

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2012 – 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 23, 2013 meeting).

CALLED TO ORDER:

Vice-Chairperson Murray called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Blais, Ruth Broene, Kathryn Brown, Candace Decsipkes, Brenda Kielty, John Morang, Peter Murray, Beth Parker, John Ricker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nelson Larkins, Karin VanNostrand

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A. VOTED: (1) To approve the Minutes of November 28, 2012. (Morang – Parker) (9 – 0)

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

6. GOOD NEWS & RECOGNITION:

- A. Sheri Gonye, Mast Landing School Guidance Counselor talked about the Aspirations Grant that matches At-Risk 3rd, 4th, 5th grade students with a trusted adult or teenage mentor. The grant also allows three college trips. The students recently visited Bowdoin College and will visit USM and SMCC.
- B. Dede Bennell, Service Learning/Aspirations Coordinator, spoke about the service learning taking place at the High School. Students from the high school spoke of the projects they are working on including: sending supplies to students affected by Hurricane Sandy; work with Brunswick animal shelter on spay and neuter clinic; dinner fundraiser for Darfur; partnership with the French School in Freeport; and working with Acadia Publishing on a Local Legendary Past and Present book. Dede also spoke about the Aspirations Partnership and that eight grants were awarded this year.

7. REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATORS: CURRENT AND PROJECTED ENROLLMENTS AND BUDGET PRIORITIES

- A. Current and Projected Enrollments: Superintendent Welsh provided an overview of the current and projected student enrollments. We have a 3% increase district wide from what was anticipated from last year due to families moving into town. We projected 1874 students and on October 1st enrollment was at 1,933. The increase was unexpected and a teacher needed to be added at Mast Landing School in late August. Enrollments for next year will remain relatively stable with a projected increase of 5 students district wide. There will be 27 Durham tuition students grades 10-12 as this is the last year for High school choice.

Bob Strong, Freeport High School Principal reported his wish list for next year includes: additional foreign language; expansion of the math center; computer science classes; more science staffing; in-school suspension monitor; social worker; and better technology for STEM classes.

Ray Grogan, Freeport Middle School Principal reported enrollment at the school is up over 300 and needs for next year include: functional life skills class; new 6th grade laptops, projection and hardware; part-time Unified Arts increase; and administrative help for day to day activities and discipline.

Will Pidden, Durham Community School Principal reported staffing for next year will depend on Pownal student's decision for 6th grade. Needs for next year include: support around special education students; and math support.

Lisa Demick, Pownal Elementary School Principal reported 15 new students enrolled in school over the summer. Needs for next year include: literacy support; special education support; and additional time for staff that are shared with other buildings.

Beth Willhoite, Mast Landing School Principal reported needs for next year include: special education staffing; additional classroom teacher, classes are at 23; and math enrichment.

Tom Ambrose, Morse Street School Principal reported on special education and behavioral needs for next year; the need for math enrichment and remediation; more professional development; and technology in the classrooms (iPads, projectors, sound system).

Superintendent Welsh reported on the draft list of budget priorities for the 2013-2014 school year. Administration has begun the process of developing a budget to present to the Board. Administrators will meet with teachers and staff members to gather budget information. Administrators will then met individually with the Superintendent and Finance Director on their proposed budget. Administrators will then come together as a team to craft a budget to bring to the Board on March 26th and March 27th. The proposed priority areas include the following:

- Enrollments/Instructional Programs/Student Supports – RSU5 has seen a 3% increase in enrollment this school year. Our goal is to continue to target class sizes of 20 students per teacher and consider related services time to address the increased enrollment. Academic support for gifted students and those who are struggling to learn are areas that need to be addressed. There is also a need to develop new programs to support our students with special needs. Increase math strategist support across the district for training and intervention.
- 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. Our goal is to fund Summer Institute trainings and an additional Professional Learning Day for the 13-14 school year.
- Technology Investment – There is a need for increased funds this year for student technology equipment linked to increased enrollments and new MLTI devices for grades 6-12.
- 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.

Board members discussed what they would like to see for priorities. There will be further discussion about budget priorities in January.

Superintendent Welsh also mentioned there is a \$35 million revenue shortfall from what the state anticipated which will result in a curtailment and effect subsidy for education. The Governor was expected to make the announcement today.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

9. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS:

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

11. NEW BUSINESS:

12. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. RSU No. 5 Financial Statement December 6, 2012

13. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda):

A. FHS Facilities Committee

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

A. FHS Facilities Study Advisory Committee – Peter Murray reported the committee is very active and plans have been refined by the architect based on feedback. The committee meets again tomorrow night. The committee will present to the Board of Directors with a recommendation on January 9, 2013. The Board is expected to vote January 23, 2013 on sending the project to a referendum vote.

15. PERSONNEL:

A. Staff Resignations:

1. Krista Wood – Speech-Language Pathologist

16. POLICY REVIEW:

A. Policy Packet 13-1 was distributed for policy book update.

B. Policy Packet 13-4 was distributed for review with plans for 1st Read on January 23, 2013 and 2nd Read/Final Adoption on February 27, 2013.

C. 1st Read on the Following Policies: Packet 13-3

1. JCA – Assignment to Schools Within the District
2. JEA – Compulsory Attendance
3. JFAA – Admission of Resident Students

4. JFAB – Admission of Non-Resident Students
5. JFABD – Admission of Homeless Students
6. JFC – Dropout Prevention – Student Withdrawal from
7. JGAA – Assignment of Students to Classes – Five – Year Olds
8. JGAB – Assignment of Students to Classes: Transfer Students and Home Schooling Students
9. JHB - Truancy
10. JHCB – Release Time for Religious Instruction
11. JIC – System-Wide Student Code of Conduct
12. JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety

C. VOTED: (2) To adopt the Following Policies: Packet 13-2 (Blais – Brown) (9 – 0)

1. IJOC – School Volunteers
2. IK – Student Achievement/Evaluation of Student Achievement
3. IKAB – Report Cards/Progress Reports
4. IKB – Homework
5. IKC – Academic Achievement
6. IKE – Promotion, Retention and Acceleration of Students
7. IKFA – Early Graduation
8. IKFB – Graduation Exercises
9. IKFC – Credit for Private Tutoring
10. ILA – Tests/Assessment
11. ILD – Educational Research: Student Submission to Surveys, Analyses, or Evaluations
12. IMBB – Exemption from Required Instruction
13. IMGA – Service Animals in School

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. VOTED (3):** To enter into Executive Session as outlined in 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A) for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's evaluation. (Parker – Blais) (9 – 0)

Time In: 8:46 p.m.

Time Out: 9:38 p.m.

18. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

VOTED: (4) To authorize the Chair and Vice-Chair to enter into negotiations with the Superintendent to determine the length of the contract and make decisions about the bonus and wages going forward as discussed in executive session. (Blais – Brown) (9 – 0)

19. ADJOURNMENT:

VOTED: (5) To adjourn at 9:40 p.m. (Blais – Parker) (9 – 0).


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