

RSU #63 Board Meeting
Date: August 25, 2025
Location: Holbrook Middle School
Minutes

RSU 63 Board Member(s) Present:

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

Town of Clifton: Linda Graban

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

Board Chair, Scott Walton called the meeting to order at 6:30pm followed by the flag salute and moment of silence. Mr. Walton thanked George Cummings, Technology Coordinator for the microphone upgrade.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Linda Graban with a second by Heather Grass to approve the minutes for the July 28, 2025 Board Meeting.

Discussion: None

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed; Motion Passed

Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff, and Other:

Superintendent James Stoneton recognized the following staff for their years of service. Theresa Richardson, Five Years; Monica Norris, Ten Years; Valerie Palmer and George Cummings, Twenty Years; and Polly Sparhawk, Thirty-five Years.

Acceptance of Gifts and Donations: Motion by Heather Grass with a second by Rachel Downs to accept \$1,500 donation from Seminary Hill Daylight Lodge, #220 for the snack program.

Discussion: None

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed; Motion Passed

Motion by Heather Grass with a second by Cherie Faulkner to accept the donations as listed for the Holbrook Playground: Lander Group – Donated 1 Skid Steer, 2 Excavators, and Operator Philip Lander to remove the old swing; Northeast Paving – Donated 3 loads of gravel, 1 compaction roller, and operator/foreman Greg Shaub for groundwork of the new playground structure; Sargent Corporation – Donated 3 loads of gravel; Airline Construction – Donated 1 load of gravel; Owen J. Folsom, Inc. – Donated 1 load of sand; Gardner Construction Enterprises – Donated 1 load of loam; D.H. Grass – Donated to remove the old swing set from the property; Deabay Physical Therapy and Golf Performance – Donated \$350.00 for the Holbrook Playground; and \$1,500 donation for Hydro Seeding from Peter Lyford, Inc.

Discussion: None

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed; Motion Passed

Presentation: None

Questions and Comments from the Public: James Spencer, Holbrook Teacher read a prepared statement.

Dates of Next Committee Meetings:

Budget and Finance Committee, Policy Committee, and Curriculum Committee: TBD

School Consolidation Advisory Committee Meeting: September 3, 2025 at 6:00pm Holbrook Middle School

Board Meeting: September 22, 2025 at 6:30pm, Holden Elementary School

Budget and Finance: No update

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Stoneton thanked Ryan Porter and his team for making the schools look great over the summer and the Admin Team for their work on search committees to fill all of the openings.

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Acceptance of Reports: Motion by Linda Graban with a second by Rachel Downs to approve the administrator and superintendent reports.

Discussion: Linda Graban noted she would like the Curriculum Committee to review the ELA curriculum. Linda Graban asked Ryan Porter why the Holbrook entrance was not being done. Superintendent Stoneton advised there is not enough funds available for the project. The grant does not cover it and we do not have enough budgeted, but we are looking at other ways to utilize the grant fund so we do not lose it.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed; Motion Passed

Old Business:

Elementary Assistant Principal Position: Motion by Brittany Wood with a second by Heather Grass to approve the Elementary Assistant Principal position for the 2025-2026 school year.

Discussion: Discussion took place on how the year would look without the position and if we were able to fill the position it would more than likely be a very delayed start making the position ineffective.

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

2 Approved; 6 Opposed; Motion Failed

Motion by Cherie Faulkner with a second by Amy Hart to freeze the Elementary Assistant Principal position for the 2025-2026 school year.

Discussion: None

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

7 Approved; 1 Opposed; Motion Passed

Consideration of revisiting Policy JFBC – Secondary School Tuition, to include expenditures for room and board: Motion by Rachel Downs with a second by Linda Graban to revisit as a Board, policy JFBC – Secondary School Tuition

Discussion: None

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

6 Approved; 2 Opposed; Motion Passed

Board Discussion regarding Policy JFBC – Secondary School Tuition: Rachel Downs questioned if students who attend MSSMA are still considered RSU 63 students. Superintendent Stoneton advised the State of Maine pays full tuition to this school and districts do not receive any funding. Discussion took place on how the district would decide what would be considered fair to pay and not fair to pay, as well as what position the district would be in financially if no funds are coming in from the state for reimbursement. No motion was made to reconsider or not reconsider the policy.

