

RSU 23 School Board Minutes

RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on December 21, 2023,
@ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order

John Suttie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Dave Boudreau, Craig Evans, Donna Moutsatsos, Barbara Roberge, Peter Flaherty, Student Representative Maddy Shaw and Superintendent John Suttie.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Nomination of School Board Chair & Vice Chair

A motion was made by David Boudreau and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to nominate Craig Evans as School Board Chair. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Craig Evans to nominate David Boudreau as School Board Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Donna Moutsatsos to nominate Barbara Roberge as Vice Chair. No second. Motion not approved.

Peter Flaherty's motion to elect David Boudreau as Vice Chair was approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by David Boudreau and seconded by Peter Flaherty to accept the minutes from the November 16th, 2023 meeting as written. All in favor. Motion approved.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Correspondence

None

Public Session

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie spoke regarding the passing of Jimmy Pirrello: "I saw work that no one else ever saw. He did unbelievable things for the community and made a great impact. He will be sorely missed."

Very good news regarding school construction. We found out on 12/13, that the State is funding Loranger and that we are now 3rd on the list. We will need to apply, but people that are "in the know" feel very good about our chances. Schools on the list behind cannot jump ahead of us; only schools that didn't fill out an application 5 years ago can jump us.

Thank you to Biddeford and Saco Savings bank for giving us \$8500 to go towards the schools and our food service program when using your debit card. We will use it to upgrade kitchen equipment that has been slowly failing.

Thank you to students, staff and families for helping our kids learn and grow. We are very thankful for all the support of our schools. Happy New Year to all.

Craig Evans gave sentiments to Jimmy Pirrello and thanked Superintendent Suttie for a nice tribute.

Student Representative's Report

Maddy Shaw gave updates on winter sports thus far and reported that our basketball teams are very competitive. The High school is growing hydroponic lettuce. The robotics club attended their 1st competition on Saturday. The Outing club went to Freeport where 16 students climbed Bradbury Mountain and went to Freeport after. The Student Council put on holiday spirit week.

Board Presentation

Michael Rodriguez , Colby Thomas, Emily Simpson and Joana Massanga presented on the State of Old Orchard Beach High School. (Please refer to the online video for the full presentation).

Old Business

None

New Business

Peter Flaherty read 1st readings of Policies DJ, DJ-R and DJH, which were all last accepted in 2017. There were very few changes. He also read the 1st reading of DKC, which he reported is new to us.

Barbara Roberge read the 2nd reading of Policy IKF. Craig Evans made a motion to accept the 2nd reading. Peter Flaherty seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved.

Superintendent Suttie gave some background on the new School Counselor job description. He reported that this job description was reviewed over the summer and that this position has changed tremendously over the past 4 or 5 years. Eric Hanson and the current Counselors went over it together and targeted what each school counselor does pertaining to their age group.

A motion was made by Dave Boudreau and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to accept the new job description as written. All in favor. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Finance: The Finance Committee met today and reviewed the budget. Everything is going well and they discussed upcoming negotiations.

Building Needs: Peter Flaherty reported that the High School received parking lot line upgrades as well as lighting upgrades in the gymnasium. The condenser has been replaced at Jameson but it does need more work. We are working on solutions at Loranger to make the building more ADA compliant. The exterior lighting was replaced on the side and we are working with Efficiency Maine to get rebates.

The committee recommended the continuous study of the Stadium Tower Renovation project. This includes the exploration of potential fundraising efforts, continued stakeholder input (PTO, Athletics, Band Etc.), and final design. Additionally, the building needs committee has advised the superintendent to re-bid the HS Roofing project in early 2024. This will provide the committee with a full understanding of the financial implications of this project and will help inform decisions regarding the rebuilding of the stadium tower. These two action steps are estimated to be completed before April break and will enable the building needs committee to gather the necessary information to make a well-informed recommendation to the full board at that time.

Technology: Donna Moutsatsos reported that they did meet this month but that they have a few concerns regarding all the breakage lately.

Curriculum: Barbara Roberge reported that they did not meet this month.

Board Remarks

Barbara Roberge congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair. Rest in Peace Jimmy Pierrello. The Board reports have been very informative. Concerts were just the thing to get us into the holiday spirit - thank you to Mr. Lavenbein and Mr. Chasse. Thank you to Principal Harris for a wonderful visit. It is nice to hear about the hydroponic flex farm. Congratulations to Caroline Trinder for her "Tray Talk" article and a shoutout to Pathways for their visit to AWS and Sand for Safety. Thank you to the Masonic Lodge. Happy Holidays.

Dave Boudreau said that he is excited to hear that we are third on the list for improvements. He thinks that January would be a good time to send the letter to our Representatives. Thank you for the nice tribute to Jimmy Pirrello. Happy Holidays, enjoy your families.

Donna Moutsatsos thanked Biddeford/Saco Savings Institution for their contributions and all the people in the town who contributed as well - our students are well taken care of. Thank you to Michael and his students for a great presentation. She has many stories of Jimmy Pirrello. He will definitely be missed. Merry Christmas, be sure to rest and recover.

Peter Flaherty reminded us that we do have a great school system. Merry Christmas.

Maddy Shaw wished Happy Holidays to all.

Craig Evans stated that it is great news that we are moving up in the order for improvements. We should do what we can to have our representatives involved. Rest, relax and recharge. Merry Christmas.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Craig Evans and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Correspondence

Minutes prepared by:

Respectfully submitted by:

Cathy Couture
Executive Assistant to Superintendent

John Suttie
Superintendent