. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Craig Evans to approve job descriptions; Extended Learning Opportunity Coordinator and School and Community Services Coordinator as presented. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Finance: Dave stated that they met today and went over a few things. The biggest thing is they are working on the budget and starting to put things together. If you have any questions or need more clarification, please reach out to us. We discussed the upcoming bid for the new track. They are getting that all ready to go and by the time we get the bids in and open them publicly it will be the end

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of March. We are hoping they can start and get it done before the football season starts. John is going to keep us up to date on that. We discussed the special education secretary's job. They are going through interviews. It is a very specialized person so I am not surprised they are taking their time and getting the right person. Stay tune for that. We are basically 100% on budget through December so financially we are looking good. Hopefully no surprises come up before the end of the year. We were notified by the State that we are going to get a small increase from the State funding for our next fiscal year. We are very fortunate as a lot of communities got cut. We will not know our new medical insurance rate until March and once we get that it will have to be interjected into the budget process. Just be prepared for the upcoming budget.

Building: Peter stated they did not meet this month.

Technology: Donna stated they did not meet this month but there are a couple of things Pam sent her. We applied for and are participating in MILTI 2.0 program, which means our district will be supplied with Chromebooks for 7th and 8th graders next year. We are implementing a new software program. This program is called Dino and it will help teachers k-12 defeat distractions and increase student engagement, and teach confidence with technology.

Board Remarks

Peter stated that he wanted to welcome Santino to our board. I am sure he is going to do a fantastic job. He wants to congratulate the 5 people putting in for retirement. When he looks down the list these people have been around for a long time and all outstanding educators. They will be hard to replace. Something has kept them in OOB for the years they have been here and appreciate the years they have served the town.

Donna stated she would like to acknowledge the teachers retiring and repeat they have put in a lot of years. We will miss you and you will love retirement. Thank you for the principal reports. She especially liked the Jameson report this month because it really gave us a look into absenteeism and where we are at. She was pleased to hear Joanne talking about one of the new positions. It is going to address the truancy and absenteeism we have. That is awesome. It is awful to hear that things are so difficult in school for students and teachers. She hopes when they have opportunities to take the break they need or get the help they need to get through this.

Sally stated she wanted to follow along with wishing the retirees a wonderful retirement. You are going to enjoy it. She also wanted to extend the warm welcome to the new student rep, Santino, to the board. It was wonderful to hear that school spirit is still up but sorry to hear that anxiety is up about missing work and school. She also wants to thank all the staff that have gone above and beyond covering for all that have been out sick.

Craig stated he would like to echo the same sentiments with those that are retiring. He knows that his family has been impacted positively and personally by what they have provided. They will not be easy to replace. He would also like to welcome Santino. He thinks that the dynamic he brings to this body is something of great value to see the school system through the prism of the student and he welcomes him.

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Santino stated that he would like to thank all the teachers who are retiring. He has had the opportunity to be taught by them. He thinks a lot of students will be excited to hear about the news on the new track. Thank you to Mr. Suttie, Mr. Hanson and all of you for having me at the meeting.

Dave stated that a lot of knowledge is going to be walking out that door in June and he appreciates that. He thinks the time that people put into our district is very unique. He hopes that we, as a board, can continue to offer that atmosphere so they can continue to teach here. He also thinks students enjoy being here which is also a big part of that. Budget is coming. It is going to take a little time but it is a good process and he always appreciates going through the process and learning. They raised over \$15,000 with the giving tree. That was awesome to hear. Please stay safe, take care of yourself. Thank you, Santino, for your perspective from the students.

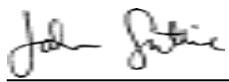
Adjournment

A motion was made by Donna Moutsatsos and seconded by Sally Beatty to adjourn the meeting at 6:45PM. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Helene Stevens,
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



John Suttie,
Superintendent