

MINUTES
RSU 13 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2013
MCLAIN SCHOOL
6:30PM

Executive Session – 5.30pm

1. Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm and a quorum was declared. Loren Andrews and Darryl Sanborn arrived at 5:45 pm.

2. Executive Session:

To go into Executive Session per MRSA 405(6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter.

To go into Executive Session per MRSA 405(6)(D) to discuss negotiations.

It was moved by Carol Bachofner and seconded by Bill Pearce to go into Executive Session per MRSA 405(6)(A) and MRSA 405(6)(D) to discuss a personnel matter and to discuss negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session entered at 5:31 pm and Chair Kilgour declared the Board out of Executive Session at 6:19 pm. Return to public session at 6:30 pm.

Regular Board Meeting – 6:30pm

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Lizzie Lombardo briefed the audience on the artwork display made by Mrs. Johnson's and Ms. Smith's OHS-E classes (Soph thru Sr).

4. Adjustments to the Agenda

Under Item 8. Business Items, add Item f. Vote: Authorize \$500,000 Loan Agreement with Maine Municipal Bond Bank

Under Item 5. Staff Member of the Month Presentation, adjust to read a. Staff Member Presentation, b. Staff Leave of Absence Request, c. Recognition of Drama Team, d. Vote: Proposed Middle School Merger.

Delete 8b, 8c.

5. Staff Member of the Month Presentation and adjustments:

- a. Staff Member of the Month Presentation: CCS & LLS Principal Beth Chamberlin presented the Staff Member of the Month to Amanda Knowlton, Special Education Teacher at Lura Libby School. She has earned National Board certification, which is an advanced and rigorous process. She is required to submit a portfolio, which is judged by her peers, and was notified in November of her achievement. She will receive a special parking space and \$100 stipend.
- b. Staff Leave of Absence Request: It was moved by Nancy Jeffers and seconded by Darryl Sanborn to approve (Carolyn England's request for) three (3) days unpaid leave immediately after April vacation. Motion failed unanimously.

c. Recognition of Drama Team – Allison Machaiek presented part of the cast and crew heading to Woonsocket RI to participate in National Festival. Their team received two set design awards and their stage management was recognized. CHRHS has donated money to allow one student to attend the festival. Carol Bachofner noted that the Elks will be having a dinner in their honor. Each student identified themselves by name and stated their current grade level. There will be an encore production at 7:15 pm next Thursday (4/11). They are currently fundraising for the trip.

6. Public participation: Citizens are welcome to speak to agenda matters before the Board (up to 30 minutes total)

- Angie Vachon – spoke about the girls' lacrosse becoming varsity team at OHS-E. They are beginning their second year as a club sport. She is disappointed that they are not receiving financial support in 2014, considering that anticipated interest may provide two teams. Some players gave up a letter sport to help get program going. There is a match Saturday 4/6 @ 9a. Darryl Sanborn asked for rough figure of costs – \$900 umpire, the girls bought their uniforms last year but AD Jim Leonard said new ones would be about \$90 each, and parents currently carpool so is not sure of transportation costs.
- Jennifer Garrett – spoke against decisions being made without thought and too quickly (e.g. HS consolidation and SS merger). There is no plan for building maintenance, and nothing in the Facilities Committee minutes. There needs to be a five year plan.

5. (continued)

d. Vote: Proposed Middle School Merger in the 2013/2014 Budget: It was moved by Arvilla Collins and seconded by Sally Carleton to postpone the RDMS/TGS middle school merger decision for one year. Don Robishaw doesn't feel they want to commit to one year and suggested at least. The motion was amended to include "at least" one year.

