REGULAR MEETING OF RSU NO. 5 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WEDNESDAY– FEBRUARY 5, 2025
FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY
6:30 P.M. REGULAR SESSION
AGENDA

1. Call to Order:
   The meeting was called to order at _____p.m. by Chair Michelle Ritcheson

2. Attendance:

___Colin Cheney	___Kara Kaikini
___Anna Child	___Elisabeth Munsen
___Candace deCsipkes	___Maura Pillsbury
___Malik Farlow	___Michelle Ritcheson
___Cheyenne Farrell	___Kelly Sink
___Danielle George	___Moon Tussing, Student Representative
	___Phoebe Williamson, Student Representative

3. Pledge of Allegiance:

4. Consideration of Minutes:
   A. Consideration and approval of the Minutes of January 22, 2025 as presented barring any errors or omissions.

   Motion:_____2nd:_____Vote:_____

5. Adjustments to the Agenda:

6. Good News & Recognition:
   A. Report from Board's Student Representative (10 Minutes)

7. Public Comments: (10 Minutes)

8. Reports from Superintendent: (5 Minutes)
   A. Resignations: Rachel Medeiros, MSS Ed Tech

9. Administrator Reports:
   None

10. Board Comments and Committee Reports:
    None

11. Policy Review:
    None

12. Unfinished Business:
    A. Budget Review
        1. Morse Street School - Julie Nickerson (20 Minutes)
        2. Pownal Elementary School - Holly Johnson (20 Minutes)
        3. Mast Landing School - Emily Grimm (20 Minutes)
        4. Instructional Support - Elisha Morris (20 Minutes)
        5. Infrastructure Planning - Jean Skorapa (20 Minutes)

13. New Business:
    A. Consideration and approval of 1st Read of the 2025-2026 School Calendar. (15 Minutes)

    Motion:_____2nd:_____Vote:_____

14. Personnel:
    None

15. Public Comments: (10 Minutes)

16. Adjournment:

    Motion:_____2nd :_____Vote:_____Time:_____

Item #4.A.

RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 22, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.
Freeport High School - Library
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 February 5, 2024 meeting).

1. **CALLED TO ORDER:**
   Chair Michelle Ritcheson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Colin Cheney, Anna Child, Candace deCsipkes, Malik Farlow, Cheyenne Farrell, Danielle George, Kara Kaikini, Maura Pillsbury, Michelle Ritcheson, Kelly Sink and Phoebe Williamson, Student Representative
   MEMBERS ABSENT: Elisabeth Munsen

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

4. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**
   A. **VOTED:** To approve the Minutes of January 8, 2025. (Farrell – George) (10 – 0) The Student Representative voted with the majority.

5. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**
   None

6. **GOOD NEWS AND RECOGNITION:**
   A. Report from Board's Student Representative - Phoebe Williamson

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
   None

8. **REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT:**
   A. Superintendent's Report
   B. Resignations: Darby Steindorf - FHS Ed Tech
   C. Support Staff New Hires: Antonia Romasco - FMS Nutrition Assistant

9. **ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:**
   A. Finance - Kelly Wentworth

10. **BOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
    A. Board Information Exchange and Agenda Requests
       Maura Pillsbury mentioned information from the NEA on safe zones policies.
       Colin Cheney asked a question about the Stetson Scholarship. Colin also mentioned Region Ten opportunities with MMA and BIW.
       Malik Farlow reported that the DEI Committee identified groups to take part in the strategic planning process that will be shared with Great Schools Partnership.
    B. Finance Committee and Facilities and Operations Committee Joint Meetings
    C. Stipend Committee
    D. Policy Committee

11. POLICY REVIEW:

A. **VOTED:** To approve 2nd Read of the following policy. (Sink – Farlow) (10 – 0) The Student Representative voted with the majority.
   1. JIE - Pregnant Students (New)

B. **VOTED:** To approve 1st Read of the following policies (Pillsbury – Farrell) (10 – 0) The Student Representative voted with the majority.
   1. EEA - Student Transportation
   2. EEAEA - Student Transportation Employee Requirements, Training and Responsibilities
   3. GCOA - Supervision and Evaluation of Professional Staff

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. **VOTED:** To approve the following Stipend positions: (Sink – Farlow) (10 – 0) The Student Representative voted with the majority.
   1. Mast Landing School - Gaming Club (no budget impact)
   2. Freeport High School - Senior Project Coordinator (3rd position - no budget impact)

B. Presentation of the Superintendent's 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

14. PERSONNEL:

None

15. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

16. ADJOURNMENT:

VOTED: To adjourn at 7:51 p.m. (Sink – Kaikini) (10 – 0) The Student Representative voted with the majority.

Jean M. Skorapa

Jean M. Skorapa, Superintendent of Schools

FY 26 BUDGET: SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP PRESENTATION Item #2.A.1.

Building/Department: Morse Street School

What key issues and priorities are you trying to address in your proposed budget?
We do not have any additional requests this year. We are reducing two teachers due to low enrollment in two grades.

FY 26 Projected Enrollment / Class Size Ratio by Grade

Reflects 24-25 staffing levels

Grade	Students	Teachers	Class Size
Pre-k	64	2 (4 sessions)	16
K	75	5	15
1	71	5	14/15
2	79	5	15/16
Total	289	17	

Reflects 25-26 staffing levels with recommended reductions

Grade	Students	Teachers	Class Size
Pre-k	64	2 (4 sessions)	16
K	75	4	18/19
1	71	4	17/18
2	79	5	15/16
Total	289	15	

Staffing Adjustments to Budget in FY 25	Staffing Adjustments to Budget in FY 26
1 Academic Leadership Stipend - $2,355 (Reduction of one other stipend - $1,272) Budget Impact - $1,083	Staff Reduction: 1 Kindergarten Teacher 1 First grade Teacher

Other significant FY 26 requests in budget and need (Supplies, Equipment, etc).
None

Item # 12.A.2.

