

# RSU 23 Board Minutes

**RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on  
April 11, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.**

## **Meeting Called to Order**

John Suttie called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Present: Craig Evans, Barbara Roberge, Donna Moutsatsos, Dave Boudreau, Matthew Cantara-Bisson (student rep) and Superintendent John Suttie.

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

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Craig Evans and seconded by Peter Flaherty to accept the minutes from the March 16, 2023 meeting as written. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

## **Adjustments to the Agenda**

Add 5<sup>th</sup> graders State butterfly presentation

Add executive session per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A) Personnel Matter with possible action

## **Correspondence**

None

## **Board Presentation**

Mr. Foster welcomed his teachers (Laura Seaver and Cynthia Nye) and students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade to share the work they have done at the State House last week. They were studying an ecosystem unit and focusing on pollinators. At the end of the unit, they had to complete a project where they would share their findings with others. Two students decided they wanted to suggest we have a State Butterfly. Our State Representative, Lori Gramlich, will put this in front of legislation. Students Oscar Stanton and Tate Graham did some research on what butterfly should be the State butterfly. The students presented their testimony that was read to the representatives. Please refer to the video for the entire presentation.

## **Public Session:**

Mark Knowles got up to address the board as the MEA president. Thank you to John and Eric for working collaboratively on the retirement party. This is the only time everyone in the district can get together. The teachers retiring this year have given decades of their lives to teaching in our district. They go above and beyond the call of duty. He would like to invite the board to the party.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Suttie stated he had a few items to discuss. Wanted to let the public and the Board know that we are having a meeting with Dr. Swenson from the Department of Defense on May 15<sup>th</sup>. He will tour our schools to see how we can improve on safety. SRO update; spoke to the police chief yesterday. She stated the SRO job posting was up for 8 weeks and they got one applicant, which pulled out before the interview. The fence that surrounds the new track was completed this week.

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There was an opening around the long jump pit that is now fully closed in. Reminder to the public that on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual senior citizen dinner. We are going to recruit some students to help us this year. Our next two crucial budget dates are May 16<sup>th</sup>, regional budget meeting at the High School Cafeteria. Also, June 13<sup>th</sup> will be our referendum for the public to vote on the budget. We are having our first annual RSU 23 retirement celebration to honor our retirees. It will be May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3-6:00 at Joseph's by the Sea. It is a joint project by the MEA and administration. There are some folks that are working very hard on this event. Gwyneth worked hard on the invitations. We have 5 people retiring this year; Deb Maksut and Andrea White from Jameson, Ronda Kay, Donna Stearns and Cathy Cone-Sabo from Loranger.

## **Student Representative's Report**

Matthew stated the outing club went sledding at Rotary Park in Biddeford on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. This was the first time for our new Mainers that have joined us in our district seeing snow and going sledding. Overall, everyone had a great time sledding. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Namory, Keita, an African drummer, put on a performance during lunches A & B and also did a drumming lesson during the WINN block. For spring sports, track and field as started up and we currently have 47 members this year, which is amazing. Congratulations to Spencer Cook, Emily Simpson and Evan Alivizatos. They were accepted into the District I Honors Jazz festival. The annual spring concert is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM in the high school cafeteria. Our high school marching band will march in the Memorial Day Parade along with students from Biddeford High School. He will be unable to make it to the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> due to the concert, which he will be performing in.

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

Peter read 1<sup>st</sup> reading of policy; AC-R: Grievance Procedure for Persons with Disabilities

A motion was made by Craig Evans and seconded by Barbara Roberge to approve the 2023-2024 RSU 23 School Calendar as presented. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Craig Evans to approve the 2023-2024 RSU 23 budget as proposed. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to approve the 2023-2024 adult education budget and RSU 23 local contribution as proposed. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

A motion was made by Craig Evans and seconded by Peter Flaherty to approved job descriptions education technician I, education technician II, education technician III, multi-language learning teacher, library media specialist, special education teacher, regular education teacher and technology support as written. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.



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A motion was made by Craig Evans and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to add \$1.00/hour across the board for support staff. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

## **Committee Reports**

Finance: Dave stated they met today and they went over a few things. The new buses are in, lettered up and ready to go. We talked about the tower at the high school football field. The building inspector went in and assessed that it needed a lot of attention. He should have something to report back next month. The other thing they talked about was last fall we were talking about support staff contracts and what we said back then we wouldn't forget it and would look at it again in the spring. We talked about that today and recommended that the full board vote to allow John Suttie to work with the attorney and the MEA representative to give everyone a \$1.00/hour raise across the board.

Building: Peter stated they met on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Rob let us know what is going on in the three facilities. At the high school, the custodial entrance door has been installed. It was not closing properly. Loranger, there were problems with the kitchen freezer cooler line and a second freezer needs repair. Parts on are back order right now and will be fixed as soon as possible. The kitchen disposal is also being fixed. The baseball/softball fields are being worked on. Jameson the technology closet was overheating due to all the technology equipment housed in there. They are looking at a way to get ventilation in that room. This summer custodial and transportation training will take place for their employees. Rob and Kevin are lining up projects for the summer.

Technology: Donna stated there is nothing to report.

Curriculum: Barb stated there is nothing to report.

## **Board Remarks**

Donna stated thank you to Tate and Oscar for their presentation. That is awesome. One of the nicest things that I heard is the collaboration they are doing with other departments. The SRO, that is too bad to hear. She is glad to hear we got somewhere with the chief of police. Hope everyone has a great vacation.

Barb stated thank you to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their whole class, LMS and Mrs. Seaver and Mrs. Nye of course. They did a fantastic job up there. They did a lot of research and work to nominate the Pink Edge Sulfur as the State butterfly. 8<sup>th</sup> graders attended the step-up night and they were very impressed with what the high school teachers had to say. It won't be so scary for their kids now. Thank you to the high school staff for their presentation and it has been a big help to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their families. Hope you all have a safe and restful April vacation.

Craig stated it was great to listen to Oscar, Tate and the teachers. What an exciting and brave adventure to propose a State butterfly. He will be watching closely to see it if passes. Mark, thank you for the invite. I think we should celebrate all those that have contributed to the education of our children. It's quite a contribution to our community and our children. Hope everyone has a restful spring break with great weather.

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Peter stated he hopes everyone has a great vacation. Always exciting to have 7-8 days off where you don't have to think about school. Congratulations to Coach Plante for retiring from his basketball coaching job after 20 years of doing it. It was a nice article in the paper today.

Dave stated hope everyone enjoys their vacation. Jameson did a great job with the lady gulls and coming down with the gold ball. They felt like rock stars. SRO officer, it's not a very good outcome and it doesn't look like we will have a very good outcome. There has to be something else we can do. Perhaps reach out to our representatives if they can change something.

## **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Craig Evans and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to enter executive session at 6:44PM per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A) Personnel Matter with possible action.

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Craig Evans to exit executive session and enter public session at 7:39PM. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

## **Action**

A motion was made by Craig Evans and seconded by Peter Flaherty to approve job description of superintendent and assistant superintendent. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

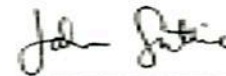
## **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Craig Evans and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to adjourn meeting at 7:41PM. Voted unanimously. Motion Approved.

Minutes prepared by:

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Helene Stevens,  
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:



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John Suttie,  
Superintendent