

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, January 29, 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 February 25, 2009 meeting).

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Elizabeth Peters (excused)

CALLED TO ORDER:

Interim Secretary Shannon Welsh called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS:

1. Drawing of lots: Kristen Dorsey – 1 Year Term
Eric Dube – 3 Year Term
Cori Holt – 2 Year Term
Jennifer Kaplan – 2 Year Term
Brenda Kielty – 1 Year Term
Nelson Larkins – 2 Year Term
Melinda McKechnie – 3 Year Term
John Morang – 3 Year Term
Beth Parker – 2 Year Term
Laurie Poissonnier – 1 Year Term
Elizabeth Peters – 3 Year Term
2. **Voted: (1)** To appoint Laurie Poissonnier as Interim Chairperson for RSU No. 5 Board of Directors. (Holt – McKechnie) (6 – 0 – 4 Kaplan, Larkins, Morang, Parker)
3. **Voted: (2)** To appoint John Morang as Interim Vice-Chairperson for RSU No. 5 Board of Directors. (Poissonnier – Dorsey) (9 – 0 – 1 Morang)

ADJUSTMENT TO THE AGENDA:

Informational Discussion Item (RSU Board Orientation) taken out of order – Chris Leighton, Freeport School Committee Chair gave a brief overview of the Board orientation material. Chris highlighted increasing high school enrollments and working towards becoming a high performing school system.

REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATORS:

Principal Bob Strong and Assistant Principal Christine L'Abbé gave a general overview of Freeport High School including enrollments, Visual and Performing Arts programs, Guidance Department and the Mentor Program.

Principal Kathie Marquis-Girard gave a general overview of Freeport Middle School including enrollments, NELMS Spotlight School, and the staff being a strength.

Teaching Principals Holly Couturier and Beth Willhoite spoke about enrollments, the unique layout of the Mast Landing School, and programming.

Principal Cheryl White talked about programs at Morse Street School including the daycare program, nursery school, Before and After Care, Special Education Pre-School Program, high school student volunteers and the veteran staff.

Principal Peter Buckley spoke about Pownal Elementary School being the center of the community, parents visiting frequently, and the Gifted and Talented Program.

Principal William Pidden spoke about enrollments at Durham Elementary School, the new elementary school being built which everyone is excited about, first year of a three year grant from Maine Math and Science (science being a strength at the school), NWEA and using data to drive instruction, and the electronic grade book.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Voted: (3)** To appoint members to the following interim Sub-committees.
(Kaplan – Larkins) (10 – 0)
 - A. Policy – Kristen Dorsey, Cori Holt, Melinda McKechnie
 - B. Finance – Jennifer Kaplan, Eric Dube, John Morang
 - C. Negotiations:
 - Professional- Nelson Larkins, Laurie Poissonnier
 - Support – Beth Parker, Brenda Kielty
2. **Voted: (4)** To appoint Drummond Woodsum as interim School Attorney for RSU No. 5
(Morang – Parker) (10 – 0)
3. **Voted: (5)** To establish cost sharing of the interim budget approved by voters in the Reorganization Plan in the following manner: Freeport 50% with an assessment of \$37,137.50; Durham 30% with an assessment of \$22,283.50; and M.S.A.D. No. 62 with an assessment of \$14,855 and to authorize the fiscal agent to assess each town for the designated amount (Kaplan – McKechnie) (10 – 0)
4. **Voted: (6)** To designate Freeport Public Schools as fiscal agent for the interim period.
(Morang – Kaplan) (10 – 0)

INFORMATIONAL DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Board Orientation – Superintendent Tomaszewski mentioned a Board orientation through Maine School Management Association as a first step. The need for further information can then be determined.

DOE Grant – Vision for RSU No. 5 – Superintendent Tomaszewski informed the Board the Department of Education is making available to RSU's non-competitive grants of \$5,000 for educational planning and the services of a facilitator for up to 18 months. The work is not limited to curriculum. A straw poll of the Board was taken, all members indicated they were in favor of pursuing the grant.

Selection of Superintendent – Superintendent Tomaszewski reviewed the first action the new Board needs to take which is to select a Superintendent, either an interim to serve until July 1, 2009 or a permanent to serve immediately (as interim) and carry into the district July 1, 2009 as permanent Superintendent.

Voted: (7) To appoint a Sub-committee to research internal v. external superintendent selection process and to report back to the Board at the next meeting.
(Kaplan – Poissonnier) (9 – 0 – 1 Dube)

Voted: (8) To appoint Cori Holt, Jennifer Kaplan and Beth Parker to serve on the superintendent selection process sub-committee. (Morang – Dube) (10 – 0)

FY-10 Budget Process – Superintendent Welsh reviewed the proposed process for developing the RSU No. 5 2009-2010 budget. Durham, Freeport and Pownal School Committees will work on their budgets separately. In late February/early March the three budgets will be merged into one for Board review. A proposed timeframe for the budget process was reviewed and will be finalized at the next meeting.

Schedule of Meetings – Superintendent Welsh reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for the Board. The proposal is to meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month until July 1, 2009. Meetings will be held at the Freeport High School Library at 6:30 P.M. and will be taped for later broadcast in each town. The proposed schedule was reviewed and will be finalized at the next meeting.

Required work and suggested timeline – Superintendent Welsh reviewed the work needed to be done to build a strong organization. Much of the work will be done by employees who will then bring recommendations to the Board for action. Meetings with directors have already begun.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Public Comments – None
2. Board:

Nelson Larkins spoke about the importance of communications and the need for a RSU No. 5 website; the need for an Education Sub-committee; and what financial benefits RSU No. 5 could see from the penalties from the districts that didn't consolidate.

Kristen Dorsey mentioned the need to publicize meetings. She suggested sending the Board agendas out through school newsletters and parent e-mail lists.

Eric Dube asked about legislative action on cuts to school funding.

ADJOURNMENT:

Voted: (9) To adjourn at 9:14 P.M. (Morang – Holt) (10 – 0)

Shannon L. Welsh
Interim Secretary