

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 24, 2010 – 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 March 24, 2010 meeting).

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Larkins called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Dawson, Kristen Dorsey, Eric Dube, Cori Holt, Brenda Kielty, Nelson Larkins, Melinda McKechnie, John Morang, Beth Parker, Elizabeth Peters, Laurie Poissonnier

MEMBERS ABSENT:

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

- A. VOTED: (1)** To approve the Minutes of January 27, 2010 and February 10, 2010.
(Morang – Peters) (11 – 0)

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

None

6. GOOD NEWS & RECOGNITION:

- A. Report from Student Government – Josh Sturtevant, President of the Student Council, reported Students are settling into second semester. Seniors are in classes through April then start their senior projects. The Winter Carnival was held before February vacation with a day full of school spirit activities. The Service Club held a benefit for Haiti and raised \$800. The high school Boys Nordic Ski Team won the State Championship.
- B. Digital Revolution – Karen Massey, high school Social Studies teacher, and her Topics in the Social Sciences students reported on the sociology research project they completed. The class decided to research media. Students and staff at the high school were surveyed on different types of media they own and also the types of media they use. The students then complied the survey results.
- C. LSill – Will Pidden, Durham Elementary Principal, reported on the Linking Science Inquiry and Literacy Learning grant. This is a three year grant from Maine Math and Science to work on science units. The initial work was figuring out what do students need to learn and how are we doing it. Grade level teams of teachers work together. Deb Bartlett, 4th grade teacher and Adele Hassett, 5th grade teacher, presented work done by two of their classes to help students think like scientists. Students use science notebooks to encourage discussions about the experiment, what they saw during the experiment and the outcome.

7. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATORS:

- A. Cheryl White, Morse Street School Principal, reported enrollment is currently at 260. The students have been working on a community building activities to benefit Freeport Community Services food bank. Nance Comyns will be an artist in residence. Due to schedule changes made in September teachers have been able to come together once a week to work on PLC and RTI, this work is very valuable.
- B. Beth Willhoite, Mast Landing School Principal, reported enrollment is currently at 255 down from 259 in September. The musical was held before February vacation with 100 students performing in "Pettingill". Students are hiking the Appalachian Trail by tracking their physical activity and marking the trail at school. Student Council has raised over \$1,000 for Haiti. They are also working with Freeport Community Services on the hand-to-hand food drive. Poet Paul Janeczko will be an artist in residence for three days. NECAP and NWEA reports were sent home to parents today.
- C. Peter Buckley, Pownal Elementary Principal, reported on the new "Being Caught Being Good Program" that rewards students for doing something good. The school received a \$750 grant from Green Schools which will pay for a garden to be planted, harvested and the ingredients will be made into salsa. The musical "Music Man" will be held at the end of March. Pownal Elementary hosted a RTI workshop put on by the DOE. We have worked with Anita Barnhart on Ready, Set, Science. Two middle school students won gold and silver in the Scholastic Poetry competition.
- D. Ryan Gleason, Durham Elementary Assistant Principal, reported they have been working on school culture with the action team. Peer to Peer aggression is an area they are focusing on. January was bullying awareness month and John Jenkins, former mayor of Auburn, kicked off the events. Both parents and students have been involved in the awareness program. K-2 students worked on terminology; grades 3-5 created anti-bullying messages to display in the school; grades 6-8 had in depth discussions; and parents attended a presentation by Chuck Saufler. Next steps will be to send out surveys in March on school culture and finalize the peer to peer aggression rubric.
- E. Ray Grogan, Freeport Middle School Principal, reported the students are doing great things but nobody knows so they now have two parent volunteers to communicate what is happening at school. The Alpine and Nordic Ski Teams received the good sportsmanship award. The 6th grade received a grant for physical fitness. The 6th grade has also switched to 1-to-1 laptops by reallocating resources. Five students are participating in Virtual High School courses. Senator Susan Collins spoke with the students in the fall and was impressed with their behavior. We are making a more conscious effort letting other students know when kids are doing good things via student e-mail.
- F. Bob Strong, Freeport High School Principal, reported twelve students are taking courses through Virtual High School this semester and 28 students are using Plato. One Acts start this weekend with a student written and directed play. April 9th will be career day at the school with business people invited in to speak with students. A SAT prep course has been offered on late start Wednesdays with 20 students participating. PLC's are in place and almost 2/3 of the faculty are trained as facilitators. We are scheduling parent conferences electronically. The Program of Studies for 2010-2011 will only be printed for freshmen with online access for the rest of the

student body. Pizza lunches with the Principal and Assistant Principal have been taking place with seniors to talk about their 3 ½ year career at the high school.

