

**RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 29, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
Pownal Elementary School - Cafeteria
Meeting Minutes**

6:00-6:30 p.m. Q&A on the FY27 Adopted Budget

(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 June 3, 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, Lois Kilby-Chesley, Michelle Ritcheson, Christopher Savaiano, Kelly Sink, Valerie Williams, Stephanie Worth. Maria Abbatemarco, Student Representative (left at 8:25 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A. **VOTED:** To approve the Minutes of April 8, 2026.

(Williams – Worth) (11 - 0) The Student Representative voted with the majority.

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Addition of an Executive Session

6. GOOD NEWS AND RECOGNITION:

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

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kate Martins, Pownal

8. REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT:

A. Superintendent's Report

B. Resignation - Renee LaRoche, DCS 6th Grade Science & Humanities Teacher

9. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

A. Update from Pownal Elementary School - Holly Johnson

B. Finance - Kelly Wentworth

10. BOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Board Information Exchange and Agenda Requests

- Valerie Williams reported Region Ten has hired an HVAC teacher. The Bond question will be on the ballot. Six students qualified for Skills USA competition.

B. Finance Committee

C. Facilities and Operations Committee

D. Strategic Communications Committee

E. Policy Committee

11. POLICY REVIEW:

A. **VOTED:** To approve 2nd Read of the following policies:

1. JJIF - Student Concussions and Other Head Injuries
2. JJIF-E - Concussion Information Sheet
3. IMB - Teaching About Controversial Issues (New Policy)
(Sink – Farlow) (11 – 0) The Student Representative voted with the majority.

B. **VOTED:** To approve 1st Read of the following policies:

1. IHBAC - Child Find
2. IMBB - Exemption from Required Instruction
3. IJJ - Instructional and Library-Media Materials Selection
4. IJJ-E - Citizen's Challenge of Educational Media Form
5. JRA - Student Education Records and Information
6. JRA-E - Annual Notice of Student Education Records and Information Rights
(Savaiano – Williams) (11 – 0) The Student Representative voted with the majority.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Board discussion of Systems and Sustainability Study RFP.

B. **VOTED:** To expand the scope of the Facility Study to include Systems and Sustainability.
(Williams – Child) (10 - 1 Kilby-Chesley)

13. NEW BUSINESS:

None

14. PERSONNEL:

A. **VOTED:** To employ Benjamin McDonough as Assistant Principal at Durham Community School for the 2026-2027school year. (Sink – Cheney) (11 - 0)

B. **VOTED:** To employ Jennifer Snow as a district-wide BCBA for the 2026-2027school year.
(Savaiano – Worth) (11 - 0)

C. **VOTED:** To employ Amanda Lewis as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for the 2026-2027school year. (Kaikini – Sink) (11 - 0)

15. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pownal - Allan Bradstreet, Chantelle Best, Taylor Steele

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. **VOTED:** To enter into Executive Session as outlined in 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(D) for the purpose of discussing Support Staff Negotiations for RSU No. 5. (Williams – Farlow) (11 – 0)

Time In: 9:32 p.m.

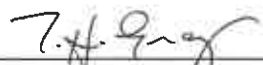
Time Out: 10:25 p.m.

17. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. **VOTED:** To ratify the Coastal Education Association for Educational Support Professional Unit Bargaining Agreement July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029. (Kaikini – Kilby-Chesley) (11 – 0)

18. ADJOURNMENT:

VOTED: To adjourn at 10:26 p.m. (Williams – Savaiano) (11 – 0)



Tom Gray, Superintendent of Schools