

RSU 23 Board Minutes

**RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on
February 17, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Meeting Called to Order

John Suttie called the virtual meeting to order at 6:03pm. 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 Craig Evans to accept the minutes from the January 20, 2022 meeting as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (S. Beatty, P. Flaherty, C. Evans, D. Moutsatsos, D. Boudreau)

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Correspondence

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie stated the first item is probably the utmost importance to everyone. On Wednesday, we met with Dr. Shah and the guidance was decided that masks will be mandatory until after February break. Schools are no longer required to do contact tracing. Masking will remain as the standard operating procedure for any positive cases. Dr. Shah is looking for a pathway the week after we come back from vacation to make masks optional and not mandatory for districts. John's suggestion when this happens, was that we convene a special board meeting so that we can have a presentation and make a recommendation to the board. The board can then decide whether we would mask up in schools. I would like to thank the staff for all of their hard work since coming back from Christmas. The first couple of weeks back were touch and go. We were able to maintain in person learning with people covering for others that were out. Everyone did a little extra to cover for others so that we were able to keep our schools open. Thank you to the staff. He would like to give a special thank you to building administrators, managers, central office staff. I don't think people realize how much stress and pressure that the administrators have been under the last couple of years. The politics of masking has led to many many difficult conversations with parents and families over the last few years and they are difficult conversations to have. We have stayed with the guidelines of the Maine CDC standard operating procedures. We are scheduled for our first budget workshop Thursday, March 3rd. We can have it at the High School library. The board should decide where that will take place before the meeting is over tonight so we can communicate that with the public. I wish the staff a happy and restful February break. It will be a long stretch when we come back between February vacation and April vacation.

Student Representative's Report:

RSU 23 Board Minutes

Santino stated he hopes everyone is doing well this evening. Everything has been going well in the month of February. Sports is a huge hit in the community. They are coming together to support Old Orchard Beach basketball teams. The girls' team won on Tuesday and boys lost in playoffs but had a great game. School clubs have been doing great. The Civil Rights Club and sophomore class president are making black history month noticeable in the high school by putting up creative and fun posters, which have black authors and activists on them with some fun and creative information about that person. They are also making announcements over the intercom during the morning announcements with quotes from well-known and well-respected African Americans who have impacted American History. Ms. Kuchta and Ms. Dodier are doing great with our drama club. The cast and the crew are making great progress for our play on March 4th, which will be an all-day event. They will be performing 3 times that day. For K-4th grade students, 5th-8th and then later at 6:00PM they will perform for anyone who would like to attend. Regarding the masks, as Mr. Suttie said there are words and rumors going around students are pretty excited, we may have an optional choice to wear masks. I hope everyone has a great February vacation.

Board Presentation

None

Public Session:

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Peter Flaherty read 1st reading of policies JK: Student Discipline, JKD: Suspension of Students, JKE: Expulsion of Students, and JKE-R: Expulsion Hearing & Reentry Guidelines.

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to approve policies GBEB: Staff Conduct with Students and JLCB: Immunization of Students as written. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved. (S. Beatty, P. Flaherty, C. Evans, D. Moutsatsos, D. Boudreau)

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded by Craig Evans to accept new hire, Nicole Johnson: K-2 Behavior Teacher as presented. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (S. Beatty, P. Flaherty, C. Evans, D. Moutsatsos, D. Boudreau)

A motion was made by Craig Evans and seconded by Peter Flaherty to accept the job description for RSU 23 Chef & Culinary Supervisor as presented. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (S. Beatty, P. Flaherty, C. Evans, D. Moutsatsos, D. Boudreau)

Committee Reports

Finance: Dave stated the finance committee did not meet today. There wasn't much to go over. Next month will be busier. As you know we will have the budget workshop and opening bids for the track. There is nothing new to review. They are just working on the budget.

RSU 23 Board Minutes

Building: Peter stated they met on February 2nd. They went over what is going on in each one of the buildings. All three schools the key cards are all in effect now. I had to get an explanation as to what that was and it is actually pretty cool. We don't have 5000 keys floating around like we used to in the old days. Paving potholes that need to be filled are being taken care of at Loranger Memorial Schools. There will be a new utility vehicle at the high school that is going to be very convenient. There are areas there that need potholes taken care of as well. They are still working with Oak Point for the track at the high school and bids are due March 15th. The one thing I wanted to make sure I reported on is the revision energy meeting. Rob and Eric met with a company to discuss solar energy options. They offered 15% off the electrical rate if we sign into a 20-year contract. In review of our current rates, we are receiving discounted electricity with another company that expires in 2024. They will continue to explore options to save money.

Technology: Donna stated she had nothing to report.

Calendar: Eric stated the calendar committee has gotten back together, which is represented by the school board, association and all three buildings. We have a few targets to reach, which are 176 student days, 5 workshop days and within 5 dissimilar days with our regional schools. We are trying to align professional development regionally. The larger board can expect to receive a full presentation with a draft calendar at the next board meeting and hopefully for review and final approval in April.

Board Remarks

Craig stated he thinks we are entering a new and very promising era with this COVID situation and the masking controversy and hopefully when we return from February break people will feel good about this transition. I think it will be a great day when we will not need the masks anymore. I hope everyone has a good February break.

Donna stated she hopes everyone plans to take extra care of themselves next week. She clearly remembers this time of year is especially hard. She knows that everyone is probably tired and a little cranky. There is a lot going on and COVID makes it a lot more. She thanks teachers, administrators and students for all they have done to keep everyone safe. It is not just keeping the students safe at school it is who they have to go home to and keeping people at home safe as well. She hopes everyone has a great vacation and come back for the big push.

Sally stated she wanted to thank Santino again for letting us know that things are all well in February at our schools. The kids are really enjoying the sports. The teams have been doing well and the clubs are doing well so thank you for that report. She also wants to give a shoutout to John Suttie who has been generating all the positive press for the RSU. She just wants him to know that it has been noticed. You are always positive in the paper. People have noticed all that positivity. Have a great winter vacation.

Peter stated that he likes the fact that John was commending his principals, team leaders and all managers because this has been the worse couple of years to be in those positions as things were changing from day-to-day. I am proud of RSU 23. We are small but we are doing well. He is very very encouraged. Everyone have a great vacation, well deserved and come back rested.

Santino stated he would like to thank Mr. Suttie and the school board for letting him attend. Hope everyone has a great vacation.

RSU 23 Board Minutes

Dave stated congratulations to the sports, especially the girls' basketball for winning. He wants to thank everyone for what they have done with the budget. Look forward to seeing March 3rd and how things are going. He hopes everyone has a wonderful vacation. We will plan on meeting in person in March. The other thing he wants to say is that he has reached out a few times and he knows the Superintendent has reached out a few times and has asked our State Reps to join us just to answer some questions we have and what could affect us as a school district. Unfortunately, we have never had a response. It is important for us for our State Representatives to tell us what might be coming down that could affect our district. Especially with a new school coming and what might be coming with that. Appreciate everything everyone is doing. Be safe and enjoy your vacations.

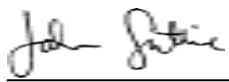
Adjournment

A motion was made by Donna Moutsatsos and seconded by Craig Evans to adjourn the meeting at 6:45PM. Voted unanimously. Motion approved. (S. Beatty, P. Flaherty, D. Moutsatsos, C. Evans, D. Boudreau)

Minutes prepared by:

Helene Stevens,
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



John Suttie,
Superintendent