

Special RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2009 – 7:00 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 May 27, 2009 meeting).

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cori Holt

CALLED TO ORDER:

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

3. WORKSHOP:

The RSU No. 5 Board of Directors hosted a joint meeting of municipal and current school officials with Commissioner of Education Susan Gendron. The purpose of the meeting was to search for a resolution to the current budget challenges facing the RSU. Following an in-depth discussion of options and legal implications, Chair Laurie Poissonnier summarized the following next steps as a result of these discussions:

- The RSU Board will move forward on budget deliberations to have an approved budget prior to July 1. The RSU Board will review the budget in detail at their upcoming meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Freeport High School cafeteria.
- The Commissioner will investigate drafting special emergency legislation authorizing the use of Pownal's 2009 state valuation for Pownal by effectively smoothing the one-year spike in valuation. Dick Spencer, attorney with Drummond Woodsum, noted that there is precedent for the legislature approving this request.
- The M.S.A.D. #62 Board of Directors and the Freeport Town Council will consider meeting to discuss the possible waiver on the tuition premium currently paid for students tuitioned to Freeport High School.
- The RSU Board may consider the assistance in the form of a State-funded facilitator to help the RSU Board look at the cost sharing and debt sharing agreements to obtain updated and projected data. The RSU No. 5 Board of Directors may consider whether to renegotiate the cost sharing or debt sharing agreement approved in the Reorganization Plan.
- The legislature will consider release of penalty funds following the referendum vote in November on consideration of repeal of the consolidation law.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Voted: (1) To adjourn at 10:45 P.M. (Peters – Dorsey) (10 – 0)

Shannon L. Welsh
Superintendent of Schools