

RSU #63 Bond Hearing and Special Board Meeting

Date: October 13, 2020

Location: Holbrook Middle School and Remotely

Minutes

Remote Dial In Phone Number: 1-414-909-2329 PIN: 426922820

Superintendent Smith began the School Renovation Revolving Fund (SRRF) Bond hearing at 6:00pm. All members of the public were provided a copy of the RSU 63 Indoor Air Quality power point outlining the need for indoor air quality improvements at all three schools. Discussion took place.

Chair, John Hutchins called the Special Board meeting to order at 6:40pm.

**RSU 63 Board Member(s) Present:**

*Town of Holden:* John Hutchins, Heather Charity, and Holly Whitmore

*Town of Clifton:* Linda Graban

*Town of Eddington:* Steve Carr and Robin James

**RSU 63 Board Member Remote:**

*Town of Holden:* Cherie Faulkner 6:51pm

**RSU 63 Board Member Excused Absent:**

*Town of Eddington:* Charles Barker, Jr.

A flag salute was conducted and a moment of silence was observed.

Motion by Steve Carr with a second by Heather Charity to approve the amended minutes for the September 14, 2020 Special Board Meeting.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff, and Others:** Superintendent Smith thanked the teachers, administrators, and staff for continuing to work hard and problem solve.

**Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:** Superintendent Smith thanked the members of the Holden Police Department for their donation of paper cups for our students. Superintendent Smith thanked the members of the public who have donated water bottles and tissues.

**Presentation:** Superintendent Smith gave an overview of the BIRCH (Building Interpersonal Resilience and Community Health) Project with UMaine and the National Institute of Health to support the well-being of middle and high school students. A handout was provided to the Board members. Rebecca Schwartz-Mette, Ph.D. is the Director of the BIRCH Project. She has worked with RSU 63 in the past implementing the FRIENDS program. The BIRCH Project is a two-phase project. The first phase involves research to better understand how to build adolescent resilience and enhance well-being. The second phase takes the research for development of prevention and intervention efforts to support the health of students. Superintendent Smith showed the video that will go out to Holbrook families. Ashley Allen, Holbrook Middle School Principal added this is a particularly hard time for everyone, especially young adolescence and social media pressure. This project will help provide more support for students.

**Questions and Comments from the Board:** None

**Questions and Comments from the Public:** None

**Dates of Next Committee Meetings:**

1. Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 5:00pm, Holbrook Library
2. Board Meeting: Monday, October 26, 2020 at 6:30pm, Holbrook Middle School
3. Budget and Finance Committee: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 5:00pm, Holbrook Middle School

**Budget and Finance:** Nothing to add to the Budget and Finance Committee Minutes.

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**Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Smith added to her report that she and Mr. Hutchins met last week and felt rather than continue with two board meetings per month, it would be more productive to go back to the one meeting per month and add a remote community forum. The Board, Superintendent Smith, and administrators would hold topic specific conversations to collaborate ideas with members of the public. The Board agreed this would be helpful.

The Gloria C. MacKenzie Foundation will not reimburse the District for funds already spent on the Holden and Eddington Flashing lights unless we ask in writing. Superintendent Smith advised she sent a letter and their Board declined to reimburse us.

Eileen King from Maine School Management provided some new dates to reschedule the Board Workshop. The Board agreed Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6pm would be best.

**Acceptance of Reports:** Motion by Steve Carr with a second by Robin James to approve all written and verbal reports from Budget and Finance and the Superintendent.

**Roll Call Vote:** Steve Carr: Yes; Cherie Faulkner: Yes; Holly Whitmore: Yes; Linda Graban: Yes; Heather Charity: Yes; Robin James: Yes; John Hutchins: Yes

**Vote:** 7 Approved; 0 Opposed

### **Old Business:**

**Policy Committee:** John Hutchins reviewed the past Policy Committee membership and asked if anyone wanted to volunteer to join the committee now. Heather Charity stated she would like to continue with policy committee. Robin James and Cherie Faulkner volunteered. Mr. Hutchins advised a Policy Committee chair will need to be elected at the committee's first meeting. A date for the meeting will be determined with input from the committee members.

