

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 25, 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 March 11, 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 6:40 P.M.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A. VOTED: (1) To approve the Minutes of January 29, 2009 and February 4, 2009 meetings of the Board of Directors as presented. (Morang – Parker) (11 – 0)

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

9.A.2. New Sub-Committee - Search Committee for Superintendent.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

A. Business services and Technology: Superintendent Welsh provided an update on meetings that have taken place regarding business services and technology. Technology representatives and Superintendents from the three communities met on February 24, 2009 to discuss technology systems, software, technology plans and needs. Common goals and threads in each community include: teaching technology skills through content based learning; focused support for integration of technology; and connectivity – bringing the schools to the world. The three communities have similar systems approaches to labs, cows (computers on wheels), electronic gradebook, e-mail and websites.

The Business Managers and Superintendents met recently to discuss district needs before July 1, 2009. They agreed on assigned work for each Business Manager and established deadlines. Examples of financial related work to be completed include selection of a financial software system; transfer of deeds to the RSU; transfer of Durham's construction contracts; and retirement system/social security related issues. Mid-term needs include changing of name and address; closing funds and establishing new accounts; and budget work. The State will provide \$25,000 for training and conversion for a financial software system.

The Finance Sub-Committee met on February 12, 2009 and elected John Morang as Chair of the committee. The Finance Sub-Committee has oversight responsibility for finance operations of the RSU. Administrators will make recommendations to the committee for their consideration and recommendation to the full Board. At their first meeting, they considered financial policies to recommend to the Policy Committee and reviewed information related to the proposed bus contract with Bo-Mar. The decision was made to recommend the Bo-Mar bus contract to the full Board for approval.

On February 23, 2009 a meeting with the Commissioner of Education was held. The discussion centered around penalty money and how it might be distributed. The stimulus package and recommendations for use of the funds were also discussed.

- B. Educational component and Special Services: Superintendent Tomaszewski provided an update on the February 10, 2009 meeting with Bob Strong, Freeport High School Principal, Superintendent Tomaszewski and Superintendent Welsh. The meeting centered around what educational enhancements could be put in place at the high school level as we consolidate. The Program of Studies, enrollments, scheduling, Professional Learning Communities, student supports, Virtual High School and advance placement were reviewed and discussed. Virtual High School is a wonderful opportunity for students with over 300 online courses available. Administration has been directed to continue to work to bring about Virtual High School as well as a credit recovery program.

Joan Nason, Freeport Special Services Director, Superintendent Tomaszewski, Superintendent Welsh and Will Pidden, Durham Elementary Principal, met on February 9, 2009 to discuss Pre-K to eighth grade special education. Specific areas included what currently exists, staffing, schedules, contracted services and services that are currently provided. Immediate needs were identified. We provide a range of services in all three districts. Similarities exist in philosophies as well. Next steps will be to meet again to discuss services for high school students.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Lois Kilby-Chesley, Durham resident, spoke about her concerns with the make up of the hiring committee for the Superintendent. Ms. Kilby-Chesley also requested clarification that the contract with Bo-Mar Transportation is for Durham students. She also inquired about administrator contracts under Executive Session action. Ms. Kilby-Chesley also publicly thanked Representative Michaud, Representative Pingree, Senator Collins and Senator Snowe for helping to bring money into the district that will protect the jobs of educators.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Voted: (2)** To enter into a contract with Bo-Mar Transportation for student transportation for FY'10. (Morang – McKechnie) (11 – 0)

John Sloan, President of Bo-Mar Transportation, Inc. answered questions.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

Chairperson Poissonnier updated the Board on the Superintendent hiring process. The Board Chair and Vice-Chair selected community and staff members from each town to serve on the Search Committee. Committee members attended a training session with Dale Douglass of Maine School Management on February 24, 2008. Surveys were compiled and the top four qualities were identified. The search committee is in the process of developing interview questions. Interviews will be held on March 4, 2009 with a vote by the full Board on March 11, 2009. The search committee will use majority votes and the Board weighted votes.

9. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda)

- A. New Sub-Committees
 - 1. Communications
 - 2. Superintendent Search

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

The Communications Sub-Committee met to discuss how to effectively communicate with the RSU community. They identified short- and long-term goals for the RSU website and general public relations efforts. The committee will meet again with Superintendent Tomaszewski and Superintendent Welsh present. The committee will then bring recommendations to the full Board.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. **Voted: (3)** To enter into Executive Session as outlined in M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A) for the purpose of discussing employment of administrators. (Parker – Morang) (11 – 0)

Time In: 8:10 P.M.

Time Out: 9:12 P.M.

12. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. **Voted: (4)** To authorize the issuance by RSU No. 5 Board Chair of administrator contracts as discussed in Executive Session. (Dube – Holt) (11 – 0)

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Voted: (5) To adjourn at 9:14 P.M. (Holt – McKechnie) (11 – 0)

Shannon L. Welsh
Interim Secretary