

RSU 23 School Board Minutes

RSU 23 School Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on November 16, 2023, @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order

John Suttie called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Present: Dave Boudreau, Craig Evans, Donna Moutsatsos, Barbara Roberge, Peter Flaherty, 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 October 19th, 2023 meeting as written. All in favor. Motion approved.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Correspondence

None

Public Session

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie opened his report by speaking about the Lewiston shootings. We have pledged our full support to the community of Lewiston. We have offered our staff help with the process and we will continue to bond as a community. Please read his November memo in which he comments, "Lewiston is a big, small town" and many of us have connections to people in the shootings. He is proud of the response from our community thus far and we will continue to support and help the community heal. This will be a long term thing and there will be repercussions for years to come. We will always be there for the City of Lewiston.

In regards to the days lost due to the Lewiston incident - Superintendent Suttie sent a letter to the Department of Education to request a waiver to not make up the 2 student days. The waiver was granted and June 7 remains as the last student day.

Finally, he concluded his report speaking about our sports teams and their tremendous efforts throughout the fall season. We will be turning our focus to winter sports, holiday concerts, etc.

Staff member Erin Dupee attended the 2nd Annual Benefit Breakfast to represent the Old Orchard Beach High School Student Service/Resource Team. This breakfast benefit celebrates and furthers the work of the "Paul R. Landry Foundation" which was established to continue the legacy of kindness and support for the Old Orchard Beach community. The foundation generously donated \$5,000 to the Old Orchard Beach High School Student Supply Closet which provides necessities to students and families through gift cards, toiletries, snacks and other needed items with no questions or barriers. In addition to this monetary donation, the President of the Foundation, Julie Bayley donated a large framed banner that lists the many contributors. It will be hung on the "Paul Wall", located at the high school. We are told that our school will continue to be the recipient of a yearly donation from this foundation. Julie, Kathleen, Gaelan, & Jamie Bayley were in attendance and given a special gift and t-shirt.

Additionally, Jake Landry, the son of Paul Landry and new owner of Landry's Shop n' Save, and Jamie Bayley of Bayley's Camping Resort, generously donated \$3,600 worth of Landry's Shop n' Save gift cards to RSU23. These cards will be distributed at each RSU 23 school to be given out to families in need of a bit of extra help during this holiday season.

Student Representative's Report

None

Board Presentation

Matthew Foster, Principal, and Jason Barriault, Dean of Students at Loranger Memorial School presented on the state of the school. They covered many topics including student/staff population, the monthly star recognition program, the importance of their mission statement, the many class choices available and much more. (Refer to the online video for the full slideshow presentation).

Old Business

None

New Business

Peter Flaherty recited the 1st reading of Policy IKF - High School Graduation Policy (he did not read all of it because it is very similar to the same policy written in 2017, but did recite "OOB Senior Internship"). He also recited the "Honors and Awards at Graduation" portion.

Barbara Roberge read 2nd Readings of Policies:

KF – Community Use of School Facilities (Updates 2014 Policy)

ACAD – Hazing (Updates 2001 Policy)

ACAC – Service Animals in Schools (Updates IMGA Policy from 2016)

IMG – Animals in Schools (Updates 2016 Policy)

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty to adopt all 4 policies. Seconded by Donna Moutsatsos. Motion approved. Superintendent Suttie spoke regarding Policy KF and that it is a comprehensive document that outlines first priority, detailed fee structure. It is a clear cut policy where there is no gray area as to how the community uses our facilities. He thanked the Board for approving it.

Committee Reports

Finance: Dave Boudreau stated that they did not meet this month.

Curriculum: Dave Boudreau stated that they did not meet this month.

Building Needs: Met on 10/31. LMS 5th grade planted 3 trees next to the Pavilion. The basketball hoop installation is complete. Outdoor signage at LMS and JES to help direct parents. High school still working on the concession stand. 2 new donated benches were installed in honor of 2 retired teachers that passed away.

Technology: Donna Moutsatsos reported that they did not meet, but touched on the new Ipads issued for MLL students, viewboards being installed, new copiers and chromebooks.

Board Remarks

Donna Moutsatsos thought the LMS presentation was awesome and that it is good to hear about all the good things going on and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Peter Flaherty also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and great Christmas. He recognized Erin Dupee for her work and how she reaches out to people through the food pantry and gift cards. She deserves a lot of credit.

Barbara Roberge thanked the Bayleys, Landrys and Erin Dupee and asked them to keep up the fantastic work. Thank you to Mr. Barriault and Mr. Foster for their LMS presentation. Thank you to Pearson's Nursery and the 5th grade class for planting trees. The kiosk at the blueberry plains looks great. Thank you to the many staff members for their work. She is happy to read about study support and is looking forward to visiting Jameson to observe the flex grouping initiative. Congratulations to the Board members who were re-elected. She is happy the digital signs have been updated.

Craig Evans congratulated the fall athletes and musicians for their successes. Thank you to LMS for a wonderful, extremely comprehensive presentation - we won't walk away with any questions, the bar has been set! We have a very generous, giving community and thank you to the Landrys and Bayleys. We should be extremely proud.

Dave Boudreau suggested a motion to write a letter regarding where we fall on the list for improvements at LMS. Craig Evans made a motion to draft a letter to our representatives, seconded by Donna Moutsatsos. All in favor. Motion approved. Congratulations to Donna Moutsatsos and Peter Flaherty for their re-election. The new budget is coming up. There is a tentative calendar in place, please see John or Eric with concerns or questions.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Craig Evans to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. All in favor. Motion approved.

Correspondence

None

Minutes prepared by:

Respectfully submitted by:

Cathy Couture
Executive Assistant to Superintendent

John Suttie
Superintendent