

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2009 – 6:30 P.M.
Freeport High School Library
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 June 24, 2009 meeting).

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cori Holt, Elizabeth Peters

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Poissonnier called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A. VOTED: (1) To approve the Minutes of the May 27, 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors as presented. (Morang – Kaplan) (9 – 0)

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairperson Poissonnier noted there will be two items under New Business added to the agenda. Item 8. C. Deed language for Freeport and 8. D. Deed language for Durham.

5. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Superintendent Welsh notified the Board the Durham Selectman met Tuesday, June 9th and approved the deed with the clarification of the emergency shelter added. Freeport and Pownal letters have gone out. Both the Freeport Town Council and the MSAD #62 School Board have meetings scheduled for June 23rd. The Freeport Town Council requested more detailed deeds. The Town Council also requested clarification on what would happen to the deeds if the RSU were to dissolve. The attorneys are working on the information requested which will be shared with the Board and the MSAD #62 Board.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Freeport resident: Joe Migliaccio asked a question regarding Maine State Retirement contributions for support employees. Mr. Migliaccio also mentioned the Pownal Road field maintenance issue was always brought up during budget discussions between the town and school.

Pownal resident: Tim Giddinge asked if the signs the Communications Sub-committee are making regarding the June 16th Annual Budget meeting and the June 25th Budget Validation Referendum would be distributed to all three towns.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Voted: (2)** To become a Participating Local District in the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and adopt Regular Plan AC, effective July 1, 2009 for all former school support employees of the Town of Durham who become employed by the RSU and who were members of the Town's PLD plans immediately prior to becoming employed by the RSU, excluding all other employees of RSU No. 5, and to authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract between RSU No. 5 and MainePERS. (Dube – McKechnie) (9 – 0)

Superintendent Welsh explained there are currently eight support staff in Durham who contribute to Maine State Retirement System instead of Social Security. Section 218 states those eight employees can be grandfathered as we enter into an RSU if the Board approves this motion. There is no financial impact to the RSU.

- B. **Voted: (3)** To authorize RSU No. 5 to enter into a trust agreement, between the Maine School Management Association's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund and RSU No. 5, July 1, 2009 and to make contributions to the Trust Fund on behalf of employees. Further move that our school unit meet its obligation to provide unemployment compensation protection on its employees, through reimbursing method, by participating in the Maine School Management Association Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, and further move that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to create a new account with Maine School Management Association Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund. The Superintendent is further authorized to enter into an agreement to administer our unemployment compensation program with Maine School Management on behalf of RSU No. 5. (Dube – Morang) (9 – 0)

Superintendent Welsh explained this item is for unemployment insurance. Pownal and Durham are currently with Maine School Management Association and Freeport has been self funded with the Town of Freeport. The Finance Sub-committee recommends the RSU participating in the MSMA Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund beginning January 2010.

- C. **Voted: (4)** Pursuant to 20-A MRSA section 1462 and the Plan of Reorganization that the property described in the deed presented to this meeting be deemed necessary to carry out the functions of the Regional School Unit, that the Superintendent of Schools again request that the municipal officers Town of Freeport complete the transfer of that property by July 1, 2009, the operational date of the regional school unit, and to the extent the deed presented to this meeting has been amended from the deed previously approved by this board, that said amendments are hereby ratified and approved. (Parker – McKechnie) (9 – 0)

Superintendent Welsh stated that the first deed was brief so it was revised to break out each deed by property. The issue with the Middle School and Library property has been resolved with the town stating they would help relocate the Middle School ropes course if the Library was to expand. The Powal Road field issue has not yet been resolved. There is ongoing discussion regarding ownership. The field was not part of the RPC plan so it does not have to be resolved by July 1st.

