

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 29, 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 May 13, 2009 meeting).

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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 April 15, 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors as presented. (Morang – Holt) (11 – 0)

Jennifer Kaplan requested that in the future the names of all people making public comments be listed on the minutes.

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Superintendent Welsh informed the Board and members of the public Commissioner Gendron was in the process of closing a school due to H1N1 (swine influenza). Jim Rier, Policy and Finance Specialist with the Department of Education attended in the Commissioner's absence.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

A. Proposed 2009-2010 School Calendar and process. Superintendent Welsh presented the proposed 2009-2010 school calendar. By law, the Board is required to adopt a school calendar annually by the end of May. Elaine Tomaszewski explained in crafting the calendar we were cognizant of existing practices in each district such as early release, late start, professional development and professional compensation time. The proposed start date for 2009-2010 is scheduled before Labor Day. The proposed calendar is posted on the RSU5 website and feedback can be sent to calendarfeedback@rsu5.org.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Residents from the three communities spoke about the proposed FY'10 Budget and its potential tax impact, the consolidation law, possible options to slow down the process or disband the RSU, and the lack of assistance from the State.

Durham residents: Lois Kilby-Chesley, Jane Rice

Freeport residents: John Jaques, Joe Migliaccio, Gerry Kennedy, Genie Beaulieu

Pownal residents: Scott Kaplan, Lynn White, Allan Bradstreet, Ron Newell, Brewster Staples, Michael Morin, Tom Hall, Rodney Richard, Justin Nichols, Sherry Dietrich, Cliff Ruprecht, Linda Simmons, Heather Camp, Carol Raymond

Legislative representatives David Webster, Susan Austin, and David Van Wie also made comments.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Review Budget FY'10

Jim Rier, Policy and Finance Specialist with the Department of Education attended the meeting representing the Commissioner of Education. Mr. Rier encouraged the Board to keep moving forward with the work that needs to be done - to have a legally functioning system in place on July 1st. It was explained there are no provisions in the law to disband the RSU. The legislature can't make changes to the consolidation law due to the November referendum. The penalties to districts that did not consolidate have been removed from their subsidy. If the law is repealed in November there will not be penalty money available for the districts that followed the law and consolidated. At this time, no decision has been made on the timing or distribution of the penalty funds. Mr. Rier explained the annual budget meeting and Budget Validation Referendum voting process.

Rep. David Webster explained due to the referendum in November the legislature's hands are tied. Rep. Webster had a conversation with Commissioner Gendron regarding the RSU's cost sharing formula. The Commissioner explained to Rep. Webster if the three towns are willing to petition her to reopen the cost sharing formula she has the authority to do so. Rep. Webster is working with the Commissioner and Governor's office to help find money to assist the RSU with this difficult situation.

Due to the late hour the Board was not able to review the budget Article by Article as planned. This will take place at the May 13th meeting. Board members spoke about areas in the budget they might be comfortable reducing. A conversation regarding the laptops also needs to take place. Board members provided direction to Administration regarding information needed for the May 13th meeting and next steps. These include requesting additional aid from the State, further investigation into both the laptop and 21st Century Skills initiatives and further budget reductions.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Voted (2) To table action on job descriptions for the following positions:

1. Director of Finance and Human Resources
2. Accounts Payable Coordinator
3. Payroll/Bookkeeper
4. Human Resources Coordinator
5. Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools

(Kaplan – McKechnie) (11 – 0)

9. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda)

- A. FY'10 Revised Budget Schedule

10. Policy Review

- A. Policies 09 Packet #2 were distributed for review with plans for 1st Read on May 27, 2009 and Final Adoption on June 24, 2009.
- B. 1st Read on the Following Policies: 09 Packet #1
 - 1. AC Non Discrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
 - 2. ACA Non-Sexist Language
 - 3. ACAA Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
 - 4. ACAA-R Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure
 - 5. ACAB Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees
 - 6. ACAB-R Employee Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure
 - 7. ACAD Hazing
 - 8. ADA School System Goals and Objectives
 - 9. ADAA School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior
 - 10. ADC Tobacco Use and Possession
 - 11. ADF School District Commitment to Learning Results
 - 12. AEC Accountability Reporting to the Public
 - 13. BCE Board Committees (Finance)
 - 14. BCF Advisory Committees to the Board
 - 15. DI Fiscal Reporting

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

- A. Communications: Betsy Peters reported the committee met on April 27th to continue planning for the Future Search. The Committee is working on finalizing the list of people to invite. The next meeting will be held on May 4th from 7:00-9:00AM with the first hour dedicated to Future Search work and the second hour on the communications plan.
- B. Finance: John Morang reported the committee met on April 21st to discuss where the budget is headed and the impact on Pownal. Additional revenue sources were also discussed. The committee will meet again on May 7th.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Voted: (3) To adjourn at 10:49 P.M. (McKechnie – Parker) (11 – 0)

Shannon L. Welsh
Superintendent of Schools