

RSU #63 Board Meeting  
Date: May 22, 2025  
Location: Holbrook Middle School  
Minutes

RSU 63 Board Member(s) Present:

*Town of Holden:* Amy Hart, Heather Lander, and Scott Walton

*Town of Clifton:* Linda Graban

*Town of Eddington:* Rachel Downs, Heather Grass, and Brittany Wood (arrived at 5:33pm)

RSU 63 Board Member(s) Absent Excused:

*Town of Holden:* Cherie Faulkner

Linda Graban, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30pm followed by the flag salute and moment of silence.

**Agenda Adjustment:** Motion by Scott Walton to add scheduling of school consolidation vote to the agenda under new business. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rachel Downs.

Discussion: None

**Vote: 4 Approved; 2 Opposed**

Motion by Heather Grass with a second by Heather Lander to approve the minutes for the April 28, 2025 Board Meeting with corrections.

Discussion: Rachel Downs stated on page 2 of the minutes under executive session there are 3 abstentions recorded under votes. She asked for them to be corrected. Shelley Wyman, RSU 63 Data and Communications Specialist and acting Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, asked if she could speak. Permission was granted. Mrs. Wyman explained the sheets provided to the Board for executive session was the tool used for determination of the votes. Some sheets were completed fully, others were partial, and those that were blank were recorded as abstentions. There was no audio recording. Superintendent Fulgoni advised Mrs. Wyman can only use what is provided to her to complete the minutes and we will need to use the honor system to accurately record minutes and make adjustments, if needed. He added that the correction will not change the outcome. Rachel Downs noted she wanted her vote changed from abstention to approved for Gayle Peirce. Brittany Wood noted she wanted her vote changed from abstention to approved for Lauren Swalec.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Board Member Amy Hart, read a prepared statement regarding the way the Board handled the vote on Teacher Contracts. See *Attachment A*.

**Agenda Adjustment:** Scott Walton asked the Board Chair for a second agenda adjustment under New Business. Motion by Scott Walton to add a statement issued from full board regarding survey sent. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Amy Hart.

Discussion: None

**Vote: 5 Approved; 2 Opposed**

**Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff, and Other:** Kristina Dumond, RSU 63 Director of Curriculum and Instruction recognized the Holbrook Math Team and Mrs. Brownell for their achievements at the recent Math Meet held at the University of Maine Field House. Holbrook had 23 students participating and finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place as well as having multiple Top 10 finishers.

Rachel Downs recognized the Softball A Team for receiving multiple compliments on their positive attitudes and good sportsmanship at their recent game against Bangor Christian. She also recognized Mrs. McCarthy for inspiring her Civics Class students so much that a few families of her students went to Washington DC over April Break due to Mrs. McCarthy's excitement and inspiration of her teachings.

**Acceptance of Gifts and Donations:** Superintendent Fulgoni thanked Scott Chiacchio for donating his time to paint the baseball and softball dugouts at Holbrook Middle School. Heather Lander thanked Karen Campbell for her time volunteered with the Community Garden.

Motion by Scott Walton with a second by Rachel Downs to approve the donations.

Discussion: None

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**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Presentation:** None

**Questions and Comments from the Public:** Linda Graban read public comment statement. Ben Breadmore, Manager of the Town of Holden, read a prepared statement regarding the school consolidation and asked Superintendent Fulgoni for his opinion on what school to retain, and what school would be appropriate to close. Tom Copeland, Holden Town Council, thanked Kelly Theriault, RSU 63 Business Manager for her tremendous effort to pull RSU 63 out of turmoil. He also noted the amount of discussion around town regarding the awful way staff were let go and stated procedures need to change. Sarah Lane, Holden resident discussed the important of real time coaching and the teacher evaluation process.

**Dates of Next Committee Meetings:**

1. **Policy Committee Meeting:** TBD
2. **Board Meeting:** June 23, 2025 at 6:30pm, Holden Elementary School
3. **Budget and Finance Committee:** TBD
4. **School Consolidation Committee Meeting:** TBD
5. **Negotiations Committee Meeting (Executive Session Only):** May 29, 2025 at 5:30pm, Eddington Elementary School

**Budget and Finance:** Nothing to add

**Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Fulgoni thanked Derek Robertson for his service to the RSU 63 Board of Directors and welcomed Scott Walton as he was appointed by the Holden Town Council to fill the vacancy. Superintendent Fulgoni commented on how wonderful the elementary school concerts were and echoed Tom Copeland's on Kelly Theriault.

**Acceptance of Reports:** Motion by Scott Walton with a second by Rachel Downs to accept the written and verbal Committees', Administrators, and Superintendent's Report.

**Discussion:** None

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Schedule Special Meeting for Purpose of School Consolidation Vote of the Full Board:**

Motion by Scott Walton with a second by Rachel Downs to schedule a special board meeting for Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 6:30pm with a public comment period of up to 30 minutes will be allowed with individual comments limited to two minutes, prior to referendum vote.