Carol Bachofner noted the utilization of space and the need to set aside 'feelings' to take a serious look at buildings. Bill Pearce felt they should not delay due to \$1mil in tax increase. Darryl Sanborn thought they would save more than \$500 in future, if they take their time and could plan to save even more. Don Robishaw said they need to look at all schools and that there have not been enough discussions. George Emery noted that the Facilities Committee has looked at studies regarding this, that the district has educational/staff development/facility needs as well (they need to look from K to 12 for what those specific needs are), and the board is not up-to-date on what those might be. Arvilla Collins thanked Scott Vaitones and Lew Collins for their hard work in compiling the figures. Christine Curtis doesn't feel TGS is big enough but that RDMS is. Loren Andrews feels the district needs a curriculum evaluation and full study. Superintendent Collins said there is a \$1.5mil hole, there are 10.5 teaching positions at risk, \$500k could be saved as we have two middle schools which carry under 200 students each (which is very small). Tess Kilgour stated that they cannot vote based on 'nostalgia', there are only half students than 20 years ago, there is a need to consolidate to provide quality education, she would like to make **one** move and make it a good one, and it cannot be controlled how the state shuffles our monies back and forth. Carol Bachofner is not in favor of cutting instruction/faculty but agrees they need to decide on what is important.

Motion to postpone merger for at least one year carried 742 – 258 (Bill Pearce, Christine Curtis, Nancy Jeffers opposed).

7. Presentations

- a. Adult Education – Sarah Rogers, RASA Coordinator
Amy Micklich & Nancy Killoran

RASA (Rockland After School Alliance) – Sarah Rogers is site coordinator. The program is in its fifth year with 128 students served and 40 students a day on average. Sports, science, art (3 artists on staff a day), trips to Aldemere Farm and Hope Elephants are among the activities.

Nancy Killoran – works as English Language Learner instructor and with RASA and TASA (Thomaston After School Alliance). She started in 2009 with the high school then started including younger students. It's a safe place, has bus transportation, and provides an opportunity for tutors to work with students if necessary.

Amy Micklich – is a Speech Language pathologist and the 504 Coordinator, which provides special services for those who have a medical, mental, and/or emotional handicap. RASA also provides social opportunities for uninterrupted peer interaction, which leads to learning life skills.

Nancy Jeffers asked how the program is funded. Adult Ed Director Shannon Parker noted that the grant funding is through 21st Century and is in its 5th and final year so they have tried to increase volunteering. Their goal is to try to maintain consistency although they will lose some funding. 45% of students have improved their academic testing within a year even though it is not an academic program.

b. State and Local Test Results: Neal Guyer

Neal Guyer reviewed NECAP and MHSA results, both of which are state required. Pages 4-5 show RSU 13 as compared to other districts, with Page 6 as compared to the state. He noted OHCS 5th grade math was at 100%. Elementary students scored higher than the middle and high schools, although the higher grades are showing improvement. There is a more extensive report available on the website.

Carol Bachofner asked how much instructional time is lost due to this mandated testing. Arvilla Collins inquired if the testing is aligned to what is being taught. Smarter Balance Consortium assessment is being piloted this spring and will eventually replace the NECAP and MHSA.

NWEA and MAP are using spring testing as a baseline. Page 2 details the results.

College Work Readiness Assessment is administered to 9th grade at the beginning of the year and to 12th grade at the end of the year. Carol Bachofner expressed concerns with the 12th grade testing being done so late in their career as there is no remediation.

8. Business Items

a. Approve Lacrosse Team as a varsity sport: no additional costs incurred

It was moved by Nancy Jeffers and seconded by Carol Bachofner to approve the Lacrosse Team as a varsity sport with no additional costs incurred. Don Robishaw asked for the amount of money needed to fund it. AD Jim Leonard noted there would be \$2100 for uniforms, \$900 for officials, plus travel and equipment – initially \$5000 at startup, and \$2100 each year thereafter, not including coaches. He encouraged approval so the team can compete at the varsity level.

It was moved by Darryl Sanborn and seconded by Loren Andrews to amend the motion to fund the program with \$2000 going into the new year. Don Robishaw asked AD Leonard if he could find money without increasing the budget and he said yes. Arvilla Collins cautioned that the Athletic budget hasn't been reviewed yet. The amendment was withdrawn with stipulation that money is not added but found within the existing budget.

