

RSU 23 School Board Minutes - March 19, 2026

RSU 23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on March 19, 2026 at 6:00PM.

Meeting Called to Order

Board Chair Craig Evans called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Present: Donna Moutsatsos, Peter Flaherty (remote), Craig Evans, 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 Santino Perrone to accept the minutes from the February 26, 2026 meeting as written. All in favor. Motion approved.

Adjustments to the Agenda:

None

Correspondence:

None

Public Session:

None

Superintendent's Report:

1. **Maine LD 1982, An Act to Establish Procedures for School Construction Projects**, previously noted by Superintendent Suttie, underwent significant changes during its work sessions in the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee leading up to its unanimous vote on Tuesday March 17, 2026. Several amendments benefit RSU 23 include:
 - **Priority List Protection:** Language was inserted to explicitly state that any new cost sharing requirements will not apply to schools already on the Department of Education's "Prior List" (the 2024-2025 Rating Cycle). RSU 23 will not be forced to take on the new 25% local cost-share burden if the bill passes.
 - **Debt Ceiling Increase:** The bill raises the state's debt ceiling for major capital construction to \$200 million annually.
 - **Revolving Renovation Fund:** Establishes clearer rules for the School Revolving Renovation Fund focusing on no-interest loans to help districts maintain buildings before they require full replacement.
2. Margot Margarones has been hired as RSU 23's new Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and will begin employment on April 7, 2026.

Student Representatives Report:

None

Board Presentation:

Draft FY 27 RSU 23 Budget Presentation

- Superintendent Suttie opened the session by recognizing the collaborative effort required to produce the District's budget books. He extended specific appreciation to the administrative leadership of Department Managers, Directors and Principals as well as key contributors: Eric Hanson, Jason DiDonato, and Lori Rioux. Mr. Suttie emphasized that their collective work ensures a clear and transparent financial picture, providing a solid foundation for the District's upcoming fiscal decisions.
- Proposed Budget Linked [Here](#)
- **Thursday April 16, 6pm-** FY 27 Final Budget Presentation at Regularly Scheduled School Board Meeting
- **Monday May 18, 6pm** - Regional Budget Meeting in the Old Orchard Beach HS Cafeteria
- Questions can be submitted to budgetcomments@rsu23.org

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- **Second Reading of the Following Policies:**
 - IJNDB-R Student Computer and Internet Use Rules.
 - KEB Complaints About School Personnel
 - KE Public Concerns and Complaints
 - JP Student Donations and Gifts

A motion was made by Santino Perrone and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to approve the policies as written. All in favor. Motion approved. These policies are available for review at www.rsu23.org. Select: School Board > Policies.

- **Approval of the Following RSU 23 Job Descriptions:**
 - RSU 23 IEP Coordinator
 - RSU 23 Maintenance Utility Worker
 - Guidance Secretary & District Registrar

A motion was made by Santino Perrone and seconded by Barbara Roberge to approve the job descriptions as presented. All in favor. Motion approved.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee

- **Budget Status:** With 2/3rds of the fiscal year completed, the District is currently operating under budget. Minor budget fluctuations will naturally self-correct, placing the District in a strong financial position due to effective fiscal management across departments.

- **Loranger Boiler Project:** The District is collaborating with Oak Point to evaluate repair vs. replacement options. A robust Emergency Contingency Fund is available to offset costs. Proposals will be under review.
- **Healthcare Costs:** Healthcare premiums are projected to rise, but at a lower rate than FY26. A 10% increase has been incorporated into the budget planning.

Building Needs Committee: The Committee did not meet.

Calendar Committee

Santino Perrone provided a thorough month-to-month presentation of the 2026-2027 School Calendar.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Santino Perrone and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 PM. All in favor. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Potenza
Human Resources

John Suttie
Superintendent of Schools