

## **RSU 23 School Board Minutes**

RSU 23 Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on February 26, 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 January 15, 2026 meeting as written. All in favor. Motion approved.

### **Adjustments to the Agenda:**

None

### **Correspondence:**

None

### **Public Session:**

None

### **Superintendent's Report:**

#### **School Construction Project Update**

The Governor's Commission on School Construction recently released a report regarding future funding for Maine school projects. Key recommendations included:

- **Debt Ceiling Adjustments:** Recognizing that construction costs have risen **538%** since 2014.
- **Streamlining Approval:** Proposing a third-party facilitator to navigate the current 21-step process between approval and groundbreaking to reduce "red tape."
- **Cost-Sharing Models:** Exploring a partnership between the Maine DOE and local communities to allow more than the current 9 projects per cycle to receive funding.

Note from Mr. Suttie: These are currently recommendations under study and are not expected to impact our upcoming project. RSU 23 remains first on the state priority list. No legislative changes are expected in the immediate future as the bill has been referred back for further study.

#### **District Highlights & Appreciations**

- **Health & Wellness:** Thank you to the University of New England for hosting a free dental clinic on February 6. Thank you to our Health Services and Transportation teams who successfully coordinated care for 100 students.
- **Facilities:** A huge thank you to Kevin Girard, Mark Beaudoin, and the custodial/maintenance crew for their tireless work on heavy snow removal while operating shorthanded.

- **Athletics & Arts:** Thank you to our parents, advisors and coaches for a successful winter season! Both basketball teams reached the tournament, and several musicians made it to the All-State Team.
- **Pre-K Registration:** Enrollment is now officially open for the 2026-2027 school year at Jameson Elementary.

### **Budget Calendar Reminders**

- **March 18 (6:00 PM):** Town Hall Budget Workshop (Televised).
- **April 16 (6:00 PM):** Final Budget Presentation will be held during the School Board Meeting.
- *Public comment is encouraged throughout March and April.*

### **Student Representatives Report:**

- **Winter Sports:** Congratulations to both the Girls and Boys Basketball teams on reaching the finals. Our Unified Basketball team continues their season with games scheduled throughout March.
- **Engagement:** Sign-ups for spring sports are underway. In the interim, Old Orchard Beach High School is offering intramural volleyball to keep students active.
- **National Honor Society:** The Old Orchard Beach High School Chapter induction ceremony will take place Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

### **Board Presentation:**

**“Strategic Systems Implemented and Executed in RSU 23 to Advance Student Academic Achievement”**  
*Presented by Jeremie Sirois (Principal) and Erin McGuan (Dean of Students)*

- **Data Trends:** Achievement data for Math, Reading, and Language was reviewed across Fall-to-Fall and Spring-to-Fall cycles.
- **IXL Implementation:** Leadership highlighted the use of IXL, an adaptive online interface. While classroom instruction follows the District curriculum, IXL allows students to work at their specific skill level to bridge individual learning gaps and strengthen foundational skills.

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

- **First 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

These policies are available for review at [www.rsu23.org](http://www.rsu23.org). Select: School Board > Policies.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance Committee**

- **Budget Status:** The District has utilized 57% of the current budget, which aligns with annual projections. Revenue targets have been met or exceeded. The Committee continues to monitor food service costs.
- **2026-27 Planning:** We are in the final third phase of budget development. While health insurance costs are expected to rise, the increase is projected to be lower than last year.
- **Special Education:** The committee is monitoring the transition of Pre-K Special Education programming from the State’s CDS to local schools. The District is hopeful the state will provide 100% funding but things that might not be realistic.

**Building Needs Committee**

- **Infrastructure:** The boiler at Loranger Memorial is failing. The committee is currently reviewing replacement options, with a goal to have a new system operational before the 2026-27 winter season.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Santino Perrone and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 PM. All in favor. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Respectfully submitted by:

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Cynthia Potenza  
Human Resources

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John Suttie  
Superintendent of Schools