FY 26 BUDGET: SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP PRESENTATION

Building/Department: Pownal Elementary

What key issues and priorities are you trying to address in your proposed budget?

PES would like to add summer 2025 reading tutoring. This will be 5 week programming of 65 hours for a cost of $1,950. This programming has been previously paid for with grant money.

FY 26 Projected Enrollment / Class Size Ratio by Grade

Reflects 25-26 staffing levels

Grade	Students	Teachers	Class Size
PreK	12	.5	12
K	12	1	12
1	12	1	12
2	14	1	14
3	14	1	14
4	18	1	18
5	15	1	15
Total	97	6.5	97

Staffing Adjustments to Budget in FY 25	Staffing Adjustments to Budget in FY 26
None	None

Other significant FY 26 requests in budget and need (Supplies, Equipment, etc).
None

Item # 12.A.3.

FY 26 BUDGET: SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP PRESENTATION

Building/Department: Mast Landing School

What key issues and priorities are you trying to address in your proposed budget?

Our proposed budget reflects an intent to reduce expenditures while maintaining programming and the educational experience for students. Given the projected enrollment numbers, the current 3rd grade cohort will shift from being placed across five homerooms to being placed across four homerooms in grade 4 next year. This shift eliminated the need to fund the 1-year-only position this year that was funded from the reserve account.

Additionally, the proposed budget reduces staffing by one regular education educational technician. This position was created previously to serve as a bench sub and–when not pulled to cover staff vacancies–to provide academic support in collaboration with our literacy and math interventionists. Given that we have observed a notable increase in the number and quality of our substitute teachers in the district, the need for this position has lessened.

FY 26 Projected Enrollment / Class Size Ratio by Grade

Reflects 24-25 staffing levels

Grade	Students	Teachers	Class Size
3	89	5	17-18
4	84	5	16-17
5	101	5	20-21
Total	274	15	

Reflects 25-26 staffing levels with recommended reductions

Grade	Students	Teachers	Class Size
3	89	5	17-18
4	84	4	21
5	101	5	20-21
Total	274	14	

Staffing Adjustments to Budget in FY 25	Staffing Adjustments to Budget in FY 26
Assistant Principal (190 day contract) Teacher - Grade 4 Teacher - Grade 5 (1 Year Only funded by reserve account)	Elimination of one regular education educational technician position (32.5 hours/week) Elimination of 1 teacher (1 Year Only funded by reserve account) due to decreased enrollment

Other significant FY 26 requests in budget and need (Supplies, Equipment, etc).

None

Item #12.A.4.

FY 26 BUDGET: SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP PRESENTATION

Building/Department: Instructional Support

What key issues and priorities are you trying to address in your proposed budget?

Due to a decline in enrollment within the Multilingual Learner population, the Office of Instructional Support is proposing the elimination of one ESOL teaching position. From October 1, 2023, to October 1, 2024, the Multilingual Learner population has decreased by 70 students.

The department is not recommending the addition of the one-year special education educator position that was funded in FY25 through the Article 2 reserve account to the FY26 budget. Student caseloads for special education staff will be adjusted accordingly.

Staffing Adjustments to Budget in FY 25	**Staffing Adjustments to Budget in FY 26**
Special Education Educator at MLS (previously funded through local entitlement)	Reduction: 1 ESOL Educator

Other significant FY 26 requests in budget and need (Supplies, Equipment, etc).

None

Item #13.A.

RSU5 School Calendar 2025-2026

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
25	PLD	PLD	PLD	29
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

21

8/26,27,28 Professional Learning Days
9/1 No School (Labor Day)
9/2 First Student Day PreK-9
9/3 All PreK-12 Students

OCTOBER

M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	PLD
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

21

10 Professional Learning Day
13 Indigenous People's Day

NOVEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
PLD	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	PC	27	28

15

10 Professional Learning Day
11 Veterans Day
26 Professional Compensation Day
27-28 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

15

22-31 Winter Vacation

JANUARY

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

19

1 -2 Winter Vacation
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	ER	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

15

4 Early Release - Half Day
16 Presidents' Day
17-20 February Vacation

MARCH

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	PLD
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

21

13 Professional Learning Day (1/2)
(No School for Students)

APRIL

M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	PC
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

16

17 Professional Compensation Day
20 Patriots' Day
21-24 April Vacation

MAY

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	ER	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

20

13 Early Release - Half Day
25 Memorial Day

JUNE

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	~~16~~	17*	18*	19
22*	23*	24*	25	26
29	30			

12

14 Graduation
16 Last 1/2 Day If No Snow Days
* Storm Make up Days (17-24)
19 Juneteenth Natl. Independence Day

175

	NO SCHOOL - Holiday/Vacation
PLD	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY - No Students (5 1/2)
PC	PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION DAY - No Students (2)
ER	EARLY RELEASE FOR STUDENTS - Half Day Schedule (2)
~~/~~	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL-(if no snow days) HALF DAY - Storm Make-up days if needed: 6/17-24

2nd Draft (1/29/25)

Date Adopted by Board of Directors: