

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, November 17, 2010 – 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 December 8, 2010 meeting).

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Larkins called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Blais, Eric Dube (arrived at 6:35 p.m.), Cori Holt, Brenda Kielty (arrived at 6:41 p.m.), Nelson Larkins, John Morang, Peter Murray (arrived at 6:39 p.m.), Beth Parker, Karin VanNostrand, Greg Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Green

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

- A. VOTED: (1)** To approve the Minutes of October 27, 2010 and November 3, 2010.
(Morang – Holt) (7 – 0)

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

6. GOOD NEWS & RECOGNITION:

- A.** Report from Student Government: No report was given

7. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATORS:

- A.** Pownal 5th and 6th Grade Transition: Principals Lisa Demick, Ray Grogan and Will Pidden have worked together to create a transition plan for the Pownal 5th and 6th grade students. For the 2011-2012 school year these students will be offered the choice of attending either Durham Community School or Freeport Middle School. A timeline has been created beginning in December with the principals meeting with the Pownal students to talk to them about each school. In January meetings will be held with parents to hear about what each school offers. By the end of January a decision on the choice of school will be needed from each family. Between February and June transition activities will be planned for students to help make the transition as smooth as possible.
- B.** Work and College Readiness – Sarah Simmonds, Curriculum Director, reported the Strategic Framework commits to identifying the work and college readiness skills our students need to learn to be successful in both college and the world of work. Sarah reviewed roles and responsibilities of the task force and the time line of the work to be completed. The work will begin on December 2nd with a meeting to solicit essential work readiness skills from business, non-profit, and municipal employers. Rubrics will be developed first followed by the assessments. Heidi McGinley, an educational consultant who worked with us last year on the Use of Time task force will help facilitate this important work.

- C. Update on Recreation and Athletic Facilities and Field Use Committee – Craig Sickels, Athletic Director reported the committee members are taking their responsibility seriously and working very hard. The sixteen members have divided up tasks and will then bring all the pieces together to prepare the final report to be presented to the Board on January 12, 2010. Mr. Sickels publicly thanked Milone & MacBroom and Carroll Associates who have continued to work with this committee at no cost. Craig also reported the Freeport Town Council has voted in concept on the Purchase & Sales agreement on the back property of the Pownal Road field.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- A. Waiting for Superman – Superintendent Welsh reported several Board members viewed the film together. General thoughts included: the film highlighted problems in education and talked about teacher strategies; it contained many urban stories that the RSU doesn’t have to deal with but provided valuable information; lots of data was provided but didn’t necessarily state where the numbers came from; and the film reinforced the RSU is on the right track.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

11. NEW BUSINESS:

12. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS:

- A. **Voted: (2)** Action on sub-committee appointments.

- 1. Policy – VanNostrand
- 2. Communications – Wilson
- 3. RSU 5 Student Aspirations – Murray
- 4. Facilities – VanNostrand
- 5. Safety – Parker
- 6. Negotiations - Murray

(Murray – Holt) (10 – 0)

13. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- A. RSU No. 5 Financial Statements November 12, 2010

14. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda)

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

- A. Finance – Chair Eric Dube reported the committee met on November 3, 2010. Financial Advisor Richard Ranaghan attended the meeting to talk about the importance of maintaining good financial health with a focus on safety, liquidity, and yield. Having good elected and appointed management as well as good strong financial policies are key factors.

Dennis Ouellette, Director of Facilities and Transportation reported the lockers for Freeport High School have been ordered. Total cost for 108 new lockers delivered and installed total \$11,286. Dennis followed up with the committee regarding the Board's decision last year to review transportation services for the 2011-2012-budget year. The Finance Committee would like the following three transportation options to be considered: 1) Freeport local, Pownal leased buses, and contracted Durham; 2) Freeport local, Pownal and Durham contracted; and 3) Freeport, Pownal, and Durham all contracted. Committee members asked Dennis Ouellette to talk with his employees last Friday to notify them of the analysis. After the analysis is complete, the Finance Committee will make a recommendation to the Board. Warrants were signed.

- B. Communications – Chair Jane Blais reported the committee met on November 1, 2010. The committee members gave an update on communications with Parent Groups and municipal officials. Jane will meet with Durham's PTA in late November and Kristen has done a wonderful job meeting with Freeport groups. In general, the parent groups welcome communication efforts regarding program and budget updates. The groups support the pre-budget workshops with parent groups; the posting of Board and parent group information on the RSU website; and continued written and personal communications contacts. Jane Blais extended an invitation to Durham's Selectmen to attend the Board's social on November 3rd. An invitation will also be extended to the Freeport Town Council prior to the December 8th social in Freeport.

The Committee members reviewed the list of possible invitees to the College and Career Readiness Skills discussions. The Strategic Framework commits to the identification of these skills and development of assessments that require students to demonstrate those skills.

- E. Negotiations - Nelson Larkins reported teacher negotiations are ongoing. Peter Murry has been added to the team and is working on spreadsheets with John Green.

16. PERSONNEL:

17. POLICY REVIEW:

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Voted: (3) To adjourn at 7:24 P.M. (Parker – Blais) (10 – 0).

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