

RSU 23 Board Minutes

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

Meeting Called to Order

John Suttie called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Present: Craig Evans, Sally Beatty, Peter Flaherty, Donna Moutsatsos and Superintendent John Suttie.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Craig Evans and seconded by Sally Beatty to accept the minutes from the September 15, 2022 meeting as written. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Correspondence

None

Public Session:

Erin Dupee, special education ed tech in the intensive needs program spoke. She is asking that they seriously consider opening the support staff contract to consider a cost-of-living raise. She has been here for 23 years and makes \$23/hour. She does love what she does, however, it is becoming increasingly harder to stay afloat with the cost of everything rising. Jocelyn Lachance stated she has been an ed tech for 6 years and stated that the cost of living is rising. Many staff members are not here tonight because they are working their second jobs. We are seriously understaffed and get rallying words, and that is all they are, just words. The loyalty of staff members here at OOB to our students is unlike any other. Karolina Pierko stated she has been with the district for 1 year and a single mom of six kids. It's hard to find permanent housing and to be able to sustain her bills is impossible. Shauna Tolley stated she has been working for RSU 23 for 14 years; she is a mother of an OOB student. She stated she is told that she is the glue that holds the high school together, however, she is not sure the pat on the back is worth it anymore. She is questioning if she can continue to stay at her job. Lisa St. Louis, Karen MacWilliam, Beth Willey and several other support staff got up and spoke of why they felt it was important to open the support staff contract to consider a cost of living raise.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie stated fall sports at the high school and band program are heading to the end of their regular season. Football will be entering in to the playoffs. Our fall season has been successful to date and all teams have qualified for post season. We are starting to get our stuff together to meet with department managers to build our budgets and will get into that more earnestly. As we go through the budget process, we will try to get the board approved budget in June. We had a striping company put our school logo and some striping around the long jump pit at the high school football field today. We are going to have some drone pictures taken, hopefully next week. We have been practicing fire drills in all three schools and have gotten a lot of good feedback from the fire department in how we can keep our schools safe. Ben has brought a lot of knowledge to our district

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around fire safety and school safety. A district wide flu clinic will be held at LMS on October 24th and offered to all of our employees. Our 6 & 7th graders are at Camp Kieve this week. Everyone in middle school is going this year. They are there all week and it's the one thing that is very impactful with our students over the years. We are excited to hear how this experience has changed their lives.

Old Business

None

New Business

Peter read 1st reading of policies; BCB: Conflict of Interest, AC: Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action, ACAA-R: Student Discrimination/Harassment & Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures, ACAA: Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students, ACAB: Harassment & Sexual Harassment of School Employee's, GCFB: Recruiting & Hiring of Administrative Staff, GFCB-R: Recruiting & Hiring of Administrative Staff Procedures, and ACAB-R: Employee Discrimination/Harassment & Title IX Sexual Harassment Compliant Procedures.

A motion was made by Donna Moutsatsos to open support staff contract or consider MOU to discuss wages. Motion was not seconded. Motion did not Move.

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Sally Beatty to offer Remote Learning Days in lieu of snow days for the 2022-2023 school year as presented. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved

Board Presentation

John Suttie & JoAnne Dowd reported out on RSU 23's strategic plan and progress of goals. (Please refer to meeting video online for entire presentation).

Committee Reports

Finance: Dave stated they met today and reviewed where we are with our finances and we are still on track for what we budgeted and we know winter is coming. We talked about the snow days and how having remote learning would affect the budget. We also talked a little about starting the budget process.

Building: Sally stated that a new compressor for the heating system was installed at JES. The high school gym floor will be refinished October 28th for the upcoming winter season and this is a yearly project. District wide, we are due for our 3-year asbestos inspection. This is a more in-depth look at all materials that may contain asbestos.

Technology: Donna stated they have a few updates. The deadline to purchase device insurance has been extended. We have installed 6 new view boards. 6th grade devices arrived in time for the school year.

Board Remarks

Craig stated thank you to John and Joanne for the excellent presentation. Great things have been accomplished and great things are on the horizons. I am not insensitive to the needs of the people in this community or around the country. People are feeling the pain. That is the nature of the economy right now. He would say that in looking at the action they were asked to take about opening up the contract, that would be precedent setting and to do that it does take a very compelling argument.

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Other aspects of the contract seem to be in our favor. For example, we have a better health plan than surrounding districts and that needs to be weighed into the factor of their pay amongst other things. Peter stated he is not the least bit insensitive to people's situations and the difficulty of their jobs. They all work very hard but opening the contract that was just settled and it's a good contract. Since the economy went capote, everyone needs a raise. We are also going to be starting to negotiate a new contract within the next year.

Sally stated she wanted to thank John and Joanne for the strategic plan. A lot of thought and wonderful ideas have gone into that. Congratulations to the girls' soccer team and good luck in your playoff game. Also, hopefully we will get cross country runners that qualify and good luck to the football team.

Donna stated that she questioned whether or not the opening of the contract needed to be on the agenda. I think that the board chair could have made that decision and we could have avoided this spectacle tonight.

Dave stated congratulations to all the sports. The participation we have in our sports is incredible. Budget season is coming as we know. December is coming quick. The beginning of the meeting was very emotional. It really bothered me and I understand what we did as a board tonight and I think there is a time and place for these types of things. I don't think it has fallen on deaf ears. There is a bigger picture we need to look at. We don't have the leisure to make major changes off the cuff. I 100% agree that we need to do something for them but for right now opening the contract is not something we can do.

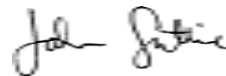
Adjournment

A motion was made by Sally Beatty and seconded by Craig Evans to adjourn the meeting at 6:55PM. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Helene Stevens,
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



John Suttie,
Superintendent