New Business: None

Personnel Actions:

Resignations/Retirements: Joseph Flanagan III, Part-time Custodian; Emily Havel, Ed Tech I; and Ryan Cahill, Ed Tech I.

Elections: None

Appointments: Ronald Paul, Bus Driver; Michael Connors, Ed Tech III; Emmanuel Miguel Ruiz; Custodian; Sarah Wood, Special Education Ed Tech II; Elizabeth Connors, 7/8 Math Teacher; Jillian Tweedie, Ed Tech I; Owen Cabral, 7/8 ELA Teacher; Mark Socoby, Special Education Teacher; Mary Johnson, Part-time Custodian; Keith Kennedy, Interim Transportation Coordinator.

Reassignments: Jessica Knights, Bookkeeper to Business Manager; Allison Blais, Ed Tech III Library Aide to Ed Tech III Regular Instruction; Rebecca Gideon, Special Education Ed Tech III to Ed Tech III Library Aide

Searches: Long Term Substitute Social Studies Teacher, Transportation Manager/Bus Driver, Assistant Cook (Holden), Assistant Cook (Holbrook), Speech Language Pathologist, Ed Tech II Title I/Elementary RTI, Spare Van Driver, and Spare Bus Drivers

Executive Session:

Motion by Amy Hart with a second by Rachel Downs to enter executive session for discussion of labor contracts pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) at 7:09pm.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Brittany Wood – Yes; Linda Graban – Yes; Amy Hart – Yes; Scott Walton – Yes; Cherie Faulkner – Yes; Heather Lander – Yes; Rachel Downs – Yes; Heather Grass – Yes

8 Approved; 0 Opposed; *Motion Passed*

Public Session resumed at 7:16pm

Actions Regarding Executive Session: Motion by Cherie Faulkner with a second by Linda Graban to approve the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented for the period of 2025-2028, effective 9/1/2025.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Brittany Wood – Yes; Linda Graban – Yes; Amy Hart – Yes; Scott Walton – Yes; Cherie Faulkner – Yes; Heather Lander – Yes; Rachel Downs – Yes; Heather Grass – Yes

8 Approved; 0 Opposed; *Motion Passed*

Executive Session:

Motion by Cherie Faulkner with a second by Rachel Downs to enter executive session for discussion of labor contracts pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) at 7:19pm.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Heather Grass: Yes; Brittany Wood: Yes; Cherie Faulkner: Yes; Rachel Downs: Yes; Scott Walton: Yes; Amy Hart: Yes; Heather Lander: Yes; Linda Graban: Yes

Vote: 8 Yes; 0 Opposed; *Motion Passed*

Public Session resumed at 8:13pm.

Actions Regarding Executive Session: Motion by Amy Hart with a second by Linda Graban to approve a one year Superintendent sub agreement with AOS 47 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Heather Grass: Yes; Brittany Wood: Yes; Cherie Faulkner: Yes; Rachel Downs: Yes; Scott Walton: Yes; Amy Hart: Yes; Heather Lander: Yes; Linda Graban: Yes

Vote: 8 Yes; 0 Opposed; *Motion Passed*

Motion by Amy Hart with a second by Rachel Downs to suspend the search for an Interim Superintendent if AOS 47 approves the Superintendent sub agreement for the 2025-2026 school year.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Heather Grass: Yes; Brittany Wood: Yes; Cherie Faulkner: Yes; Rachel Downs: Yes; Scott Walton: Yes; Amy Hart: Yes; Heather Lander: Yes; Linda Graban: Yes

Vote: 8 Yes; 0 Opposed; *Motion Passed*

Adjournment: At 8:15pm, a motion by Heather Grass with a second by Brittany Wood to adjourn the meeting.

Discussion: None

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Respectfully submitted by,

James Stoneton

RSU 63 Interim Superintendent of Schools

APPROVED and ACCEPTED: September 22, 2025

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