

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.
Freeport High School Library
Meeting Minutes

6:00 – 7:00 P.M. A Meet and Greet with RSU Teachers 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 March 23, 2011 meeting).

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Larkins called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Blais, Eric Dube, John Green, Cori Holt, Brenda Kielty, Nelson Larkins, John Morang, Beth Parker, Karin VanNostrand, Greg Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Peter Murray

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

5. GOOD NEWS & RECOGNITION:

- A. The Girls Alpine and Boys Combined State Champion ski teams were recognized for their accomplishments.
- B. Durham Community School Public Service Announcement –Ryan Gleason provided an update on the work the School Culture Action Team has been doing. This year's major work is on reducing peer aggression. The school has been awarded a \$14,000 grant from the Juvenile Justice Authority of Maine to implement collaborative problem solving. Eliza Damone, SCAT Teacher Leader and School Librarian has been working with students in a multimedia class to create public service announcements. The intended message to bystanders is that stepping in and stepping up can make a difference in a person's life. The Board watched a public service announcement created by Bailey Karnes and Grace Bertrand, two of the student ambassadors.

6. WORKSHOP:

A. Fields and Grounds Update:

Craig Sickels, Athletic Director and members of the Fields and Grounds Committee reviewed plans and provided additional information for the "Campus Complex" as requested by the Board at the February 16, 2011 meeting. Mr. Sickels reported he attended recent meetings of the selectmen and town councilors from Durham, Freeport and Pownal to explain the project and gain a better understanding of the level of support and concern. There was support for the project but concerns regarding the timing, cost and tax impact. Additional information was also provided on the annual maintenance costs and equipment. Mr. Sickels reported prior to the Board meeting this evening he met with representatives from the surrounding neighborhood to listen to their concerns regarding the project.

Public Comment:

Durham: Norman White commented he is concerned about a large expenditure at this time. The RSU should be looking at reductions not additions.

Freeport: Kim Lamarre and Michelle Broderick presented information to the Board on a High School renovation project to improve safety and accessibility of the front of the school, appearance of the facade and entrance area, and to enhance the interior appearance.

Ethel Wilkerson mentioned at the meeting earlier this evening the neighborhood residents were able to layout their concerns. She is optimistic that with improvements the plan can work for the school and neighborhood. She thanked the Board for listening.

Zac Ward spoke of his concerns regarding Friday and Saturday night activities. Other concerns include quality of life, speed and safety and the need for a consistent message being sent from Craig Sickels to the neighbors and Board.

Kristen Dorsey mentioned some of the concerns sound like municipal issues.

Nick White spoke of his concern with spending money on the project at this time when we have decaying schools. Education should come first.

Pownal: Tim Giddinge is supportive of the concept but would first like to see alternative funding sources before going to bond.

B. Use of Time Committee Report:

Sarah Simmonds, Curriculum Director, reported the draft calendar was sent out for feedback with two questions. The first question was about a before or after Labor Day start and the second was the placement of professional learning time. The committee met and made adjustments to the calendar to show an after Labor Day start and moved the January 3rd PLD to March and adjusted the March 16th day. There was also support for the elimination of early release and late arrival days.

Public Comment:

Freeport: Students Danielle Perry, Jess Hench, Patrick LaFlamme and Jack Baker feel students have a lack of voice regarding late arrival. Students use this time constructively for SAT prep, club meetings, group projects, and catching up on sleep mid-week. They collected 134 signatures on a petition to keep late arrival. Other students that spoke in favor of late arrival were: Alex Sturtevant, Charlie Lehmer, Sadie Russell and Alex Campbell.

Mary Lehmer spoke in favor of late arrival for students and asked about the actual number of feedback responses.

Liza Moore spoke as a member of the committee and thanked Sarah Simmonds for her leadership. Liza spoke to the importance of late arrival for sleep purposes for students.

Jessica Sturges spoke to the importance of K-12 teachers having the opportunity to meet. The piece missing with early release and late arrival is the 8th and 9th grade teachers not being able to meet together.

Kristen Dorsey notes her concerns with loss of professional development time with the calendar. She also mentioned students need to have a voice.

Hank Ogilby thanked Sarah Simmonds for her work with the committee. Hank noted his concern with the loss of professional learning time. Also mentioned was the proposed policy on instructional planning time that doesn't guarantee time during the school day.

Beth Parker spoke in favor of late arrival due to her children having no time after school due to sports and other activities.

C. State of the Schools Report:

Superintendent Welsh reported a Forecaster sized eight page newspaper is being prepared reporting on our progress on the Strategic Framework. This document will be mailed to every home in the RSU during the week of March 21st. An Education Forum will be held on March 29th at 6:30 p.m. in the FPAC to present this information with breakout sessions on performance indicators. Great Schools Partnership will be facilitating. Superintendent Welsh also reported on March 18th during the PLD staff will meet in the morning to see progress on each school's action plan. This will be a celebration on the progress made to date. The next steps will be a report to the Board in May with action steps for next year.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Voted: (1) To adjourn at 9:18 P.M. (Blais – Dube) (10 – 0)

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