

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 12, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.
Freeport High School Cafeteria
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 September 26, 2012 meeting).

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Larkins called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Ricker

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Bob Strong, Principal of Freeport High School reported due to the size of the senior class in 2012 the number of tickets to graduation allotted to students had to be limited. The current senior class has 25 more students than last year so tickets will again have to be limited. The Senior Class Advisor is looking into holding graduation off site, possibly the Merrill Auditorium, and changing the date to Wednesday or Saturday. Parents and students will be surveyed regarding the change in venue and date. This information will be reported to the Board on September 26, 2012.

5. PERSONNEL:

A. Staff Hires:

1. **VOTED: (1)** To appoint Michael Myers to the position of Director of Adult Education, Recreation, and Community Education for the 2012-2013 school year.
(Morang – Parker) (10 – 0)
2. **VOTED: (2)** To appoint Ann Marie Barter to the position of Assistant Principal at Freeport High School for the 2012-2013 school year. (Morang – Parker) (10 – 0)
3. **VOTED: (3)** To appoint Michelle Shaw to the position of District Social Worker for the 2012-2013 school year. (Murray – Morang) (10 – 0)

6. WORKSHOP:

- A. Freeport High School Master Plan. Lyndon Keck, PDT Architects reviewed the Freeport High School Master Plan Facilities Study he presented in June. Mr. Keck reported the High School is a well maintained facility, but there are areas in need of renovation and areas of the building that do not meet ADA compliance, security requirements, and safety needs. There are space needs for programs such as art, music, science and STEM. Mr. Keck reported the enrollment study completed by NESDEC shows 600 students in five years and 680 in ten years.

Principal Strong reported on the issues he sees at the school such as: moving of sets to accommodate classes on the FPAC stage; no ability to add science classes due to limited lab space; Social Worker housed in a passageway; location of guidance department; inadequate storage; not enough space for STEM classes; one conference room; Alternative Education and JMG housed in a portable; and front entrance congested with parents, busses, deliveries.

Kim LaMarre, representing the Facilities Study Advisory Committee, reported the recommendations of the committee are to stay in the present location, move forward with the concept design phase, and use the ten-year enrollment projections. Members met with a variety of community groups and governance boards to gather feedback on the renovation project including: the neighborhood group; FEDC; Freeport Chamber; governance committees from Durham, Freeport and Pownal; Freeport High School staff; and parents at school open houses. Feedback has been positive.

A roundtable discussion with the Board and members of the Facilities Study Advisory Committee was held. The next phase in the process is the completion of Concept Design, which will provide more detail and financial information about the project. The Board anticipates a vote on September 26, 2012 on the expenditure of \$40,000 to complete this work.

- B. Goal Setting Linked to Board Self-Evaluation: Candace Decsipkes reported out on the Outreach Group meeting. The purpose of the group was to consider what could be done as a Board and organization to reach out to the three towns. Suggestions were made for activities ongoing throughout the year such as: mingling middle school students within the RSU and orientation activities for freshmen; rotating Board meetings between the three towns; meet with governance boards twice a year and on important topics; and invitational roundtable discussions. Suggestions were also made specific to the budget development process such as: publish budget process in advance; continue meetings with parent groups; summarize budget development process at the end of Board meetings and send press release; invite budget advisory and governance body members to budget meetings; and move Annual Budget Meeting to a Saturday.

The Board reviewed the results of the self-evaluation. The overall rating of 82% reflects an effective Board who just completed a successful year. The seven dimensions on the evaluation were contextual 83%, educational 87%, finance 82%, interpersonal 84%, analytical 77%, political 79% and strategic 83%. The Board discussed adding components to the goals for the 2012-2013 school year including: connecting with teachers more to the communication goal; adding a facilities goal; and an expanded financial goal to do more outreach to the three communities around the budget process.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

VOTED: (4) To adjourn at 9:35 p.m. (Blais – Parker) (10 – 0).


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