

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 14, 2011 – 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 25, 2012 meeting).

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Larkins called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Ricker

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A. **VOTED: (1)** To approve the Minutes of November 30, 2011. (Morang – Murray) (10 – 0)

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

6. GOOD NEWS & RECOGNITION:

- A. Report from Student Government – Charlie Baker, Student Council President shared with the Board with his experiences at Freeport High School. Charlie talked about the need and importance of AP courses; suggested an AP History course; compassion of the teachers during his difficult junior year; laptops have made learning easier for the most part; and suggested aid be given to freshmen on the college process, not wait until junior year.

7. REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATORS:

- A. Current and Projected Enrollments: Superintendent Welsh provided an overview of the current and projected student enrollments. We have an increase of over 51 students district wide from what was anticipated from last year due to families moving into town and Durham choice students choosing the RSU high school. This is due to adding AP courses and laptops to our budget last year and attracting and retaining good quality staff. Enrollments for next year will remain relatively stable with an increase of 9 students district wide. Superintendent Welsh also reported the current 8th grade Durham students are the last class to have choice of high schools.

Tom Ambrose – Principal of Morse Street School reported enrollments for next year will remain stable. The addition of guidance services this year has had a positive effect. Another positive of the RSU is the sharing of specialists across the district.

Will Pidden – Principal of Durham Community School reported enrollments for next year will remain stable. The upcoming 3rd grade will be a large class and may need additional staff. Pownal's 5th graders will also need to make a choice of middle schools and that could impact Durham Community School, Freeport Middle School, or both. A meeting will be held with Pownal parents in January with visits to each school.

Lisa Demick – Principal of Pownal Elementary School reported enrollments for next year will remain stable. This was the first year as a PreK-5 school and things are going well. One of the benefits of the RSU is the different Kindergarten programs. Pownal has a half day PreK, half day K program and the other schools have a full Kindergarten program. This creates a choice for parents.

Beth Willhoite – Principal of Mast Landing School reported there will be a loss of about 6 students next year. A large 5th grade class will be moving on to the middle school. Next year's math classes look good with 4 classes of 20 but the upcoming 3rd and 4th grades could be a challenge.

Ray Grogan – Principal of Freeport Middle School reported enrollments for next year will remain stable but there will be a bubble in the 6th grade with 95 students coming in from Mast Landing School and possibly 18 from Pownal. Pownal students/parents will be making their choice of middle schools by the end of January so we will have a better understanding of enrollment numbers.

Bob Strong – Principal of Freeport High School reported enrollments for next year will remain stable. Some classes will be big and some will be small depending on the class. There are currently 57 high school students attending Region Ten Technical High School, the largest number ever. Plato has 50 students participating and Virtual High School currently has 11 students taking classes.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Geoff Dyhrberg, FHS teacher, extended an invitation to Board members to observe his classroom, shadow a teacher or student to see first hand what is going on at the high school.

Hank Ogilby, FHS teacher expressed his concern that the climate at FHS and district wide has an effect on student learning and suggests surveying staff to gather information.

Nancy Drolet, FHS teacher and CEA president spoke of her concern with the culture in Durham, Freeport and Pownal. Morale is low and suggested talking to the teachers in the buildings.

John Egan, Freeport resident spoke in support of finalizing the teacher contract.

Kristen Dorsey, Freeport resident encouraged the Board to seek teacher and parent input. Also concerned the teaching of students is being data driven.

Arnie MacDonald, Freeport resident echoed the comments of others, negotiations have taken a toll on everyone and there needs to be an element of respect.

Diane Whitmore, FHS teacher is concerned about the message graduates are receiving due to the teacher contract still not being finalized.

9. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS:

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

11. NEW BUSINESS:

12. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. RSU No. 5 Financial Statement December 8, 2011

13. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda):

- A. FY' 13 Budget Schedule

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

- A. Negotiations – Nelson Larkins reported the teams met two weeks ago and are continuing with good progress and will meet again in January. It is a tough process, a lot of work and there is good faith on both sides.

15. PERSONNEL:

A. Staff Retirements:

- 1. Deidre Carr – Freeport High School English Teacher

B. Staff Resignations:

- 1. Wendy Bouton – Freeport High School/Morse Street School Educational Technician
- 2. Derek Avery – Freeport High School Educational Technician

16. POLICY REVIEW:

- A. Policy Packet 12-1 was distributed for policy book update.

- B. Policy Packet 12-4 was distributed for review with plans for 1st Read on January 25, 2012 and 2nd Read/Final Adoption on February 29, 2012.

- C. 1st Read on the Following Policies: Packet 12-3

- 1. EEAECE – Student Conduct on School Buses
- 2. EEAEF - Video Cameras on Transportation Vehicles
- 3. EEBA – Van Use
- 4. EEBB – Use of Private Vehicles on School Business
- 5. EFBA – Menu Development/Options-Offer vs. Serve Lunch Concept
- 6. EFC – Free and Reduced Price Food Services
- 7. EFE – Competitive Food Sales-Sales of Foods in Competition with the School Food Service Program
- 8. EGAD – Copyright Compliance
- 9. EGAD-R-Copyright Compliance Administrative Procedure
- 10. FF – Naming Facilities

- D. VOTED: (2)** To adopt the following policies: Packet 12-2 (Blais – Parker) (10 – 0)

- 1. DN – School Properties Disposition
- 2. DO – Approval for New Programs
- 3. EB – Environmental and Safety Program
- 4. EBAA – Chemical Hazards
- 5. EBCA – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

6. EBCB – Emergency Evacuation Drills
7. EBCC – Bomb Threats
8. EBCF – Automated External Defibrillators (AED's)
9. ECAC – Vandalism
10. ECB – Pest Management in School Facilities and on School Grounds
11. EEA – Student Transportation Services
12. EEAEA – Student Transportation Employee Requirements, Training and Responsibilities
13. EEAEAA – Drug and Alcohol Testing of School Bus Drivers
14. GBEC – Drug-Free Workplace
15. IJJ – Instructional and Library-Media Materials Selection
16. IJJ-E- Citizen's Challenge of Educational Media Form
17. IKF – Graduation Requirements
18. IMGA – Service Animals in Schools
19. JICH – Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

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. (Blais – Parker)

Time In: 8:24 p.m.

Time Out: 9:18 p.m.

18. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. **VOTED (4):** To authorize the Chair and Vice-Chair to issue a contract as discussed in Executive Session. (Blais – Dube) (10 – 0)

19. ADJOURNMENT:

VOTED: (5) To adjourn at 9:21 p.m. (Parker – Kielty) (10 – 0).



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