

## **RSU 23 School Board Minutes**

RSU 23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on February 12, 2025, @ 6:00 p.m.

### **Meeting Called to Order**

Barbara Roberge called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Donna Moutsatsos, Barbara Roberge, Santino Perrone and Superintendent John Suttie.

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Donna Moutsatsos and seconded by Santino Perrone to accept the minutes from the January 16, 2025, meeting as written. All in favor. Motion approved.

### **Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Public Session**

Jillian Cote stated that she has a child at JES and LMS and is concerned with the possibility of the adjusting of the start times. This will cause a significant impact with families with young children. She will have to visit the bus stop twice, as her child cannot be left alone at the bus stop. She understands the consistency, but strongly does not feel elementary students should be on the bus with older children. She feels that this is a huge age range for a bus driver and will they have extra help? She stated that she is not comfortable with the bus consolidation and was confused and concerned by the survey. Also, why was it not sent to all families that would be affected by this change?

Kim Schildroth also spoke, stating that she has 2 children in the district, as well. This change will affect her working hours and has already had an effect on her son while riding on a short ride with high school kids.

Another concerned parent who did not state her name reported that she has no help with her children after school and that her older children have to help her younger children. The mix of ages is not safe for the younger children. She urges more families to give their input. She owns her own business and it's very hard to get them to school on time already. 2 busses half an hour apart will just not work.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Suttie reported on the passing of Jerome Plante at age 90 with his family by his side. He presented a plaque to Santino Perrone in honor of Jerome.

Last Friday the dental clinic saved thousands of dollars in care for our students. Thank you to all who participated to make it possible.

Superintendent Suttie congratulated our two teachers of the year nominees, Patrice Provencher and Hannah Steven. Great job, and good luck on the next step.

Red Sox pitchers and catchers reported to training camp today. Spring is on the way. Happy Valentine's Day to all who celebrate.

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

None

### **Board Presentation**

Matt Foster reported on the LMS School Schedule Consolidation. (See video for full presentation).

Santino Perrone asked what the confusion with the survey was and was informed that if you're a family of only an 11<sup>th</sup> grader or kindergartner, you did not receive it. He questioned that if we are thinking of putting older students with younger students, will there be more staff to help the bus driver? Mark Beaudoin stated that his priority will be bus aides. Superintendent Suttie commented that if we have the staff to accommodate, then we will do that.

Donna Moutsatsos asked how many students ride on the bus. Principal foster reported 21 students in the am, 32 in the afternoon. There are 27 seats total. Donna also stated that she might like to see the high school students on the front of the bus, not the back. Principal Foster commented that we could explore that. Donna also thought maybe they could sit together and mentor the younger students.

Superintendent Suttie asked if it would be more effective to have a meeting. Matt Foster replied that it may be difficult, but we could try.

Santino Perrone asked if it would be a definite vote for next month. Superintendent Suttie said no, we are taking this is a one step at a time. Donna Moutsatsos asked about bus monitors again and Superintendent Suttie answered, absolutely, if we can hire them. That is not a barrier. It's a matter of people coming forward to do the job. Donna Moutsatsos asked how many busses? Mark Beaudoin answered 3 main busses and one Special Ed bus.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Santino Perrone read the second readings of BB – School Board Legal Status, BBBA – Board Member Qualifications, BBBE – Board Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies and BDB – Board Officers. Donna Moutsatsos made a motion to accept all second readings of policies, seconded by Santino Perrone. All in favor. Motion approved.

### **Committee Reports**

**Building Needs Committee** – None

**Calendar Committee** – Eric Hanson reported that they have assembled a committee to make sure we are playing by the rules with the other schools - Saco, Biddeford and Kennebunk. Our calendar has to be in alignment with theirs by 5 days. We had to get it approved and out on time. Next will be a best first draft for the March meeting. Hopefully it will be approved in April.

**Curriculum Committee** – Did not meet this month

**Finance Committee** - Superintendent Suttie reported that up to this point, we are on target spending about 54% with no anticipated problems We have completed our tax filings and discussed the budget development update. We are on track for the spring. We did have a frozen pipe problem at LMS that will cost some money. We have a \$5000 deductible, but insurance will cover the rest.

**Technology Committee** – Teachers will receive updated Macbooks this spring.

**Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Santino Perrone and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to adjourn the meeting at 6:51p.m. All in favor. 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