Tess asked how many coaches were required and asked Ms. Vachon about her commitment in light of SGS's possible withdrawal. She affirmed that hers is to OHS-E. Christine Curtis

inquired about insurance. Scott Vaitones said they would be covered under the blanket policy if approved as a varsity sport. If approved they would be using district transportation, but as a Varsity sport, this will limit the travel distance.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. ~~Recognition of Drama Team: State finals~~ - above.
- c. ~~Vote: Proposed middle school merger in the 2013/2014 budget~~ - above.
- d. School Nurse Job Description

It was moved by Don Robishaw and seconded by Carol Bachofner to table the School Nurse Job Description. Motion carried unanimously.

- e. Behavior Assistant Job Description

It was moved by Don Robishaw and seconded by Carol Bachofner to approve the Behavior Assistant Job Description. The motion was withdrawn. It was moved by Carol Bachofner and seconded by Darryl Sanborn to table the Behavior Assistant Job Description. Motion carried unanimously.

- f. Vote: Authorize \$500,000 Loan Agreement with Maine Municipal Bond Bank

It was moved by Bill Pearce and seconded by Carol Bachofner that the vote entitled, "Vote to Authorize \$500,000 Loan Agreement with Maine Municipal Bond Bank," be approved in form presented to this meeting and that an attested copy of this vote be filed with the minutes of this meeting. Don Robishaw asked for clarification that this is what the voters had approved. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Policies

- a. Policies in First Reading

- (1) Policy CBI : Evaluation of the Superintendent

It was moved by Bill Pearce and seconded by Don Robishaw to approve Policy CBI in First Reading. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Policies in Second Reading:

- (1) Policy IJOA – Field Trips and Other Student Travel

- (2) Policy JICK – Bullying and Cyberbullying

It was moved by Carol Bachofner and seconded by Darryl Sanborn to approve Policies IJOA and JICK. Arvilla Collins asked if anything was changed after being sent back to the Policy Committee. The Field Trips' questions were confirmed by Superintendent Collins. It was acknowledged that the Bullying portion is a boiler plate. Don Robishaw noted that on page 2 of Policy IJOA it states "there shall be no extra credit awarded for participation" and felt it should be given if certain criteria are met. Arvilla Collins emphasized that 'extra credit' would not be given. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Communications

There were no communications.

11. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 7, 2013

It was moved by Arvilla Collins and seconded by Nancy Jeffers to approve the minutes of March 7, 2013. Motion carried 916 – 84 (Carol Bachofner abstained).

12. Reports

a. Report of the Superintendent & Business Manager

- 1) Scott: *Has no report as he has been tied up with the budget process.*
- 2) Lew: *His focus is still on the absenteeism of students. He has asked case managers to encourage and engage parents in this problem.*

b. Report of the Board Chair

Chair Kilgour has appointed Nancy Jeffers to the Many Flags/One Community and the Technology Committees and Christine Curtis to the Finance Committee. She asked members and attendees to refrain from wearing any scents in consideration of potential allergies.

13. Committee Reports and Upcoming Meetings

- a. Curriculum: Chair Sally Carleton reported the committee did not meet last month. Next meeting is April 24, 2013, at 4:00 pm.
- b. Facilities & Transportation: Chair George Emery reported the committee did not meet last month. Next meeting is May 7, 2013, at 5:30 pm.
- c. Finance & Insurance: Chair Darryl Sanborn reported the committee met on March 14, 2013. Next meeting is May 9, 2013, at 6:00 pm.
- d. Policy: Chair Bill Pearce reported the committee met on March 18, 2013. Next meeting is May 20, 2013, at 4:00 pm.
- e. Technology: Chair Loren Andrews reported the committee met on March 28, 2013. Next meeting is April 25, 2013, at 6:00 pm.
- f. Many Flags/One Community: Loren Andrews reported the board met on March 14, 2013. Next meeting is April 11, 2013, at 6:30 pm.
- g. MCST: Chair Bill Pearce reported the committee met on March 27, 2013. Next meeting is April 24, 2013, at ???.

14. Adjourn: *It was moved by Darryl Sanborn and seconded by Nancy Jeffers to adjourn at 9:47 pm.*

**The next Regular Meeting of the RSU 13 School Board will be
Thursday, May 2nd, at 6:30 pm.**