

**MINUTES**  
**RSU 13 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014**  
**MCLAIN SCHOOL**  
**5:30PM**

1. Chair Kilgour called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm and a quorum was declared. Loren Andrews arrived at 5:34 pm. Carol Bachofner arrived at 6:06 pm.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.
3. Presentations

- a. Special Education

*Special Education Director, Erin Frazier, introduced Kelly Pelletier and Kacie Collins, Board Certified Behavior Analysts. Kelly Pelletier displayed a video presentation on the Autism program, which included symptoms, education integration, video clips of classroom interaction, community excursions, and the benefits for all students.*

- b. Grade 7 Basketball

*This team won their championship. Coach Mike Dennett had 4 team members with him.*

*Chair Kilgour congratulated the OHS-E Boys Basketball team's Kvac hard fought championship win over long-time rival Camden Hills Regional High School (61-58), and wished the sixth place Girls team luck tonight. She also noted Josh Mahar, Science teacher at OHS-E, was recognized by the Heritage Foundation for his use of technology in the classroom.*

4. Adjustments to the Agenda

*Add an Executive Session per MRSA 405(6)(a) to discuss personnel issue to be held at 6:30 pm. The board members will excuse themselves from the meeting room.*

*Delete Business Item a) Brian Messing's Contract and replace with a) Bus Garage Lease.*

5. Staff Member of the Month Presentation:

*TGS Principal Susan Stillwell presented the Staff Member of the Month to Anne Pietroski, Gifted and Talented teacher at SGS and RDMS.*

6. Student Representatives – Report

*Tabby Johnston reported on the many activities and events at OHS-E.*

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

*Chair Kilgour read a summary of the RSU 13 policy on public participation at board meetings.*

- Cindy McGuirl: Thomaston resident; presented a petition to recommend that Lew Collins not continue in the position of Superintendent.

*There was discussion regarding the public participation guidelines as read by the Chair. It was moved by Loren Andrews and seconded by Sally Carleton to suspend the policy to allow the time needed for those who signed up to speak. It was moved by Sherm Hoyt to amend the motion to allow public comment from 6:21 pm to 6:51 pm. The amendment was accepted by Loren Andrews. Motion passed 748 – 168 – 84 (Nancy Jeffers and Steve Roberts against, Don Robishaw abstained).*

- Beth Heidemann: teacher at CCS; spoke against the middle school merger and on the spending freeze.
- Kella River: Thomaston resident; asked for better working relations of the board.
- Bill Reinhardt: St George resident; spoke on St George withdrawal process and the delays in response.
- Dena Davis: Thomaston resident; spoke on “highly effective” leadership (specifically Board Chair and Superintendent) and recommended George Emery as the next Board Chair.
- Noreen Mullany: Thomaston resident; concerned with insufficient time to discuss the major issues presented and commented briefly on Business Items b, c, d, and e.
- Gretchen Kuhn: Rockland resident; would like to table merger, no more spending, vote w/ experience, withdrawal communication should be more informal and have community involvement
- Kirsten Cronin: Thomaston resident; most are here as concerned parents/citizens

It was moved by Darryl Sanborn and seconded by Nancy Jeffers to go into Executive Session per MRSA 405(6)(a) to discuss a personnel matter. Motion failed 581 – 419 or 58.1% (Loren Andrews, Carol Bachofner, Sally Carleton, Sherm Hoyt, and Marla McGeady against); motion requires a 3/5 majority vote (which is 66.67%).

**\*\*\* Chair Kilgour called for a recess at 6:56 pm and returned to public session at 7:15 pm. \*\*\***

Mike Wilhelm: candidate for Interim Superintendent, introduced himself and gave a brief resume. He responded to questions from the public and board members.

It was moved by Darryl Sanborn and seconded by Christine Curtis to offer Mr. Wilhelm the position of Interim Superintendent for a four month timeframe (to serve until 5/23). It has been offered to pay \$500 per day. It was moved by Steve Roberts and second by Nancy Jeffers to call the question. Motion carried 736 – 264 (Loren Andrews, Carol Bachofner, and Sally Carleton against). Motion to offer Mr. Wilhelm the Interim Superintendent position carried 827 – 173 (Loren Andrews and Carol Bachofner against).

Don Robishaw thanked (the last public speaker) for waiting but who could not stay.

## 8. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of January 9, 2014

It was moved by George Emery and seconded by Nancy Jeffers to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

## 9. Board Chair Report

Outgoing Chair Kilgour gave a closing report, thanking many groups and individuals.

## 10. Business Items

- a. ~~Brian Messing's Contract~~ (deleted) - Bus Garage Lease (added)

The lease was successfully renegotiated to a two year term. It was moved by Steve Roberts and seconded by Nancy Jeffers to approve the bus garage lease. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Interim Superintendent

Taken out of order (see notes after Public Participation and the recess above...)

- c. Vote for Board Chair

Nominations for Board Chair: Sally Carleton nominated George Emery, seconded by Sherm Hoyt. Nancy Jeffers nominated Steve Roberts, seconded by Don Robishaw.

*Members offered their comments for and against the candidates, as well as the duties, responsibilities, and ethics of the position.*

*Steve Roberts publicly apologized for mentioning a person by name at the January 9, 2014, meeting.*

*George Emery received a weighted vote of 494 and Steve Roberts received a weighted vote of 506. Steve Roberts was declared the Board Chair, effective March 6, 2014.*

d. Middle School Merger – Discussion and Potential Vote

*Discussion was started, but it was moved by Loren Andrews and seconded by Darryl Sanborn to table the issue. Motion failed 499 – 501 (Christine Curtis, George Emery, Nancy Jeffers, Tess Kilgour, Steve Roberts and Don Robishaw against).*

*Discussion ensued regarding the purpose, responsibility, and potential concepts, options and results.*

*It was moved by Don Robishaw and seconded by Sherm Hoyt to authorize the middle school administrators (and Neal Guyer) to prepare a report (pro/cons) with concepts, financial savings and educational benefits, and report back to the board in April. There was clarification that this would affect grades 5 thru 7.*

*Steve Roberts moved to amend to include budgeting with the merger and without the merger, specifically TGS & RDMS. Don Robishaw amended to allow staff to determine buildings and grades. Chair Kilgour recommended original motion be withdrawn due to confusion. Don Robishaw withdrew his original motion and Sherm Hoyt concurred.*

**It was moved by Carol Bachofner and second by Sally Carleton to adjourn. Motion carried 499 – 417 – 84 (Christine Curtis, George Emery, Nancy Jeffers, Tess Kilgour, and Steve Roberts against; Don Robishaw absent). Adjourned at 9:11 pm.**

e. RSU Withdrawal – Discussion

*Discussion*

f. Board Behavior – MSMA Handbook, Section 12G

*Sherm Hoyt handed out a sample policy*

10. Communications

11. Committee Reports and Upcoming Meetings

- a) Curriculum:
- b) Facilities & Transportation
- c) Finance & Insurance
- d) Policy
- e) Technology
- f) Many Flags/One Community
- g) MCST

12. Adjournment: **(see above)**

**The next meeting of the RSU 13 School Board  
will be March 6, 2014, at 6:30pm.**