

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 8, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.
Freeport High School - Library
Meeting Minutes

(NOTE: These Minutes are not official until approved by the Board of Directors. Such action, either to approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the January 22, 2014 meeting).

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Larkins called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathryn Brown, Candace Decsipkes, Nelson Larkins, Naomi Ledbetter, John Morang, Peter Murray, Beth Parker, John Ricker, Michelle Ritcheson, Valeria Steverlynck, Karin VanNostrand

MEMBERS ABSENT:

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- A. Withdrawal Update: Superintendent Welsh reported the Board has received a letter from the Department of Education directing the town of Freeport and the RSU Board to create a withdrawal committee and to call a meeting within 30 days of receipt of the written notice. The Town Council has appointed Rich DeGrandpre as the Town Council representative and Kate Werner from the petitioners group. A citizen will be selected on January 14th.

Superintendent Welsh reported a letter has been received from MSAD 51 indicating they would like to meet with the Working Group to discuss opportunities to collaborate as we work through the withdrawal plan. Areas they would like to discuss include student placement, accounting operations, curriculum, transportation or operations.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **VOTED: (1)** To appoint Peter Murray as the Freeport representative to the Withdrawal Committee (Steverlynck – Morang) (5 – 1 Parker) Only Freeport members voted.
- B. A motion was made by Ritcheson, seconded by Decsipkes to appoint a Working Group to negotiate a withdrawal plan on behalf of the Board comprised of the members from Durham and Pownal and Nelson Larkins.

VOTED: (2) To amend the original motion to appoint Nelson Larkins to the Working Group as a non-voting advisory member. (Ritcheson – Brown) (10 – 0 – 1 Abstention: Murray)

Original Motion as Amended: **VOTED: (3)** To appoint a Working Group to negotiate a withdrawal plan on behalf of the Board comprised of the members from Durham and Pownal and Nelson Larkins as a non-voting advisory member. (10 – 0 – 1 Abstention: Murray)

7. WORKSHOP:

- A. Special Education Programs and Enrollments: Lisa Garneau, Director of Instructional Support provided an overview of the Special Education programs including: 296 students identified as of December 1st; the make-up of regular classrooms, resource classrooms and self-contained classroom; reviewed the new programs and enrollments at each school; work being done with Becket Family Services; and possible needs for the upcoming school year.
- B. Standards-based Systems: Middle School Programs: Joe Makley, Curriculum Director reported on the new grading and reporting for 2014-2015 including: why we use standards-based grades; standards-based grades improve specificity, quality, accuracy and fairness; standards scores used to adjust curriculum and teaching; grading is in transition at both middle schools; and report cards differ in format, but report same information.

- C. Budget Priorities: Superintendent Welsh reported in previous years budget priorities were more global, this year administration is looking to the Board for direction on where to go. The proposed priority areas include the following:

Priority Area: Instructional Programs/Student Supports

Last year we had to reduce one literacy strategist position. The return of this position is a very high priority with administration and staff. The Board also tried to add a math strategist position but was unable to do so due to the impact to our taxpayers. Administration supports the addition of this position for 14-15. Incremental increases are also needed to support students and teachers through additional Educational Technician hours, incremental increases in nursing and guidance support, and in special education services. Our supply and equipment lines have had limited increases in recent years and additional funds are needed in these areas. The reduction of the van driver position and use of bus driver/custodians has impacted the time spent cleaning building. There is a need to increase van driver/custodial hours to make improvements in this area.

Priority Area: Professional Development Time and Training

Professional development time is a vital support for educators as we continue to improve and expand our curriculum and program offerings to students. Unfortunately, we had to reduce one Professional Flex Day last year. There is a need for increased time for professional development and for parent-teacher conferences at the middle and high school level. Our goal is to fund Summer Institute trainings and an additional Professional Learning Day for the 13-14 school year.

Priority Area: Technology Investment

There is a need for increased funds this year for student technology equipment linked to the purchase of higher-powered desktop computers for STEM and performing arts software.

Priority Area: Capital Investments

This year there continues to be a major focus on capital investments. The Capital Plan recommendations provide funds to support on-going improvements in all of our 7 facilities and our vehicles. The District Safety Committee is recommending the purchase of radios for use in the buildings and in an emergency, if needed.

Board members discussed what they would like to see for priorities. A discussion also took place on the role of the Finance Committee and how the budget will be reviewed.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. VOTED: (4)** To enter into Executive Session as outlined in 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(D) for the purpose of discussing Administrator, Educator and Support Staff Negotiations for RSU No. 5. (VanNostrand – Steverlynck) (11 – 0)

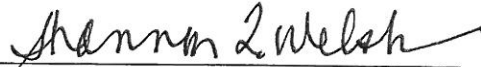
Time In: 9:15 p.m. Time Out: 10:23 p.m.

9. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None Taken

10. ADJOURNMENT:

VOTED: (5) To adjourn at 10:24p.m. (Ledbetter – Morang) (11 – 0).



Shannon L. Welsh, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools