

**RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, December 10, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.  
Freeport High School - Library  
Meeting Minutes**

**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 January 14, 2026 meeting).

**1. CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chair Michelle Ritcheson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. MEMBERS PRESENT:** Karen Breer, Anna Child, Colin Cheney, Malik Farlow, Kara Kaikini, Michelle Ritcheson, Christopher Savaiano, Kelly Sink, Valerie Williams, Stephanie Worth. Maria Abbatemarco, Student Representative (left at 8:35 p.m.)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Danielle George

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**

A. **VOTED:** To approve the Minutes of November 19, 2025. (Williams – Worth) (10 – 0) The Student Representative voted with the majority.

**5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

Item 8.C. additional retirement

Item 8.D. removed from agenda

Addition of a second Executive Session

**6. GOOD NEWS AND RECOGNITION:**

A. Report from the Board's Student Representative - Maria Abbatemarco

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Linda Farwell, *Durham*

*FHS Students* - Emily Kelsh, Hazel Guillette, Krea Galway, Theo Lyons

Melissa Luetje, *Freeport*

**8. REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT:**

A. Superintendent's Report

B. Support Staff Hires - Dawn Karim, MLS .5 Custodian

Joe Townsend, Van Driver/Field Maintenance

Lucy Lloyd, Laugh & Learn Teacher

C. Resignations/Retirements: Jonathan Rhoads - MSS Ed Tech

Diane Acousti (Retirement end of SY) MSS 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher

Phyllis Latham (Retirement end of SY) FMS Guidance Counselor

D. FHS Student Leadership Team - *This item was removed from the agenda*

**9. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:**

A. Finance - Kelly Wentworth

- B. Update from Technology Department and Goal Review - Sam Rigby
- C. Use of AI in Schools - Erica Mazzeo and Sam Rigby
- D. Update from Instructional Support Department and Goal Review - Elisha Morris

**10. BOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Board Information Exchange and Agenda Requests
  - Kara Kaikini and Michelle Ritcheson thanked students for their emails and comments regarding the Cell Phone policy
  - Michelle Ritcheson provided an update on the meeting held with the leadership from the three towns. The discussion included budgets and communication.
- B. Policy Committee

**11. POLICY REVIEW:**

- A. **VOTED:** To approve 1<sup>st</sup> Read of the following policies:
  - 1. EBBD - Temperature Standards for Schools (New Policy)
  - 2. JICJ - Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices in Schools (New Policy)  
(Sink – Child) (10 – 0)

**VOTED:** To extend the meeting past 10:00 p.m. (Kaikini – Savaiano) (10 – 0)

- B. **VOTED:** To approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Read of the following policy:
  - 1. EBCF - Automated External Defibrillators (AED's)  
(Sink – Kaikini) (10 – 0)

**12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**13. NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**14. PERSONNEL:**

None

**15. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*FHS Students - Whitman Happy and Emily Kelsh*

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- A. **VOTED:** To enter into Executive Session as outlined in 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A) for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter (Sink – Kaikini) (10 – 0)

Time In: 10:27 p.m.

Time Out: 11:02 p.m.

**17. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**VOTED:** To approve a half year sabbatical leave for Erin York. (Savaiano – Breer) (10 – 0)

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- B. **VOTED:** To enter into Executive Session as outlined in 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A) for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter (Williams – Farlow) (10 – 0)

Time In: 11:04 p.m.

Time Out: 11:13 p.m.

**19. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None

**20. ADJOURNMENT:**

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 11:13 p.m. (Cheney – Savaiano) (10 – 0)

  
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Tom Gray, Superintendent of Schools