

RSU #63 Board Meeting
Date: October 28, 2024
Location: Eddington Elementary School
Minutes

RSU 63 Board Member(s) Present:

Town of Holden: Amy Hart, Heather Lander, Derrick Robertson and Cherie Faulkner

Town of Clifton: Linda Graban

Town of Eddington: Rachel Downs, Heather Grass, and Brittany Wood

Linda Graban, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm followed by the flag salute and moment of silence.

Motion by Cherie Faulkner with a second by Rachel Downs to approve the minutes for the September 23, 2024 Board Meeting.

Discussion: None

Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed; 1 Abstained

Motion by Cherie Faulkner with a second by Heather Lander to approve the minutes for the October 11, 2024 Special Board Meeting.

Discussion: None

Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed; 1 Abstained

Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff, and Other: Heather Lander recognized the Holden Garden Club for winning First Place at the Blue Hill Fair for their pumpkin and squash.

Acceptance of Gifts and Donations: Linda Graban, Board Chair, thanked an anonymous parent of a former student for their donation of school supplies to the Eddington Elementary School. The Holden Elementary School received backpacks from the Charleston Church and \$200.00 for supplies for teachers from the Penobscot County Retired Teachers Association. And Cherie Faulkner donated a volleyball net to the Holbrook Middle School. And lastly, added to the agenda is a donation of \$1,000.00 from Al Benner Homes for a playground remodel and update at the Holbrook Middle School.

Motion by Cherie Faulkner with a second by Heather Grass to accept the gifts and donations.

Discussion: Cherie Faulkner wanted to acknowledge Heather Lander for facilitating the donation from Al Benner Homes to Holbrook Middle School.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Presentation: Kristina Dumond, Curriculum Director, presented an overview of the 4th Grade Curriculum at Holden Elementary School.

Questions and Comments from the Public: Gracey Malm, Holden resident, shared her concerns about the disconnect between Staff, Administrators, and the School Board. Specifically, she is concerned that there is a barrier between Staff and the Board due to the chain of command. In addition, she brought up that the start of 2024-2025 School Year was difficult due to schedule changes over the summer that did not work for Special Education or reading and math support teachers. She also expressed concern over the amount of testing in the first month of school and the impact it was having on the students and teachers. She posed the following questions to the board: what will the accuracy of the test scores and how much instructional time are we willing to lose for testing? She encouraged the Board to reach out to teachers to understand the morale of the staff and student behavior.

Susan Dunham Shane, Eddington resident, stated that she appreciated Ms. Malm's comments and believes that the Board should shadow school staff for a day to obtain first hand perspective. She also had questions regarding when the new consolidation section of the website would be updated with more information. Emilee Robertson, Holden resident, also brought up concerns regarding the school consolidation. Aimee Cyr, Holden resident, expressed concerns regarding the school consolidation, stating that the small schools were a big reason for her family's move

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to Holden. And lastly, Benjamin Breadmore, Holden Town Manager, reiterated that there is a 20% decline in enrollment in all three (3) schools and that there is even an empty hallway in the Holbrook School this year. He expressed his thanks to the Board for undertaking this issue.

Dates of Next Committee Meetings:

1. **Board Workshop:** November 4, 2024 at 6:30pm, Holbrook Middle School
2. **Board Meeting:** November 25, 2024 at 6:30pm, Holbrook Middle School
There was a short discussion regarding moving the Board Meeting to November 18, 2024, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, but the Board agreed to maintain the November 25, 2024 Meeting date.
3. **Budget and Finance Committee:** November 25, 2024 at 5:30pm, Holbrook Middle School
4. **Policy Committee:** November 13, 2024 at 3:15pm, Holbrook Middle School
5. **Curriculum Committee:** December 9, 2024 at 5:00pm, Holbrook Middle School

Budget and Finance: There was nothing to add to the reports.

Superintendent's Report: There was nothing to add to the report.

Acceptance of Reports: Motion by Amy Hart with a second by Heather Grass to accept the written and verbal Committees', Administrators, and Superintendent's Report.

Discussion: Cherie Faulkner requested more information regarding the MTSS Handbook referenced in the Curriculum Director's Report. Kristina Dumond, Curriculum Director, explained that it is the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, which is a requirement by the Maine Department of Education and includes academics, as well as behavior. A discussion regarding the new iReady program and the testing required in its first year ensued and Mrs. Dumond explained the testing is recommended in order to gather data to be able to identify and pinpoint each students' strengths/weaknesses so we can close gaps to help every student succeed. Gathering/using data and instruction go together. The next round of testing will begin at the end of the trimester for benchmark reading assessments. Mrs. Dumond also explained that the Curriculum Team already is planning to look at the timing of assessments and making adjustments. She will also, per board request, get feedback from other districts that use the HMH reading program and the iReady math program.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Old Business:

School Consolidation Update: Linda Graban, Board Chair, read a letter to the public regarding the school consolidation project. She gave a brief overview of the process that is required by the Maine Department of Education, as well as introducing a new section of the website which will provide the public with up-to-date information regarding the process and the research and data that is collected.

New Business:

Approval of Gloria MacKenzie Foundation Grant:

Motion by Derick Robertson with a second by Cherie Faulkner to approve the acceptance of the Gloria MacKenzie Foundation Grant.

Discussion: Cherie Faulkner provided a brief overview of the grant, which was awarded in order to the upgrade the entrance of the Holbrook Middle School. This grant will assist the District with converting the front of the school back into the main entrance to the building, and will insure security and ADA compliance.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Personnel Actions

Resignations/Retirements: Linda Thompson, Ed Tech III at Eddington Elementary School.

Elections: None

Appointments: Ryan Cahill, Ed Tech I at Holbrook Middle School; Jeffrey McClure, Custodian at Eddington Elementary School; Olga Connor, Ed Tech I at Eddington Elementary School; Keith Wheaton, Bus Driver; and Shelley Wyman, Data and Communication Specialist.

Reassignments: None.

Searches: Special Education Teacher, Eddington School; MTSS Teacher; Speech Language Pathologist; Boys Basketball Coach (A Team); Boys Basketball Coach (B Team); Cheer Coach; and Bus Drivers.

Michele Archambault noted that Boys Basketball Coach (A Team) was filled today. In addition, the District received a Cheerleading Coach application today.

Adjournment: At 7:17pm, motion by Heather Grass with a second by Cherie Faulkner to adjourn the meeting.

Discussion: None

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Respectfully submitted by,

Jared Fulgoni
RSU 63 Superintendent of Schools