- G. Sarah Simmonds, Curriculum Director, reported on the February 1st professional day. Teachers K-8 worked district-wide with time built in for people to talk and share information. Teachers K-2 focused on writing instruction. Teachers grade 3-5 and 6-8 focused on being able to access and interpret NWEA data. Grade 9-12 teachers focused on technology and curriculum development. Grade K-8 specialists focused on curriculum assessment and development. The Ed Techs focused on individual learning styles and new Special Education Ed Techs trained in positive behavior.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- A. Legislative Update: Superintendent Welsh reported on good news from the Appropriations Committee, corporate income taxes have come in \$51 million higher than expected. They are looking at allocating some of the money to K-12 education and Health and Human Services. We will learn more over the next few weeks.

The Education Committee reported out on LD 570. Language is included for an opt-out clause for systems that have been part of an RSU/AOS for at least three years. They also included language about a common election date. School systems are also allowed to ask the question this year whether or not to continue to hold a BVR. We will wait to hear more about LD 570.

- B. Community Budget Meetings Report Out: Superintendent Welsh reported five public budget meetings were held during the month of February in conjunction with the parent groups at the schools. The intent of the meetings was to provide information about an anticipated reduction in state subsidy; present brainstorm ideas for feedback; and hear from citizens other cost-savings or revenue producing ideas. The meetings were well attended by a diverse group of taxpayers and staff members. The following themes emerged as a result of these discussions: class size; academic offerings; volunteers and donations; administration; transportation; facilities; wages and benefits; participation fees; and revenues. The notes from each of the meetings will be posted on the RSU5 website. Budget presentations to the Board will begin on March 9th and 10th followed by two months of budget work. The last steps will be the Annual Budget Meeting and the BVR votes.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Hank Ogilby, CEA President asked the Board to consider the feedback received at the public hearing before making a decision on the transportation analysis.

Tom Hudak, Freeport resident, mentioned a potential liability insurance issue with contracted bus service.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

11. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consideration of action to establish FY'11 budget priorities.

No action taken.

- B. **VOTED: (2)** To approve a one Principal administrative structure for Mast Landing School.
(Morang – Parker) (11 – 0)

- C. **VOTED: (3)** To adopt Option #1 of the Transportation Analysis.
(Larkins – McKechnie) (10-0-1 Dawson)

- D. **VOTED: (4)** To adopt the Strategic Plan Framework (Holt – Peters) (11 - 0)

12. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- A. RSU No. 5 Financial Statement February 17, 2010

13. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda)

- A. Freeport High School 2010-2011 Program of Studies.

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

- A. Communications – Betsy Peters reported the committee met on February 4, 2010 with Kristen Stetson, a professional graphic designer, from Pownal. Kristen presented a draft design for the RSU5.org website. The goal is to have this new design ready prior to the FY'11 Board budget meetings which begin on March 9th.
- B. Finance – Eric Dube reported the committee met on February 10th and February 24th. At the February 10th meeting the committee received a presentation from John Hepfner of Maine Natural Gas. Maine Natural Gas is planning to install gas lines that will be available for Pownal Elementary, Morse Street School and Freeport High School. They provided a cost/benefit analysis of converting our current oil burners to gas. During the next month we will be gathering more details for a full presentation to the Board in March/April.

Strategic indicators planning meeting dates were discussed as well as a process for committee member selection for the task force. We will invite one member from each community, and review requests from others. The first meeting has been scheduled for March 2nd.

The anticipated budget shortfall for 2010-2011 is \$900,000 with \$420,000 in stimulus funds. An additional finance committee meeting was held on February 24th to present the draft budget to the committee and review the presentation to the Board on March 9th and 10th. Several community budget meetings have been held. The RSU will be going out to bid for audit services and insurance for new contracts beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

- C. Negotiations – Nelson Larkins reported a meeting was held for Pownal support staff negotiations, no additional dates have been set. We meet with teachers on February 25th.

