

Special RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, July 1, 2009 – 6:30 P.M.
Freeport High School Cafeteria
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 August 26, 2009 meeting).

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brenda Kielty

CALLED TO ORDER:

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

3. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Durham residents: Allan Purinton brought to the Board's attention revised valuation numbers for Durham. Mr. Purinton also discussed Durham has previously used surplus dollars in a way to avoid spikes in taxes. His recommendation to the selectman was to not use all of the \$489, 210 in surplus in one year.

Jane Rice would like the Board to review the three teaching positions at the high school. Ms. Rice also mentioned it is important to get the word out about budget meetings.

Freeport residents: Joe Migliaccio stated the budget changes the Board is thinking about won't solve the problem; the Board needs to know what the voters are thinking. Mr. Migliaccio also noted the Board should look at compensation for employees; perhaps freezing wages.

Genie Beaulieu noted communication around meeting dates has been an issue due to changing of dates many times.

Pownal resident: Steve Russell stated the Curriculum Coordinator position is a good investment. Mr. Russell also noted his concern of adding electives at the high school level and asked the Board to validate hiring three teachers.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. **Voted: (1)** That the Computation and Declaration of Votes dated and attached hereto be and is hereby approved. (Morang – Parker) (10 – 0)

- B. **Voted: (2)** That the Computation and Declaration of Votes be entered upon the records of Regional School Unit No. 5 (the "Regional School Unit"). (Morang – Parker) (10 – 0)
- C. **Voted: (3)** That a Certified copy of the Computation and Declaration of Votes be sent to each of the Municipal Clerks within the Regional School Unit.
(Morang – Parker) (10 – 0)
- D. The Board listened to public comment and considered next steps in the budget approval process. The Board is committed to the development of a fiscally responsible budget that continues to provide a strong educational program. The Board established the following schedule for public input and action on the development of a revised 2009-2010 Budget.

Key upcoming dates in the budget process are:

- July 8, 2009 – Public input and Board action on the revised 2009-2010 Budget. At this meeting, the Board will make their final vote on the budget to send to the Annual Budget Meeting. This meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. in the Freeport High School cafeteria
- July 21, 2009 – Annual Budget Meeting. At this meeting, registered voters of all three towns will deliberate on the budget approved by the Board and vote on an Article-by-Article basis, with the option of proposing changes through amendments on each Article. The meeting will not end until a simple majority approves a budget to send to referendum. This meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M. in the Freeport High School gymnasium
- July 22, 2009 – Absentee Ballots accepted at each of the town offices for the referendum vote on the budget approved at the Annual Budget Meeting.
- July 28, 2009 – Budget Validation Referendum. Voters of all three towns will enter a yes or no vote on the Budget approved at the Annual Budget meeting at the voting booth in each town. A simple combined majority of the voters in the three towns is needed to approve the budget. If the voters reject the budget, the Board will need to reconsider the budget and work through both the Annual Budget Meeting and the Budget Validation Referendum until the voters approve a budget.

During deliberations on the budget, the Board considered the best approach to responding to the feedback from the polls. The budget that failed at referendum reflected more than \$650,000 of cuts from the budgets proposed by each of the now defunct local school boards. The Board directed administration to bring detailed information to the July 8th meeting regarding further reductions to the proposed budget in the following areas:

- Salary reduction due to curriculum director vacancy;
- Business office reduction of position from full time to part time;
- Reduction of high school teaching position;
- Consideration of contracted bus services in place of purchase of two new buses;
- Consideration of contracted payroll services

The RSU No. 5 Board of Directors encourages continued citizen involvement in the budget process. The Board has created a form to capture feedback from citizens about the budget on an Article-by-Article basis. This feedback will be distributed to all Board members by e-mail and will be considered as the group moves through the budget approval process.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

7. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda)

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Voted: (4) To adjourn at 8:50 P.M. (Dube – Holt) (10 – 0)

Shannon L. Welsh
Superintendent of Schools