

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 26, 2009 – 7:00 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 September 23, 2009 meeting).

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristen Dorsey, Eric Dube, Cori Holt, Jennifer Kaplan, Nelson Larkins, Melinda McKechnie, John Morang, Beth Parker, Laurie Poissonnier

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brenda Kielty, Elizabeth Peters

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Larkins called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A. VOTED: (1) To approve the Minutes of the August 12, 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors. (Morang – Parker) (9 – 0)

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Addition to Personnel 12. A. 4. & 5. and 12. C.-G.; renumber Executive Session 15. & 16. to 17. & 18.; add new Executive Session 15. and 16.

5. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATORS:

- A. Bob Strong – Opening of School: Principal Strong noted today was the first teacher day. The high school enrollment is currently 432 which is an increase of 11 students from last year. The high school goals for the year include: setting up Professional Learning Groups; UBD mapping; and Technology, using laptops they way they were designed to be used.
- B. Ray Grogan – Opening of School: Principal Grogan reported today was his fifth day at Freeport Middle School. He reported the middle school goals for the year include: increasing Literacy in the content areas starting with Social Studies and Science; UBD; interdisciplinary work; and bullying. He explained the change from an Industrial Technology teacher to a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) teacher.
- C. Will Pidden – Opening of School: Principal Pidden thanked the Board for their support of the Summer Institute. Teachers in grades K-5 worked with a Maine Math and Science representative to develop a deeper understanding of the role of science language for children. Worked on a comprehensive approach to literacy in grades 6-8. Portfolio teachers 6-8 worked on student expectations. Mr. Gleason led the school culture action team to work on strategies for a safe learning environment for the school community. Mr. Pidden reported student enrollment is at 380, they ended the year at 349.

- D. Beth Willhoite – Opening of School: Principal Willhoite reported the student enrollment is at 260, up by 11 students from last year. The priorities for the year include: putting an RTI system into place; fluency and comprehension in reading; technology; health and wellness of staff and students; and Every Day Math. Meetings with staff from each program to discuss the change in leadership at the school were held today.
- E. Peter Buckley – Opening of School: Principal Buckley reported teachers attended Every Day Math today. He spoke about the team teaching changes taking place at the school. The teams will be 5/6 and 7/8. Principal Buckley also mentioned he will be teaching an Algebra I class. The focus for the year will include: technology; RTI; Every Day Math; and bullying. The student enrollment is at 140.
- F. Cheryl White – Opening of School: Principal White reported the student enrollment is at 240. The goals for the year include: technology; Every Day Math; RTI; and Literacy and Math block scheduling.
- G. Jeff Brazee – Laptop Use and Insurance: Director of Technology Jeff Brazee reported the district has 900 new machines. He clarified that the middle school laptops were provided by MLTI and the district paid for 500 machines. Mr. Brazee discussed the student and staff laptop insurance coverage. The district is looking at a self-insurance model.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- A. Celebration of First Days of Schools: Superintendent Welsh reported the opening staff day is Thursday, August 27th starting at 7:30AM with a breakfast in the high school cafeteria. The Superintendent and Chair Larkins will welcome all staff in the Performing Arts Center to celebrate coming together as an RSU. We want to celebrate what we've done and share our strengths but also talk about how do we get better. Superintendent Welsh invited all Board members to the celebration.
- B. Strategic Plan Forum: Superintendent Welsh reported on the September 14th Community Forum. A flyer will be mailed out to all three communities with detailed information about the forum and an invitation to attend. Staff members will receive an invitation on the opening staff day. Former Governor Angus King will lead the evening with a presentation on learning needs for the 21st Century. Grant funds are being used to work with Great Schools Partnership. Break out sessions will then respond to the presentation to identify characteristics and set high level three-year targets for student performance. Great Schools will compile the data, collate information and we will create three-year PreK-12 targets for student performance; annual indicators that measure progress in achieving targets; and three-year PreK-12 district strategic plan. At the end of October another forum will be held for feedback on the plan.
- C. Pownal Road Fields Update: Superintendent Welsh reported the Finance Subcommittee met with Town Council leadership. On September 8th the Council will hear a presentation of the field study report. It was decided a stakeholder group will be formed with the charge of considering all community use and submit a proposal by mid-January to ensure all needs are met. The Board is invited to the September 8th Council meeting to hear the report.