- D. Policy – Cori Holt reported the committee met on February 12th to finalize packet 10-4 for 2nd read/adoption for action tonight. The committee received feedback on the health-related policies in packet 10-5. The committee considered and responded to this feedback. There were some recommendations regarding consistent procedures that need to be developed for all schools. Administration and staff will work together to develop these procedures. The revised packet 10-5 was prepared for 1st Read tonight and 2nd Read/Adoption targeted for March 24th. Policy packet 10-6 was reviewed and compiled. It will be distributed tonight with 1st Read scheduled on March 24th and 2nd Read/Adoption targeted for April 28th.

15. PERSONNEL:

None

16. POLICY REVIEW:

- A. Policies Packet 10-3 was distributed for policy book update.
- B. Policies Packet 10-6 was distributed for review with plans for 1st Read on March 24, 2010 and 2nd Read/Final Adoption on April 28, 2010.
- C. **Voted: (5)** To adopt the following policies: Packet 10-4 (Holt – Poissonnier) (11 – 0)
1. Board of Directors Self-Evaluation
 2. IGA – Curriculum Development and Adoption
 3. IHA – Basic Instructional Program
 4. IHBEA – Program for Limited English Proficient Students
 5. IJND – School Web Site Policy
 6. IJNDB – Student Computer and Internet Use
 7. IJNDB – E – Student Computer/Internet Use Acknowledgment Form
 8. IJNDB – R – Student Computer and Internet Use Rules
 9. IJOA – Field Study and Expeditions
 10. IJOC – School Volunteers
 11. IK – Student Achievement/Evaluation of Student Achievement
 12. IKAB – Report Cards/Progress Reports
 13. IKB – Homework
 14. IKC – Grade Point Average – Class Rank
 15. IKF – Graduation Requirements
 16. IKFA – Early Graduation
 17. IKFB – Graduation Exercises
 18. IKFC – High School Credits for Pre-High School
 19. IMBB – Exemption from Required Instruction
- D. 1st Read on the Following Policies: Packet 10-5
1. BB – School Board Legal Status
 2. BBBE – Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies
 3. BEDC – Quorum
 4. BID – Board Member Compensation and Expenses

5. JFAA - Admission of Resident Students
6. JFABD – Admission of Homeless Students
7. JGAA – Assignment of Students to Classes – Five-Year Olds
8. JGAB – Assignment of Students to Classes: Transfer Students and Home Schooling Students
9. JHCB – Release Time for Religious Instruction
10. JIC – RSU No. 5 School Department Code of Conduct
11. JIH – Questioning and Searches of Students
12. JJ – Extracurricular Activities
13. JJAB – Student Groups – Limited Open Forum
14. JJE – Student Fundraising Activities
15. JKB – Detention of Students
16. JKD – Suspension of Students
17. JKE – Expulsion of Students
18. JKE-R-Expulsion of Students Guidelines
19. JKF – Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities
20. JKG – Physical Restraint
21. JKGA – Time Out Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint
22. JLC – Student Health Requirements and Services
23. JLCC – Communicable/Infectious Diseases
24. JLCDA – Medical Alert List Policy
25. JLCE – First Aid and Emergency Medical Care
26. JLCEE – Policy Regarding Do Not Resuscitate Requests
27. JLF – Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
28. JLIB – Student Dismissal Precautions

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. **VOTED (6):** To enter into Executive Session as outlined in 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(D) for the purpose of discussing a labor contract issue with the Coastal Education Association.
(Dube – Morang) (11 – 0)

Time In: 9:10 P.M.

Time Out: 11:05 P.M.

18. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. **VOTED (7):** To concur with the Level II decision of the Superintendent of Schools in the Coastal Education Association “Contracted Nursing Services” grievance and to endorse the findings and reasons noted in the Level II Superintendent’s response and to instruct the Superintendent of Schools to draft a Level III response based upon discussion by the Board members. (Poissonnier – Parker) (9 – 2 Dube, McKechnie)

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. The Executive Session as outlined in 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(D) for the purpose of discussing the Durham Educational Support Personnel side letter of agreement was tabled.

20. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

21. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. The Executive Session as outlined in 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(D) for the purpose of discussing administrator, support staff and teacher negotiations for RSU No. 5 was tabled.

22. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

23. ADJOURNMENT:

Voted: (5) To adjourn at 11:08 P.M. (McKechnie – Parker) (11 – 0)

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