

RSU 23 School Board Minutes

RSU 23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on January 18, 2024, @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to accept the minutes from the December 21, 2023, meeting as written. All in favor. Motion approved.

Adjustments to the Agenda

Superintendent Suttie moved the Student Representative's Report to before Correspondence.

Student Representative's Report

Madison Shaw reported that we are at the midway point in sports. She mentioned the Current Events Club started by Mr. Santamore, the Climbing Club that is offered on Fridays, the Outing Club is going ice skating on 1/28, and the robotics club made it to states. She spoke about the flex farm and that the first lettuce harvest was used that day for lunches at Loranger.

Correspondence

Superintendent Suttie reported that he received Rob Kierstead's resignation. Thank you to Rob for his 2 years of service, we wish him the best.

Superintendent Suttie also reported that he received letters of retirement from 5 employees. He could not state who 4 of them are because they have not had a chance to inform their colleagues yet; however, he did state the 5th – Cindy Cox. Cindy has been at RSU 23 for 10 years. The 2 of them were actually hired the same day, July 1, 2014. Cindy has been a part of lots of positive things in the district such as

many perfect audits, budget deficits erased and overall solid budgets, which were a direct result of her expertise.

Public Session

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie reminded us that the Superintendent's Memo is Swiftreached to staff and parents and is also available on our district Facebook page.

On February 9, we will be partnering with the University of New England for a dental clinic. Please contact a health service team member or building team member with questions.

Lastly, Superintendent Suttie gave a shout out to our Facilities, Maintenance and Transportation Departments in dealing with the latest weather. Nasty storms have caused issues in our buildings but they have all done an outstanding job, thank you. Parents and families – if your child needs coats, hats, mittens or other winter gear, please contact your building Principal.

Board Presentation

Caroline Trinder, Food & Nutrition Services Director and Kirsten Solomon, Culinary Supervisor gave a presentation on the Nutrition Department. Caroline spoke highly of Kirsten and stated, "She is wonderful and has brought so much to our program." (See video for full presentation).

Craig Evans thanked them for an outstanding presentation and mentioned how truly remarkable it is to see how far our small town reaches. This program should be a great source of pride in the community.

Peter Flaherty commented, "This is a top-notch program, Caroline. Probably the best thing to happen is that every kid gets free breakfast and lunch."

Barb Roberge said to keep doing a good job!

Old Business

None

New Business

Superintendent Suttie spoke about Kevin Girard & Mark Beaudoin's new positions. How can we make this work? We decided to go with a different model from the past. Kevin will be supervising the Groundskeeper and the open position. Mark will be supervising bus drivers and custodians. This is a budget neutral move with no added staff or pennies. We are thrilled that they are with us. They are both OOB graduates who clearly take pride in their jobs each and every day.

Peter Flaherty made a motion to accept both positions. Seconded by Barbara Roberge. All in favor. Motion approved.

Superintendent Suttie then spoke about the approval of job descriptions which were redesigned with Kevin & Mark's feedback.

A motion was made by Barbara Roberge to accept the job descriptions as written, seconded by Donna Moutsatsos. All in favor, motion approved.

Superintendent Suttie spoke about the 2 year contract extensions for: Eric Hanson, Matthew Foster, Benjamin Harris, Michael Rodriguez, Elizabeth King, Caroline Trinder, Pam Pothier, Kevin Girard, Mark Beaudoin & Cynthia Potenza. He stated that it is one of his greatest professional joys to work with these people. They are dependable and challenge each other and him. Their overlying goal at all times is to do what is best for the kids and families of RSU 23. They are officially on 260-day contracts but really are on 365-day contracts. There isn't a night that goes by that they are not working. Even when on an official "vacation", they don't put our stuff away and not check in. They all work at an extremely high level and he is proud to work with them and to be part of their group.

Peter Flaherty made a motion to accept all contract extensions. Motion seconded by Barbara Roberge. All in favor. Motion approved.

Peter Flaherty read the first reading of Policy JLF and JLFA. There were very few changes from the previous policy. He read child sex trafficking and said, "The best part is that it will require lots of training and education for all staff. Everyone that is employed will receive training."

Barbara Roberge read the second readings of policy DJ (this policy is used as a guide for internal purchases by the school unit), DJ-R, (The school board expects all purchases to be consistent and follow all federal laws and rules). She also read Policy DJH, which states that RSU 23 employees shall not display any conflict of interest and that business transactions follow laws and regulations that maintains public confidence in the schools. Finally, she read policy DKC. She stated that we haven't had this policy before, but that it is a legal requirement. It entitles reimbursement to

RSU 23 staff (transportation, lodging, registration, fees, materials, parking fees, meal allowances). There were no questions.

Donna Moutsatsos made a motion to accept the second readings of all policies as written, seconded by Peter Flaherty. All in favor. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Finance: Craig Evans reported that they did not meet but that there are 2 negotiation meetings scheduled in February.

Building Needs: Did not meet this month.

Technology: Nothing new to report this month.

Curriculum: Nothing new to report this month.

Board Remarks

Peter Flaherty stated that he is sad to see Cindy Cox go, but is happy for her. Congratulations to Kevin and Mark.

Donna Moutsatsos said she will miss Cindy Cox as well. Thank you to Caroline for a very informative presentation. Great job.

Craig Evans stated that we got a lot done in tonight's meeting.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Donna Moutsatsos and seconded by Barbara Roberge to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Respectfully submitted by:

Cathy Couture
Executive Assistant to Superintendent

John Suttie
Superintendent