

RSU #63 Special Board Meeting
Date: June 3, 2025
Location: Holbrook Middle School
Minutes

RSU 63 Board Member(s) Present:

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

Town of Clifton: Linda Graban

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

Others Present: Daniel Stockford, Attorney from Brann & Isaacson

Linda Graban, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:07pm followed by the flag salute and moment of silence.

Public Comment: Ben Breadmore, Holden Town Manager read a public statement outlining the differences between the buildings and referencing the importance of making a decision based on facts, efficiency, and long-term sustainability. Ray Wood, Eddington Selectboard member voiced his concern for misleading information being told to towns by the Superintendent. He stated he had emails from the Department of Education contradicting the process outlined by Superintendent Fulgoni. Daniel Stockford, Brann & Isaacson Attorney confirmed that what Superintendent Fulgoni advised the towns on the process was correct. Susan Shane, Eddington resident provided a handout to the Board titled “Concerns Regarding Buildings” that she put together. She stated she does not feel the Board is ready to vote. David McCluskey, Eddington Selectboard member stated the three towns have historically worked very well together but feels this decision is causing a divide that will be hard to repair. He recommended the Board take the year to carefully consider all the information, there was no rush to make this decision now. Shawna Hinkley – Eddington Town Manager said the district has not shared what the actual cost savings are by closing either building. She added the new connector road is expected to attract more people to the area and the Board should wait to make their decision.

New Business:

Motion by Cherie Faulkner with a second by Scott Walton to approve the closure of Eddington Elementary School due to lack of need by June 3, 2026.

Discussion: Rachel Downs read a prepared statement. She stated she has considered all current facts and took into consideration previous years investigations into consolidation, as well as what is in the best interest of the district to remain fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. She feels the Board is ready to make a decision. Cherie Faulkner stated she has never felt pressured or rushed to make a decision. She stated it is an easy decision based on the facts, Holden has room to grow. Scott Walton introduced himself as he is a new Board member. He stated he has jumped in the roll of Board member head on and researched all of the information on this topic. He felt that having 440 students in the district with an enrollment that is continuing to decline, it is not feasible to sustain three buildings. If the new connector road does provide an influx of new families, he felt two buildings would still be more than enough space. He added the cost savings on transportation would be significant and allow us to allocate those funds elsewhere. Linda Graban stated she felt the Town of Holden has been pushing for consolidation, she has received harassing emails and phone calls, information has been presented in a biased manner, and she has been met with denial of her requests to share information. She reminded the Board to think of the student needs when making this decision. Heather Lander a lot of information has been provided over the last year to consider. She has talked to many teachers and community members during this time and the biggest concern is taxes. Enrollment numbers are down, with the exception of 1st grade which is the largest class. She added the buildings need a lot of work, we need new buses, and travel times are long. She stated safety is her number one concern and the biggest reason for basing her decision as well as remaining fiscally responsible to the taxpayers.

Linda asked if there were any more comments. There were none. Superintendent Fulgoni asked Mr. Stockford to confirm if a “Yes” vote meant the board was voting to close the Eddington Elementary School. Mr. Stockford confirmed a “Yes” vote was to close the Eddington Elementary School per the language of the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Scott Walton – Yes; Heather Lander – Yes; Cherie Faulkner – Yes; Linda Graban – N; Amy Hart – Yes; Rachel Downs – Yes; Heather Grass – No; Brittany Wood – No

5 Approved; 3 Opposed; Motion does not have two third majority vote in favor, therefore the motion does not pass.

Adjournment: At 7:47pm, motion by Heather Grass with a second by Cherie Faulkner to adjourn the meeting.

Discussion: None

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Fulgoni', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Jared Fulgoni
RSU 63 Superintendent of Schools

APPROVED: June 23, 2025