

RSU 23 School Board Minutes

RSU 23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on September 19, 2024, @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order

Craig Evans called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Craig Evans, Peter Flaherty, Barbara Roberge, Student Representative Joana Massanga 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 August 22, 2024, meeting as written. All in favor. Motion approved.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Correspondence

None

Public Session

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Suttie began his report by introducing Adam Tichy, our new SRO. He also acknowledged Chief Chard and her relentless pursuit of making it happen. Secondly, we welcomed Joana Massanga, our Student Representative.

We will be hosting a fall flu clinic for students and staff on 10/21 at LMS from 2-4 pm. More information to be provided soon. Our grades 3-8 and grade 10 started Maine Through Year testing. We need to be sure 95% of our students are testing to meet state guidelines. We still have 2 Ed Tech openings, one for a BCBA and a Special Ed position in LMS. We can contract the BCBA if we don't find someone full time. If we do not fill

the Special Ed position, we can rely on staff to fill in. This is an ongoing challenge and will do the best we can do meet the needs of our students.

Thank you to our administrators, directors, and teachers, for a smooth start to school. The buildings are the cleanest they have been in over 10 years. We have new employees in the custodial and maintenance crew and their work is evident when walking through the buildings. Mark and his team are doing a great job with our transportation needs. Teachers and Guidance Counselors are doing great getting into new routines. Happy kids, happy parents and happy families. All of our staff deserve a lot of credit for this.

Superintendent Suttie provided a hard copy of the state applications for construction. We did this process in 2017-18 and we did a good job. Loranger ended up being 12th on the list. Many people contributed to the interview process to complete these applications. Not sure what will happen, but our applications are very detailed, thank you for your work. They will impact our schools' long-term educational health and millions of state of dollars, as opposed to local dollars are at stake. We did the very best we could to lead to a positive outcome in 24-25. This packet was also emailed to the Board.

Student Representative's Report

Student Representative, Joana, began her report with the news that the boys football and girls soccer both won their opening games. After over 2 decades, we now have a girl's cross-country team. We also now have a boy's soccer team. There will be a home marching band show on September 21, with over 500 students performing. Signups for clubs have begun and this year we will have a chess club, climbing club, art club, outing club, and yearbook club, just to name a few. The outing club has its first outing led by Miss Johnson & Miss Skovran this weekend. The homecoming game is on 10/5 and students chose the theme "Hollywood" this year. We will have a blue and white day and a pep rally on Friday, during spirit week. There is now an opportunity to embark on a trip to Switzerland and Italy offered by Miss Workman. So far 5 students have signed up and there is a lot more spots for others to join. The new cell phone policy has been put in place and has made a significant impact. Craig thanked her and turned it back over to Supt. Suttie

Board Presentation

Eric Hanson, Assistant Superintendent reported on RSU 23 Professional Development – Creating and Cultivating a Climate and Culture of Employee Wellness to Promote Personal and Professional Growth. (See video for entire presentation).

Craig Evans asked if this will be a year by year exercise. Assistant Superintendent Hanson responded that it will be a one year set and we do not want a cut and paste of each year.

Superintendent Suttie commented on how to give our max effort to supporting our staff for 176 days to be their best. We are excited to share this initiative around the country.

Old Business

None

New Business

Peter Flaherty read the first readings of ACAB 2024 – Harassment of Employees, ACAB R1 2024 – Employee Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure, ACAB R2 2024 – Employee Sex Discrimination/Harassment Complaint Procedure, JFABD 2024 – Education of Homeless Students, and JFABD-R 2024 Education of Homeless Students Procedure.

Barbara Roberge read the second readings of policies: AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, ACAA – Harassment of Students, ACAA-R1 – Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure, ACAA-R2 – Student Sex Discrimination/Harassment Complaint Procedure and JIE – Pregnant Students. Peter Flaherty made a motion to accept all policies as presented, seconded by Barbara Roberge. All in favor. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Finance – David Boudreau reported that the budget is on schedule. We had to pay a lot of yearly obligations up front but are still in great shape. We discussed the roof project coming in under budget and are working on inspections, warranties, etc. Reminder that in 3 and ½ months, budget season starts.

Building Needs – Peter Flaherty reported that maintenance at all 3 schools is going well. The server upgrade is complete. There has been a lot of tree trimming. Score boards are installed and up and running. The high school roof is finally 100% complete and it is under budget by \$29,000. Congratulations. Kevin Girard reported that the project went very smoothly and the company that completed it was great. Peter Flaherty also mentioned handicapped parking at the football field. After contacting public works and the Chief of Police – we discovered that the parking commissioner is in charge of that but Kevin is meeting with them tomorrow to discuss.

Superintendent Suttie reported that the Technology Committee did not meet, but Pam Pothier shared that the start of the school year has gone very well. We are anticipating the MLTI program that will provide every student with a device.

Adjournment

A motion was made by David Boudreau and seconded by Barbara Roberge to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. All in favor. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Respectfully submitted by:

Cathy Couture
Executive Assistant to Superintendent

John Suttie
Superintendent