

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 8, 2012 – 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 February 29, 2012 meeting).

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Larkins called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Blais, Kathryn Brown, Candace Decsipkes, Eric Dube, 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:

5. B. Superintendent's Update

5. COMMUNICATIONS (CONSENT AGENDA):

A. Instructional Strategist Job Description

B. Superintendent's Update: Superintendent Welsh reported the citizens of Durham have submitted a petition to the Durham Selectmen to add a Warrant Article to the April Town Meeting. The Article will ask for \$25,000 for a committee to work on the withdrawal from the RSU. There will also be a referendum vote in June which would need a majority vote of the Durham citizens to start the planning process for withdrawal. Dr. Welsh also reported the State has set a high bar for towns wishing to withdraw from an RSU and there is a clearly defined process for doing so. There is another group of residents in Durham that do not want to withdraw because they see the benefits of the RSU. We will keep our focus on the RSU as a whole.

6. WORKSHOP:

- A. Use of Time Update – Joe Makley reported the committee met for a third time on February 1st to develop final recommendations for the 2012-2013 calendar. The committee chose two calendar scenarios with justification for each. Version 1 has no budget impact, and is similar to last year. Version 2 has an additional flex day. The flex-time is proposed by the committee to provide structured, recurring sessions of 1.5 hours of extended professional development time. An electronic survey link will be distributed to parents, staff, community members and students. The committee will meet again on March 7th to review the feedback. First read on the draft calendar is anticipated for April 11th with second read/adoption on April 25th.
- B. Budget Priorities – Superintendent Welsh reported on the list of budget priorities for the 2012-2013 school year. Administration has begun the process of developing a budget to present to the Board. Administrators have met with teachers and staff members to gather budget information. Administrators then met individually with the Superintendent and Finance Director on their proposed budget. Administrators will now come together as a team to craft a budget to bring to the Board on March 27th and 28th. The budget is still in development stages at this time so there are no

final recommended figures. Administration is working as a team to develop a budget that will help us attain district goals while balancing the financial impact to our community. The proposed priority areas include the following:

- Instructional Programs/ Enrollments with a goal to continue to target class sizes of 20 students per teacher across the district. Academic support for gifted students and those who are struggling to learn.
- Curriculum Material with a goal of continuing to support expanded leveled reading books, including both fiction and non-fiction. The Science Curriculum Team is recommending the piloting of several new units and courses. Science curriculum materials and equipment are needed to support this work. Time - professional development time is a vital support for teachers as we continue to improve and expand our curriculum and program offerings to students.
- Technology Investment – There are increased funds this year for student technology equipment. Our software investment is for Library Services that will allow schools across the district to share card catalogs and materials
- Capital Investments – The Capital Plan recommends significantly increasing funds in this area to support on-going improvements in all of our 7 facilities and our vehicles. At this time, there are no funds in the proposed 12-13 budget for a response to the high school's Master Plan study.

Board Member Eric Dube reported the Finance Committee met this afternoon and discussed holding a workshop on March 14, 2012 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. with town leadership from Durham, Freeport and Pownal. The agenda will include the 3-5 Year Financial Plan and 2012-2013 budget priorities. Invitations will be sent to individual selectmen and councilors.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. **VOTED (1):** To enter into Executive Session as outlined in 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(D) for the purpose of discussing teacher and Administrator negotiations for RSU No. 5.
(Blais – VanNostrand) (10 – 0)

Time In: 7:20 p.m.

Time Out: 8:33 p.m.

8. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

9. ADJOURNMENT:

VOTED: (2) To adjourn at 8:34 p.m. (Blais – Dube) (10 – 0).


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