### **New Business:**

**Corona Relief Funds Part 2 (CRF2) Grant:** Superintendent Smith provided a budget sheet to Board members. Michael Revels has been hired as Technology Support and started last week. Gayle Middleton has been hired as Technology Integrator and will be starting soon. Custodians have been busy moving furniture to open up more learning spaces. We are looking at ways to create more outdoor learning spaces and technology equipment needed to provide better access. Non-wind musical instruments, bus driver training, secretarial support, fencing, and asbestos abatements and flooring are other projects for this grant funding. Superintendent Smith reviewed the guidelines and advised supplies and bills must be all paid prior to December 31, 2020. John Hutchins asked why more fencing was needed at the elementary schools. Superintendent Smith advised the back of the lots are wooded. Fencing would create a more secure areas for our young students. Cherie Faulkner asked what the outdoor learning spaces entailed. Superintendent Smith advised these would be temporary structures that can be used for learning. They are looking into different opinions to see what is available and what will be the best fit. Ms. Faulkner asked if they would utilized in the winter. Superintendent Smith advised as long as it is not bitter cold out. Cherie Faulkner asked if the tractors are not approved, will the work be contracted out. Superintendent Smith stated it was unclear if tractors would be approved. If not approved, we can rewrite the project and move funds elsewhere. Steve Carr stated since funds have to be spent by December 31<sup>st</sup>, a contractor may not be possible. Linda Graban asked if we had room to store three tractors. Superintendent Smith said yes.

**Parent Teacher Conferences:** Superintendent Smith advised she thought she was going to need to ask the Board for a calendar amendment. However, after much discussion, a solution has been found to help teachers with more planning time during parent teacher conference week. All conferences are being conducted remotely via secure links for parents.

**Superintendent Evaluation and Contract Negotiation Process:** John advised all Board members were given a Superintendent Evaluation Form. The forms need to be completed and brought to the Executive Session on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 5:30pm. The Board will average the forms together and have discussion. An offer will need to be made before the December Board meeting. Heather Charity asked if the survey had been sent to staff. Superintendent Smith advised George Cummings sent out the survey the Teachers Association created to all staff. A summary will be shared with the Board and Superintendent Smith. Heather Charity

asked why the Board was using an outdated evaluation form. Superintendent Smith advised this is the newest form created in 2018.

**Personnel Actions:**

**Appointments:** Krystal Baillargeon, Long Term COVID-19 Substitute at Eddington Elementary School; Gayle Middleton, Technology Integration Support; Michael Revel, Technology Support; and Quincy Hanzen, Long Term COVID-19 Substitute at Holbrook Middle School.

**Resignations:** Heather Grass, Substitute and David Randall, Long Term COVID-19 Substitute at Holbrook Middle School.

**Retirement:** None

**Reassignments:** Jacob Gould is being reassigned from Night Custodian at Eddington Elementary School to Van Driver.

**Elections:** None

**Searches:** Grade 7 ELA Teacher, Custodian at Eddington Elementary School, and Substitutes

**Questions and Comments from the Public:** John Williams, Clifton resident thanked the Board for their time and efforts in keeping the schools up and hopes they continue to stay in fair condition. He voiced his concern for investing money into the three schools and down the road combining to one school. Mr. Norman, Holden resident voiced his disapproval of the District not providing live remote instruction. A member of the public suggested Superintendent Smith consults with our attorneys to help with how to provide synchronized learning to remote students so they can receive the same instruction as the in-person students.

Superintendent Smith advised there are multiple factors that prohibit the synchronized instruction right now with staffing being one of them. She advised we have been shifting staff to best accommodate needs, but we need more substitutes. Cherie Faulkner asked if we can increase our substitute pay to help entice applicants. Superintendent Smith advised pay has not been the issue. Substitute pay will be discussed at the next Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

**Questions and Comments from the Board:** Holly Whitmore asked if students will receive full curriculum when they attend four days per week. Superintendent Smith advised they are still working on ways to incorporate the "specials", but students will receive the full curriculum. Heather Charity asked if the all remote option was still until after Thanksgiving. Superintendent Smith advised, we need to gather more information from families. Linda Graban asked how many students were all remote per school. Superintendent Smith advised Holbrook has 17; Holden and Eddington combined have 32. Linda Graban asked if the students were receiving live instruction. Superintendent Smith advised they receive some live instruction in the morning and some is available in the afternoon.

**Adjournment:** At 7:47pm, motion by Steve Carr with a second by Robin James to adjourn the meeting.

**Roll Call Vote:** Steve Carr: Yes; Cherie Faulkner: Yes; Holly Whitmore: Yes; Linda Graban: Yes; Heather Charity: Yes; Robin James: Yes; John Hutchins: Yes

**Vote:** 7 Approved; 0 Opposed

Respectfully submitted by,



Susan M. Smith

RSU #63 Superintendent/Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Approved: November 16, 2020