

**RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 27, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.
Freeport High School - Cafeteria
Meeting 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 October 11, 2023 meeting).

1. CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Michelle Ritcheson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

- 2. MEMBERS PRESENT:** Colin Cheney, Candace deCsipkes, Malik Farlow, Danielle George, Susana Hancock, Kara Kaikini, Elisabeth Munsen (arrived at 7:20 p.m.), Maura Pillsbury, Michelle Ritcheson, Kelly Sink, Madelyn Vertenten
MEMBERS ABSENT: There was no Student Representative in attendance.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

VOTED: To approve the Minutes of September 13, 2023. (Sink – Hancock) (10 – 0)

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Move Item #14.A. to after Item #7

6. GOOD NEWS AND RECOGNITION:

A. Report from Board's Student Representative - No report

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Durham - Mary Pennington, Emily Moker, Nathan Leger, Phyllis Brannon, Anthony Pringle, Jill Gastonguay, Alyssa O'Brien, Michelle Allen, Melanie Wyman, Matt Tiffany, Claire Ross, Chris Pulk, Adam Stone, Jessica Conley

Freeport - Ben Jensen, Karen Breer, Evergreen Johnson, Jonas Werner, Jackie Priestly, Brenda Laverdiere, Ben Crawford, Mitch Rouda, Val Maxwell, Shondra Jin Robbins, Sarah Doten, Nicky Heart, Samantha Miles, Hugh Bowen, Joe Migliaccio

Pownal - Melissa Schulz, Kate Sansom, Todd Mellins, Rita Thacker, Mary Todd, Orion Breen

Other - Rev. Sean Patrick Coady (Portland), Jennifer Curran (Falmouth), Nick ? (Portland)

14. PERSONNEL:

VOTED: To employ Emma Everett as a 3rd Grade Teacher at Pownal Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year. (Sink – Vertenten) (11 – 0)

8. REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT:

A. Items for Information

1. School Properties Disposition

9. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

A. Finance - Kelly Wentworth

B. Update from Morse Street School and Goal Review - Julie Nickerson

10. BOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Board Information Exchange and Agenda Requests:

- Kelly Sink provided a Meetinghouse Arts update. There will be an exhibition open to the public on Oct. 20th. They will also have a workshop for teachers on Oct 23rd.
- Susana Hancock gave an update on the Cable TV position. The board makes a recommendation to the town for appointment.
- Michelle Ritcheson attended a round table discussion hosted by MSMA that included the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Education along with several Board Chairs regarding the Office of New Americans and what they could provide. There will be another discussion in October with area superintendents.
- Maura Pillsbury requested an update regarding the literacy curriculum.
- Colin Cheney requested an update regarding drug use in schools and what is being done to address the issue. He also requested hearing about AI and ChatGPT and the impact on education.

B. Finance Committee

C. Policy Committee

11. POLICY REVIEW:

- A. VOTED:** To approve 1st read of Policy ACAAA - Transgender and Gender Expansive Students. (Pillsbury – Sink) (11 – 0)

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion of the MSBA 2023 Proposed Resolutions - This item was Tabled**
- B. MSMA Fall Conference Information - This item was Tabled**

15. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Durham - Adam Stone

16. ADJOURNMENT:

VOTED: To adjourn at 10:34 p.m. (Hancock – deCsipkes) (11 – 0)


Jean M. Skorapa, Superintendent of Schools