**Discussion:** Scott Walton stated there is enough information to make a decision and there is nothing else to gain by waiting any longer. Linda Graban stated the committee wanted to have another meeting to develop a plan to present to the Board. Rachel Downs stated the Board agreed to have a representative from each town on the committee and Derek is no longer on the Board. She recommended to add a Town of Holden representative. Discussion took place on the date of June 4<sup>th</sup>. Scott asked what other date worked for the Board. Shelley Wyman recommended to amend the motion to state "pick a date prior to the June election".

Scott amended the motion with a second by Rachel Downs to schedule a special board meeting for the purpose of the school consolidation vote of the full board with a public comment period of up to 30 minutes will be allowed with individual comments limited to two minutes, at a date prior to the June referendum.

**Vote: 5 Yes; 2 No**

Motion by Scott Walton with a second by Rachel Downs to poll for dates to schedule the special meeting by Central Office.

**Discussion:** None

**Vote: 5 Yes; 2 No**

**Public Survey:** Scott Walton stated the survey that was distributed caused a lot of confusion and recommended the board issue a public statement. He offered and read a draft of a public statement in response to the public survey that was distributed at the direction of the chair.

Motion by Scott Walton with a second by Amy Hart to distribute the public statement to towns and on social media via the Central Office.

**Discussion:** Heather Grass stated she thought at the public forum a straw poll was agreed on. Linda Graban stated she thought everyone agreed. Scott Walton agreed that there was discussion, but no vote was taken on the survey language. Linda stated she has been harassed by Scott Walton on this topic. Amy Hart stated the survey release was very confusion and she did not feel Mr. Walton harassed Ms. Graban by asking questions. Rachel Downs stated the survey was very rushed. The questions were unclear and confusing as there was no way to respond. She suggested a less rushed survey and the committee should work together to develop the survey. Linda Graban said it was rushed and she feels like they are being rushed into making a decision. Scott Walton stated the survey should have been done at the beginning of the process. Rachel Downs stated our elected legislature does not check with individuals, they were elected to represent the public and make decision based on what they feel is the best decision.

**Vote: 5 Yes; 2 No**

**Personnel Actions**

**Resignations/Retirements:** Kelly Theriault, RSU 63 Business Manager, resignation effective June 30, 2025; Samantha Bedore, Grade 4 Teacher, resignation effective end of 2024-2025 school year; Mary St. Peter, Grade 4 Teacher, resignation effective end of 2024-2025 school year; Teresa Maybury, Holbrook every day Substitute, retirement effective June 2025.

**Elections:** None

**Appointments:** None

**Reassignments:** None.

**Searches:** Part-time Custodian, Elementary School Principal, Holbrook Middle School Principal; Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Business Manager, Bookkeeper, Holbrook Secretary, Special Education Teachers (Eddington and Holbrook), Holbrook Chorus/Music Teacher, .5 Title I/.5 ELL Teacher, 7/8 Math Teachers, Library Media Specialist, Speech Language Pathologist, Ed Tech II – Title I/Elementary RTI at Eddington, Spare Van Drivers, and Spare Bus Drivers.

**Adjournment:** At 6:27pm, motion by Heather Lander with a second by Heather Grass to adjourn the meeting.

**Discussion:** None

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Respectfully submitted by,



Jared Fulgoni  
RSU 63 Superintendent of Schools

**APPROVED: June 23, 2025**

**May 22, 2025**

I would like to address the issue of teacher contract renewals and nonrenewals in our district. My primary reason for joining the board two years ago was to help improve teacher retention. Since my own children started school here in 2008, we've seen significant staff turnover. As a teacher with 20 years of experience, I understand the negative impact this has on staff morale and student continuity.

Many parents may be wondering why, with approximately 20 open positions listed on Serving Schools, the board chose not to renew the contracts of three teachers who were recommended for renewal by their supervisors—professionals trained in education and administration.

The votes on these renewals are public. You'll see that the same four board members voted against the renewals. I want to be transparent: these decisions were not based on evaluations, grade reports, mentor feedback, or any other professional data. In fact, two members of the board even blocked a teacher advocate from attending the executive session—without discussion or agreement from the rest of us. A teacher advocate, whether a principal, department head, or mentor, would have provided important context and insight during the decision-making process.

In most school districts, the board's role in renewals is to support the recommendations of educational professionals who work closely with these teachers every day. It is not standard practice to end a teacher's career with the district based on personal anecdotes or preferences. Yet, in every case this year, the "no" votes appeared to stem from disciplinary issues involving a board member's child or grandchild. This is not only inappropriate—it is self-serving and harmful to the integrity of our school system.

These actions are especially disheartening when they affect new teachers, who have already had time and resources invested in their development. Terminating them undermines both that investment and our district's reputation. It also shrinks our pool of applicants for future openings.

Moving forward, I would like to see changes in our district's renewal process. Specifically, I propose that when there is a question of renewal, the board be required to review evaluations and portfolios and hear directly from a teacher advocate. These steps would make the process more transparent, equitable, and focused on what's best for our students.