

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 18, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.
Freeport High School - Library
Meeting Minutes
6:30-7:00 p.m. A Social Gathering was Held

(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 7:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathryn Brown (arrived at 7:40 p.m.), Candace Decsipkes, Nelson Larkins, Naomi Ledbetter (arrived at 7:33p.m.), John Morang, Beth Parker, John Ricker, Michelle Ritcheson, Valeria Steverlynck, Karin VanNostrand

MEMBERS ABSENT: Peter Murray (*marked absent due to not yet being sworn in to serve as elected official*)

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A. VOTED: To approve the Minutes of November 20, 2013 (Murray – Parker)

The approval of the minutes from November 20, 2013 will be re-voted on at the January 22, 2014 meeting due to Peter Murray making the motion and not being sworn in to serve as an elected official.

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

6. GOOD NEWS & RECOGNITION:

A. Freeport, Pownal and Durham Education Foundation Update – Marie Gunning provided an update on the work of the foundation including: fundraising efforts to date; website; Facebook page; and mini-grants for schools.

7. REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATORS:

A. Freeport Withdrawal Vote – Attorney Dick Spencer from Drummond Woodsum spoke about the Board's role and responsibilities in the withdrawal process. Mr. Spencer has been involved with other withdrawals in the state and has experience with the process. Mr. Spencer spoke and answered questions about the following: Freeport representation on the Withdrawal Committee; Board appointed working group; withdrawal plan is an agreement between the Board and withdrawal committee; high school education for students from Durham and Pownal; timeline of a June and/or November referendum vote.

The Board will look at creating a working group with representatives from Durham and Pownal to represent the Board in negotiations.

B. Enrollments – Superintendent Welsh reported last year there was an unexpected 3% increase in enrollments due to families moving into housing in Freeport. This year there is a decrease in enrollments across all the schools which brings us close to enrollments in 2011-2012. The majority

of the decrease is at Freeport High School. A lot of the movement at the High School is due to moving in and out of town or state with some students attending NYA and Charter Schools. One of the main reasons Freeport Middle School students report they are transferring is due to sports. The Principals and guidance counselors have a good handle as to why students are leaving. The Board's goal is class sizes of 20 students.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kevin Nadeau, Durham resident, asked about official answers to withdrawal questions.
Lindsay Sterling, Freeport resident, supports the Board's yearly review of students leaving the district.

9. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. No action taken.

12. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. RSU No. 5 Financial Statements December 11, 2013

13. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda):

14. BOARD COMMENTS (Reports from Sub-Committees):

15. PERSONNEL:

A. Staff Resignations:

1. Doug Schnackel – District School Psychologist

16. POLICY REVIEW:

A. Policy Packet 14-1 was be distributed.

B. Policy Packet 14-4 was distributed for review with plans for 1st Read on January 22, 2014 and 2nd Read/Final Adoption on February 26, 2014.

C. 1st Read on the Following Policies: Packet 14-3

1. BDA – Board of Directors Organizational Meeting
2. BDB – Board of Directors Officers
3. BDD – Board of Directors – Superintendent Relationship
4. BDE – Board of Directors Standing Committees
5. BDF – Board of Directors Advisory Committees
6. BDG – School Attorney/Legal Services
7. BE – Board of Directors Meetings

8. BEA – Board of Directors Use of Electronic Mail
9. BEC – Executive Session
10. BEC-E – Executive Session Law
11. BEDA – Notification of Board of Directors Meetings
12. BEDB – Agenda
13. BEDBA – Agenda Format

D. **VOTED: (1)** To adopt the Following Policies: Packet 14-2 (Parker – VanNostrand) (10 – 0)

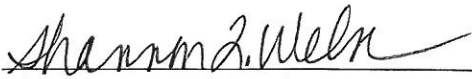
1. BB - School Board Legal Status
2. BBA – Board of Directors Powers and Responsibilities
3. BBAA - Board of Directors Members Authority and Responsibilities
4. BBAB - Board of Directors Self-Evaluation
5. BBBA - Board of Directors Member Qualifications
6. BBBDA - Board of Directors-Declared Vacancy Caused by Absenteeism
7. BBBE - Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies
8. BCA - Board of Directors Member Code of Ethics
9. BCB - Board of Directors Member Conflict of Interest
10. BCC – Nepotism
11. BEC – Board Committees (Finance)
12. BCF – Advisory Committees to the Board

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

18. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

19. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.


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