- D. **Voted: (5)** That the proposed deed of Durham school real estate to Regional School Unit 5 previously approved by this Board be amended to include a provision to the effect that the Town of Durham reserves and excepts the right to use as a shelter during periods of public emergency the portions of the building being constructed on the property that have been proposed for use for that purpose so long as that building continues to be used for public school purposes, and that the Superintendent be authorized to accept the deed with that change.
(Dube - McKechnie) (9 – 0)

Shannon Welsh stated it is a long standing practice in Durham to use the school as an emergency shelter. A grant has been received for a generator for the new school. Language in the deed was added to reflect this.

9. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda)

- A. Revised 2009-2010 School Calendar.

Elaine Tomaszewski stated there were two changes to the adopted 2009-2010 calendar. One was the addition of October 7th as a half-day for Pownal and the reduction of a Professional Day (June 10th) for Pownal.

10. POLICY REVIEW:

- A. 09-Packet #1 was distributed for policy book update.

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

- A. Policy: Kristen Dorsey reported the committee met on June 5th to review feedback and finalize packets for board consideration. Policy BE regarding Board of Directors meetings was discussed in depth and considered the possibility of moving the RSU Board meetings to Mondays. Feedback from the nurses regarding proposed medical policies was also reviewed and changes were made to reflect their recommendations. The policy committee decided to prepare Policy binders for Board members with copies available on-line. Packet 09-3 will have a First Read and Packet 09-2 for adoption at the June 24th Board meeting.

Board members provided input on changing the meeting day to Mondays. The meeting day for Board meetings will continue on Wednesdays with a time change to 7:00 P.M. starting in July. This change will begin in July.

- B. Communications: Kristen Dorsey reported the committee met on June 1st to review feedback on the lists of people who will be invited to attend the Future Search Conference. The Committee decided to stay with the dates of August 27, 28, and 29. A component of the conference is learning more about the 21st century skills students will need for their future. The Board received a list of attendees. Board members are invited to the conference.

Beth Parker stated her concern with the list of attendees. Beth believes the list is heavy on elementary and there are not enough Middle and High School attendees.

Budget information will continue to be updated on the website. A pilot live audio cast of the June 16th meeting was proposed. The Committee would like a volunteer web designer to attend their next meeting on June 15th as we start to transition to a new website for the RSU. The initial plan is to stay with Drupal as the platform. A survey for parents regarding on-line communication will be developed.

The Committee will make signs at their June 15th meeting to get the word out about the June 16th Annual Budget meeting and the June 25th BVR.

- C. Finance: John Morang reported the committee met on June 1st to further discuss the 2009-2010 budget and process. The Durham construction warrant process was also reviewed. It will be the Finance Committee's responsibility to sign the warrants. The letter from Bath Savings was reviewed with an adjustment to the target balance. Bath Savings will be the bank of record for the RSU. The Committee also discussed entering into an agreement with Maine School Management for Unemployment Compensation and approving a participating local district under Maine PERS for 8 employees currently working in Durham.
- D. Negotiations: Laurie Poissonnier reported negotiations are still in process. The goal is to have all negotiations completed before the start of the school year.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. **Voted: (6)** To enter into Executive Session as outlined in M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A) for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue. (Dube – Morang) (9 – 0)

Time In: 7:30 P.M. Time Out: 8:35 P.M.

13. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. **Voted: (7)** To accept the nomination for a 2nd Year Probationary Teacher and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to issue a contract for the 2009-2010 school year. (Dube – McKechnie) (9 – 0)

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. **Voted: (8)** To enter into Executive Session as outlined in M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A) for the purpose of discussing employment of Administrators. (Morang – Dube) (9 – 0)

Time In: 8:36 P.M. Time Out: 10:16 P.M.

15. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. **Voted: (9)** To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to issue Administrator contracts as discussed in Executive Session. (Morang – Parker) (9 – 0)

16. ADJOURNMENT:

Voted: (10) To adjourn at 10:20 P.M. (McKechnie – Dube) (9 – 0)

Shannon L. Welsh
Superintendent of Schools