

**RSU No. 5 Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
Pownal Elementary School - Cafeteria
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 November 4, 2026 meeting).

1. CALLED TO ORDER:

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

2. MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Breer, Colin Cheney, Anna Child, Melissa Jordan, Michelle Ritcheson, Christopher Savaiano, Kelly Sink, Anne Ware, Valerie Williams, Stephanie Worth. J Patton, Student Representative (left at 8:55 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kara Kaikini

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

- A. **VOTED:** To approve the Minutes of October 7, 2026.
(Breer – Ware) (10 - 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 - J Patton

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Trevor Donoghue, Durham; Kate McElligott, Freeport

8. REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT:

- A. Superintendent's Report
B. Support Staff Hires - Erica Peiffer, MSS PreK Ed Tech
Retirement - Scott Webber, MLS 5th Grade Teacher (at the end of the school year)

9. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

- A. Finance - Kelly Wentworth
B. Update from Pownal Elementary School and Goal Review - Holly Johnson
C. Early Childhood Cohort 3 Update - Donna Casavant
D. Overview of RSU5's Assessment Practices - Attendance, Math & Literacy - Mandy Lewis

10. BOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Board Information Exchange and Agenda Requests
-Valerie Williams mentioned Region Ten is being awarded a \$1 Million Aspire Grant.
-Michelle Ritcheson reminded members about the MSMA Conference next week.
B. Facilities and Operations Committee
C. Finance Committee
D. Curriculum and Program Development Committee

- E. Strategic Communications
- F. Policy Committee

11. POLICY REVIEW:

- A. **VOTED:** To approve 2nd Read of the following policies:
 - 1. BEDB - Agenda
 - 2. BEDD - Rules of Order
 - 3. BEDH - Public Participation at Board of Directors Meetings
(Sink – Jordan) (10 – 0)
- B. **VOTED:** To approve 1st Read of the following policies:
 - 1. AD - Educational Mission and Vision.
 - 2. GBEBB - Staff Conduct with Students.
 - 3. JICIA - Weapons, Violence and School Safety
 - 4. JLF - Child Abuse Reporting, Prevention and Education
(Savaiano – Breer) (10 – 0)

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

13. NEW BUSINESS:

None

14. PERSONNEL:

- A. **VOTED:** To create a half time Ed Tech position at Durham Community School for the Early Childhood Program. Funding to come from the Early Childhood subsidy from the State.
(Jordan – Ware) (10 - 0)
- B. **VOTED:** To add a .05 Physical Therapist position for the Early Childhood Program. Funding to come from the Early Childhood subsidy from the State. (Cheney – Sink) (10 - 0)

15. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

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 the Superintendent's evaluation. (Worth – Williams) (10 – 0)

Time In: 9:45 p.m.

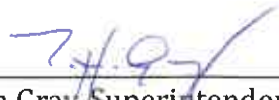
Time Out: 10:33 p.m.

17. ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

18. ADJOURNMENT:

- VOTED:** To adjourn at 10:33 p.m. (Breer – Child) (10 – 0)



Tom Gray, Superintendent of Schools