



RSU 23 School Board Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2026

RSU 23 School Board Meeting held at Old Orchard Beach Town Hall on April 16, 2026

I) Call to Order

Board Chair Craig Evans called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Board Chair Craig Evans, Board Vice Chair Barbara Roberge, Board Member Donna Moutsatsos, Board Member Peter Flaherty, Board Member Santino Perrone, Student Representative Ransom Randall, RSU 23 Superintendent John Suttie

Members Absent: none

II) Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III) Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Santino Perrone and seconded by Barbara Roberge to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2026 meeting as written. All in favor. Motion approved.

IV) Adjustments to the Agenda

None

V) Correspondence

None

VI) Public Session

None

VII) Superintendent's Report

- High School Incident Response: Old Orchard Beach High School (OOBHS) received a "swatting" call on April 10. Law enforcement utilized the Raptor emergency response system, responded immediately, and cleared the scene within 12 minutes. A community notification was issued within 20 minutes of the incident. Superintendent Suttie expressed appreciation for the coordinated response.
- Police Officer of the Year: Congratulations were extended to School Resource Officer Adam Tichy, recipient of the 2026 Old Orchard Beach Police Officer of the Year Award.
- Vernal Pool Testing: Vernal pool testing was conducted on campus on April 16 to assess ecological conditions and inform future land-use planning related to a potential building site.

- Scholarship Breakfast: OOBHS hosted its annual scholarship breakfast on April 14, recognizing donors to the OOB Scholarship Fund. In 2025, a total of \$110,000 was awarded to 31 students, averaging approximately \$3,600 per student.
- Demographic Study: Superintendent Suttie reported receipt of the district's demographic study, which indicates stable enrollment projections through 2035.

Board Discussion

Chair Evans commended Officer Tichy and noted the effectiveness of the Raptor system. He requested an update on the results of the vernal pool testing - Superintendent Suttie will provide the results when available.

VIII) Student Representative's Report

- Spring Sports: Spring sports are underway. The baseball team recently traveled to Florida for a competition, funded entirely through team fundraising efforts.
- Special Olympics: The RSU 23 Special Olympics event is scheduled for May 18, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
- Musical Performance: The concert band performed at Merrill Auditorium on April 7.
- Prom 2026: The 2026 prom will be held at Mariner's Church in Portland.

IX) Board Presentations

1. LMS York County Music Festival Presentation: Trevor Lavenbein, Loranger Memorial School (LMS) Band and Chorus Director, presented on student participation in the York County Junior High Music Festival, held on January 31, 2026, at Biddeford Middle School. Andrew Marsh, an LMS Grade 7 student, shared positive reflections on the experience.
2. FY 2026-2027 School Budget Presentation: ([see slides](#) for full presentation)
 - Superintendent Suttie presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 school budget highlighting the development process (November 2025 through April 2026); key budget drivers; expenditures and revenue; regional budget comparisons; and the local tax impact.
 - Budget Summary: The RSU 23 FY27 proposed budget is \$18.3 million, representing an overall increase of 4.89% and requiring no staff position eliminations. Regional comparison increases range from 4.57% to 11%, with several surrounding districts reducing staff.
 - Tax Impact: The projected tax impact of the proposed school budget will be \$10 monthly on a \$400,000 home (\$120/year per \$400,000).
 - Key Upcoming Dates Budget Dates:
 - a. Regional Budget Meeting: May 18, 2026, at 6:00 PM (OOBHS Cafeteria)
 - b. Budget Validation Referendum: June 9, 2026 (OOBHS). This day will be a remote learning day for the high school.

Any budget-related questions may be directed to Superintendent Suttie at jsuttie@rsu23.org or budgetcomments@rsu23.org

Board Discussion

Santino Perrone asked how RSU 23's proposed budget compared to similarly sized school districts in Maine. Superintendent Suttie responded that Kittery, a district of comparable size, had proposed a higher budget increase that included the elimination of 9.5 positions.

X) Old Business

None

XI) New Business

1. Approval of Proposed 2026-2027 RSU 23 Budget. A motion was made by Peter Flaherty and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to accept the proposed 2026-2027 RSU 23 Budget as presented. All in favor. Motion approved.

2. Approval of 2026-2027 School Calendar. A motion was made by Santino Perrone and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos to accept the 2026-2027 School Calendar as written. All in favor. Motion approved.

3. Approval of Proposed 2026-2027 Adult Education Budget & RSU 23's Local Contribution. A motion was made by Santino Perrone and seconded by Peter Flaherty to accept the proposed Adult Education Budget & RSU 23's Local Contribution, as written. All in favor. Motion approved.

4. Signing of Warrants & Budget Documents

Assistant Superintendent Eric Hanson presented the required warrants and documents for board signatures related to the budget meeting and budget validation.

XII) Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee: Peter Flaherty reported that approximately 69% of the budget has been expended at this time. Overall, the district remains in a strong financial position with revenues exceeding expectations.

2. Building Needs Committee: The boiler replacement at Loranger Memorial School is scheduled for completion in time for the heating season. A new grounds keeper has been hired and the grounds have been well maintained. Preparations for summer facilities cleaning are underway.

XIII) Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Santino Perrone at 6:38 PM and seconded by Donna Moutsatsos. All in favor. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

Respectfully submitted by:

Margot Margarones
Board Secretary

John Suttie
Superintendent of Schools