

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 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 April 29, 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 6:34 P.M.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A. VOTED: (1) To approve the Minutes of March 25, 2009, March 28, 2009 and April 8, 2009 meetings of the Board of Directors as presented. (Holt – Peters) (10 – 0)

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

None

5. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

A. District Organizational Structure Update: Superintendent Welsh reported on the business transition plan being worked on to ensure the RSU is a legal entity on the official start date of July 1, 2009. Job descriptions and evaluations will be created for each position in the organization. Work has been begun in this area with Directors and Central Office Support staff. The goal is to recommend the Central Office job descriptions to the Board at the April 29th meeting. The job descriptions will then be used for development of evaluations.

B. Department of Education Consolidation Planning Grant Update: Superintendent Welsh reported on work being done through an Education Planning Grant from the Department of Education for the purpose of creating a unified system. We are in the planning stages of initiatives. The Communications Sub-Committee is responsible for planning a Future Search discussion involving 60-70 people in the creation of a shared vision for the RSU. The second initiative focuses on curriculum and professional development. Elaine Tomaszewski is working to organize and implement those efforts. Elaine reported we plan to engage the services of Heidi McGinley and possibly one additional facilitator to assist in moving the RSU to a unified system of high expectations for all. It is anticipated the work will be completed in three phases. The three phases are data collection, analysis of data to identify key issues, and the third is to develop a district curriculum team.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR INTERIM BUDGET:

A. RSU No. 5 Financial Statement April 7, 2009

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Scott Kaplan, Pownal resident, thanked the video staff for taping the meetings. Mr. Kaplan requested the Board stop working to reduce the budget and instead look at the organizational structure. Mr. Kaplan believes consolidation in this manner will not work and the law is too restrictive. He suggested the Board look at options (AOS) to be implemented immediately.

Board member Jennifer Kaplan read an e-mail she received from Mary Ann Hodson a Pownal resident.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Review Budget FY'10

Additional budget information was provided to the Board as requested at the April 8th meeting. Administrators met and worked together to come up with a reduction of \$570,808 to the budget. In addition to cuts to the budget we are looking at curtailment funds, penalty funds and grant funding. Legal council is reviewing the option of changing the cost sharing formula through a referendum. Commissioner Gendron has been asked to attend the April 29th Board meeting to help us understand what our options are to work ourselves out of this situation. Several Board members and citizens expressed concern about the tax impact on Pownal and also their concerns about cuts to the budget.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Voted (2)** To waive the requirement of competitive bidding of insurance for the policy period beginning July 1, 2009 due to an inability to meet certain statutory deadlines established for the bidding process as a result of a restricted consolidation timeline, which therefore creates an emergency as defined in 20-A M.R.S. Section 1001(14) that requires the immediate procurement of insurance. (Morang – Dube) (10 – 0)
- B. **Voted (3)** To authorize RSU No. 5 to enter into a trust agreement, between the Maine School Management Association Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund and RSU No. 5 dated 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 Association on behalf of RSU No. 5. (Morang – Kaplan) (10 – 0)
- C. **Voted (4)** To authorize the purchase of Advanced Data Systems financial software and related services for RSU No. 5. (Morang – Kaplan) (10 – 0)

10. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda)

None

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

- A. Communications: Betsy Peters reported the committee met on April 6th and 13th. Good progress is being made on the goal of transparency. We have moved to using students to video the Board meetings with the goal of investing in a technology club for students to become more involved. The committee is in the beginning planning stage for the Future Search scheduled for June 18th, 19th and 20th.
- B. Finance: John Morang reported the committee met on April 9th to consider areas for action for the RSU. The RSU has successfully attained an Employer Identification Number. Property and casualty, school board liability and workers compensation insurance was discussed including a request to waive the requirement for competitive bidding. Also discussed entering into an agreement with MSMA to become a member of their unemployment pool. A financial software system was also discussed.
- C. Policy: Cori Holt reported the committee met on April 10th to review packet 09-1, no feedback was received. Packet 09-1 will go to the Board on April 29th for a 1st read. The committee also reviewed packet 09-2. Packet 09-2 will be distributed on April 29th for feedback.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Voted: (5) To adjourn at 9:00 P.M. (Kaplan – Morang) (10 – 0)

Shannon L. Welsh
Superintendent of Schools