

MINUTES
RSU 13 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2013
MCLAIN SCHOOL
6:30PM

Executive Session – 5.45pm

1. Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm and a quorum was declared. Carol Bachofner was excused absent. Darryl Sanborn arrived at 5:52 pm.

2. Executive Session:

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

To go into Executive Session per MRSA 405(6)(c) to discuss personnel matters

It was moved by Don Robishaw and seconded by Arvilla Collins to go in to Executive Session per MRSA 405(6)(c) to discuss negotiations and to discuss personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session entered at 5:45 pm and Chair Kilgour declared the Board out of Executive Session at 6:22 pm. Return to public session at 6:30 pm.

Regular Board Meeting – 6:30pm

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

4. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda, but Superintendent Collins recognized and thanked the students of OHS-E for the artwork displayed.

5. Staff Member of the Month Presentation

Principal Kathy Hollicker presented the Staff Member of the Month to Rebecca Barstow, Administrative Assistant at Rockland District Middle School. Becca has been a wonderful addition to the staff since last spring, always calm, helpful, and kind. She is responsive to questions and accomplishes all tasks with energy. She kindly counsels children and is respected by them. She has streamlined the budget and ordering process and has been an incredible assistant. She will receive a prime parking spot for the next month and a \$100 bonus in her pay.

6. Presentation: Alternative Ed Students

Mike McGuire introduced Tiana, Olivia, and Andrew. Tiana was an AltEd student during her Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior years. She feels she wouldn't be graduating this spring without the AltEd program. She plans on attending college in the fall to study accounting. Olivia, who once had poor attendance, is now on the honor roll, and wants to go to college for nursing. Andrew is currently a student attending day and night school, as well as holding down a full time job. He said family issues contributed to his dropping out, but that he was really able to connect with the staff one-on-one. All three students will be graduating in June.

Mr. McGuire has been utilizing visits to the Farnsworth Art Museum, the Owls Head Transportation Museum and the Station ME rowing program into most of the core courses, such as English, Social Studies, Science, and Math.

Chair Kilgour asked for their ideas to help with absenteeism. Tiana and Andrew offered that less harsh repercussions for tardiness might help.

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

There was no public participation.

8. Business Items

- a. Key Club Conference: approval

Per a letter from Jane Thompson, approval is requested to attend the Key Club Conference in Springfield, MA, from April 5-7, 2013. It was moved by Bill Pearce and seconded by Christine Curtis to approve this annual trip. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Boston Art Trip: approval

Holly Smith requested approval to take students to the Boston Museum of Art on April 5, 2013. It was approved by Sally Carleton and seconded by Nancy Jeffers to approve the trip. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Strategic Plan: Discussion and possible vote to adopt

Superintendent Collins thanked all those involved for their hard work and dedication. Don Robishaw had questions of financial implications. Neal Guyer will present more information in the fall. Superintendent Collins noted that this will be a "living" document, which can be adjusted to respond to the times at hand. He is hoping the Board will support the key components of the plan. Sherm Hoyt would like to go over the document at a board workshop and was reluctant to approve until they have that opportunity. Superintendent Collins said that could be at the pleasure of the Board, and suggested sometime in May, since April is full of budget meetings. George Emery feels it needs editing by a sharp group, by prioritizing the major components, and that administrators need to turn it into a workable document at this point. Nancy Jeffers feels we do need to move forward, as the plan will change as needed. Superintendent Collins is pleased with all the input from many, many people and hopes it is adopted and used as a vision. Chair Kilgour feels the project has gone over its shelf life and encouraged it to be approved.

It was moved by Loren Andrews and seconded by Darryl Sanborn to approve the Strategic Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Overview of Budget and Budget Schedule (including GT update)

Superintendent Collins reviewed the proposed schedule: all meetings in April, a workshop in May, and a referendum on June 11. He also suggests suspending committee meetings in April due to the many budget and negotiations meetings scheduled. The \$1.6M budget deficit is driven by fixed cost increases (such as fuel, food, health insurance, salary steps, etc). There is also a new bill proposed which is asking districts to pay for half of teacher retirement funding (over \$330k). He is looking to identify ways to reduce budget in a shared way (such as 1/3 by town taxes, 2/3 by district reductions). He would like to make the district more efficient and user friendly by combining middle schools and redistributing some of the lower grades, which would allow those students to maintain continuity; although, there would be no impact on SGS. However, there will undoubtedly be some painful choices that will have to be made.

