

## **RSU 23 School Board Minutes**

RSU 23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on February 15, 2024, @ 6:00 p.m.

### **Meeting Called to Order**

Craig Evans called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Craig Evans, Donna Moutsatsos, David Boudreau, Barbara Roberge, and Superintendent John Suttie.

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by David Boudreau and seconded by Barbara Roberge to accept the minutes from the January 18, 2024, meeting as written. All in favor. Motion approved.

### **Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

### **Student Representative's Report**

None

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Public Session**

Santino Perrone asked questions regarding last week's incident in Saco involving a school bus. Thornton and Biddeford went into lockdown. Why did OOB not do the same? Were there any safety measures put into place? What were they? Multiple citizens asked him what was going on. After school was dismissed 2 hours later, OOB held 2 school dances while Saco remained in a hold in place. Why would we hold 2 dances when these suspects were on the loose in a town next door? He was informed that there were only 1 or 2 police officers in attendance at the dances. He also spoke to two 8<sup>th</sup> graders who knew nothing. Why did students not hear about this from their school and social media instead?

Superintendent Suttie commented that he and Chief Chard were on the phone as soon as the incident occurred. OOB sent officers to help investigate. It was her determination that no lockdown was needed and that we could still hold our dances as the suspects were not a threat. Our student safety is of the utmost importance of we do. When this happens, we take our cue from local law enforcement. Regarding informing students – it is not always helpful to let students know, so as not to interfere with their school day. We stayed in contact with the parents of students who were on the bus.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Suttie reported that this morning, the Maine Principal's Association honored Jameson as the Good News Story of the Day. They celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school and held a visiting author's event on Friday. Commissioner Makin from the Department of Education visited the school on Monday to read to our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Congratulations to Principal Harris and the staff.

Congratulations to Catherine Wood at the High School and Jennifer MacDonald at Jameson Elementary who were both elected Teacher of the Year and nominated as finalists for the York County Teacher of the Year. We are hopeful that they can follow through and maybe win a big award.

This is a reminder that budget time flies by. Our budget workshop is on Monday, March 18, at 6pm and will be livestreamed and on local access for the public to watch. The link is included in this month's Superintendent's Memo.

Last Friday we had 88 OOB students that took the bus to UNE to participate in the dental clinic saving families \$14,500. This was the second year and the number climbed by about 23 students. Thank you to the Principals, school health team and UNE.

Lastly, we are on the cusp of February vacation. Thank you to staff, students, parents and the community. We are still accepting donations for warm clothes, and have plenty of volunteer opportunities. One of the great joys of being Superintendent only, has been that I am able to spend a lot more time in the schools. Everyone is very kind and caring. People are locked in on their jobs and their kids.

Craig Evans stated that he had an opportunity to do a couple of walkthroughs. The dental clinic was fantastic. He is impressed that they could handle so many things. Congratulations to the Teacher(s) of the Year.

Barb Roberge said congratulations to Catherine and Jen. Well deserved.

## **Board Presentation**

Ben Harris, Principal of Jameson School spoke about the upcoming PreK and K registrations. (See video for full presentation).

Donna asked Ben what he thought the reason for all kids who are born in OOB not going to school here? His hypothesis is perhaps the cost of living is a bit less elsewhere? Craig asked if we anticipate the immigrant population changing?

Superintendent Suttie replied that lots of people are trying to get in through Superintendent Agreements, but very few trying to leave. If Maine were a school choice state, we would be bursting at the seams!

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

Barbara Roberge read the second reading of policy JLF – Child Abuse Reporting, Prevention and Education. This policy has been updated due to changes in the law. She also read JLFA – Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response . This was also revised due to changes in the law. Donna Moutsatsos made a motion to adopt both policies. This was seconded by Dave Boudreau. All in favor. Motion approved.

## **Committee Reports**

Calendar – Eric Hanson stated that they met this week to start working on the new calendar and gave a timeline of what is next. At the March board meeting there will be a draft of the 2024/2025 calendar with minutes included. He will be working with any comments or concerns through to the April meeting. We have found that an earlier published calendar supports many things. There will still be 176 student days and 181 staff days. We are sticking to quicker tempo on getting Pre-k and K students into school. There used to be a 2 to 2 ½ week delay. Also, finding the best balance of snow days and remote learning days. He participated in a meeting with the Biddeford, Saco and Thornton Academy representatives in building a consensus. Perhaps the first 3 would be traditional snow days and beyond that would be remote learning days. Pre-K remote learning for a 4-6 year old looks a lot different than what we provide for high school. Trying to find that sweet spot.

Finance - Dave Boudreau stated that they met this morning and went over the budget. We are in good shape and talked about preparing for the upcoming negotiations.

Building Needs – Donna Moutsatsos reported that they met with Kevin and Mark on January 30<sup>th</sup>. They looked at each building and did an assessment of the equipment and plans for cleaning. Each building is the same except at Loranger they are looking at new rugs or cleaning the ones we already have. They discussed the high school roof. District wide, we are looking at a new radio system which will tie into the police and fire department. We will have a new warming hut for the crossing guard which is being built by high school students. We also had an HVAC assessment and will have results at next meeting. Kevin stated that we are making a transition to a new security company.

Technology – Donna Moutsatsos reported that they did not meet but Pam said all classrooms are equipped with viewboards and there was a professional development training provided to teachers on how to use them.

Curriculum - Barbara Roberge reported that they did not meet.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dave Boudreau and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Respectfully submitted by:

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Cathy Couture  
Executive Assistant to Superintendent

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John Suttie  
Superintendent