D. Workplan for 2009-2010: Superintendent Welsh reported throughout the spring and summer we heard many issues from community members and staff so a timeline for dealing with those issues was created. An example of the issues is a 3-5 year financial plan with a timeline of work to be completed August – November. A meeting has taken place with the financial staff at the Department of Education who are pulling together data. The purpose of the workplan is to show we have heard the concerns and even though we can't get to every issue immediately there is a plan for working on all issues. The work plan will be posted on the RSU website.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Joe Migliaccio, Freeport resident, mentioned the confusion around the Pownal Road fields. Mr. Migliaccio indicated his hope that Freeport Community Education can attend the September 8th field study presentation. Mr. Migliaccio also cautioned the Board that items discussed with Town Leadership are only two voices of the Council. Mr. Migliaccio also suggested adding money to the budget for wiring for a live feed to the high school library and replaying the Board meetings more often.

Donna Brown, Pownal resident, spoke about her desire to have her child attend Freeport Middle School instead of Pownal Elementary School. Her request was denied and she requested information on the appeals process.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

None

9. NEW BUSINESS:

None

10. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- A. RSU No. 5 Financial Statement August 21, 2009
- B. Final Budget 2009-2010

11. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda)

- A. MEA Reports

12. PERSONNEL:

- A. Staff Summer Resignations:

- 1. Barbara Chisholm – Freeport Middle School/High School Nurse
- 2. Michelle Lee – Pownal Elementary School Spanish Teacher
- 3. John Thomas – Freeport High School Educational Technician
- 4. Tamara Leavitt – Durham Elementary School Teacher
- 5. Michele Briasco-Brin – Freeport Middle School Educational Technician

B. Staff Summer Hires:

1. Denise Compton – Half-time English Teacher at Freeport High School
2. Charles Andreson – Half-time Art Teacher at Freeport High School
3. John Thomas – .5 Time NGP Teacher / .5 Time Math Teacher at Freeport High School

C. Voted: (2) To employ Meg Sparrow as a .5 Time Teacher at Mast Landing School for the 2009-2010 school year. (Morang – Poissonnier) (9 – 0)

D. Voted: (3) To employ Sara Dimick as a .5 Time Teacher at Mast Landing School for the 2009-2010 school year. (Morang – Parker) (9 – 0)

E. Voted: (4) To employ Lisa Roney as a Middle School Teacher at Pownal Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school year. (Dube – Parker) (9 – 0)

F. Voted: (5) To employ Jonathon Amory as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Teacher at Freeport Middle School for the 2009-2010 school year. (Morang – Parker) (9 – 0)

G. Voted: (6) To employ Heather Black-Ward as an Elementary Teacher at Durham Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school year (Poissonnier – McKechnie) (9 – 0)

13. POLICY REVIEW:

A. 10-Packet #1 was distributed for review with plans for 1st Read on September 23, 2009 and Final Adoption on October 28, 2009.

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

A. & D. Communications and Strategic Planning: Superintendent Welsh reported the two committees have finalized plans to work with the Great Schools Partnership for the community forum on September 14th from 6:00-9:00 P.M. in the Performing Arts Center. The focus will now be on getting the word out through flyers, press releases, phone calls, websites and e-mail.

B. Finance: Eric Dube reported the Finance Committee met on August 18th with Town Leadership to discuss the Pownal Road fields. It was decided a stakeholder group will be formed with the charge of considering all community use and submit a proposal to ensure all needs are met. Superintendent Welsh and Diane Boucher met with Jim Rier from the Department of Education to start working on a 3-5 year financial plan. The RSU will be receiving funds from the construction bond on August 27th. The next meeting is scheduled for September 16th at 3:45pm

C. Negotiations: It was reported negotiations will be discussed in Executive Session.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. Voted: (7) To enter into Executive Session as outlined in 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A) for the purpose of discussing a student issue. (Dube – Parker) (9 – 0)

Time In: 9:02 P.M.

Time Out: 11:08 P.M.

16. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Voted: (8) To support the Superintendent's decision regarding request for assignment within the district. (McKechnie – Poissonnier) (9 – 0)

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. **Voted: (9)** To enter into Executive Session as outlined in 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(D) for the purpose of discussing negotiations for RSU No. 5. (Holt – Poissonnier) (9 – 0)

Time In: 11:10 P.M.

Time Out: 11:30 P.M.

18. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

19. ADJOURNMENT:

Voted: (10) To adjourn at 11:31 P.M. (Poissonnier – McKechnie) (9 – 0)

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