Our Gifted & Talented application has been approved by the Dept of Education. This will hopefully help to expand on opportunities. Costs are reimbursed at 12-14% and can go back into programs.

- e. School Board Meeting Schedule: Discussion

Chair Kilgour has proposed foregoing a meeting in July, which would be the 4th. Since it is difficult to reschedule, she would entertain the idea of cancelling it altogether, along with all

committee meetings that month. Arvilla Collins noted officers are typically elected in July and wondered if they would be breaking any rules or regulations. Superintendent Collins suggested that a special meeting could be called to conduct that business. Don Robishaw was concerned with year end balances. Business Manager Scott Vaitones noted that the books remain open until July 20 anyway. It was moved by Loren Andrews and seconded by Nancy Jeffers to cancel the July meeting and all committee meetings, except emergency meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Collins also suggested that all other committee meetings in April be suspended, except board, budget, and negotiations meetings. It was moved by Loren Andrews and seconded by Nancy Jeffers to amend the schedule as suggested by Superintendent Collins. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Policies

a. Policies in First Reading

(1) Policy: Bullying

This comes directly from the Dept of Education, and the Policy Committee had no issues with the wording, since it stems from the law that passed last year on the same subject. It was moved by Bill Pearce and seconded by Loren Andrews to approve the Bullying policy in First Reading. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Policies in Second Reading:

(1) Policy IJJ – Selection of Instructional and Research Materials

(2) Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements

(3) Policy JHB – Truancy

(4) Policy JK – Student Discipline

(5) Policy JKD – Suspension of Students

It was agreed to approve as a group. It was moved by Nancy Jeffers and seconded by Darryl Sanborn to approve Policies IJJ, IKF, JHB, JK, and JKD. Don Robishaw had concerns with Policy IJJ, under Parental Authority, which restricts a community member's right to restrict access to materials. Superintendent Collins noted that the primary stakeholders should be the parents; if others want to weigh in, there are other avenues of address, such as through another parent or a board member. Sally Carleton noted there was a committee to address concerns and the process went very smoothly. Motion carried 677 – 84 – 75 – 84 (Don Robishaw against, Sherm Hoyt abstained, and Carol Bachofner absent).

10. Communications

The Education Commissioner is hosting a conference on March 22, 2013, at Cony High School. One of the district's principals has offered to go in Superintendent Collins' stead. The featured speaker will be Tony Bennett, the Florida Commissioner of Education. Nancy Jeffers expressed interest and will contact Superintendent Collins if available.

11. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 7, 2013

It was moved by Nancy Jeffers and seconded by Loren Andrews to approve the minutes of February 7, 2013. Motion carried 836 – 80 – 84 (Arvilla Collins abstained, Carol Bachofner absent).

12. Reports

a. Report of the Superintendent & Business Manager

- 1) Scott: *The budget shortfall is an issue due to the proposed MSRS contribution, possibly an 8% increase in health insurance costs (which may be less but will know more specifically in April), increases in food and fuel costs, and required contract salary increases. The change in the MSRS contribution has not passed the legislature yet, but it has been strongly suggested that the district budget for it. There may be a slight increase in the subsidy but he is not sure what's driving it.*
- 2) Lew: *He is 100% committed to having HS students start later than elementary students and have elementary students start a half hour later than they currently are; the middle and HS (8-12) may even start at the same time and be on the same schedule. He doesn't want to go through this budget up and down every year and wants to find more revenues, such as grants, as well as having the funding formulas adjusted to also consider a community's income (we currently have 70% of students on free/reduced lunch at SS). Neal will be presenting figures on academic achievement next month. He also announced the retirements at the end of the school of Special Programs Director Dr. Tom Wright, CCS and LLS Principal Beth Chamberlin, and Special Education Director Dr. Ralph Newbert.*

b. Report of the Board Chair

Chair Kilgour thanked Business Manager Scott Vaitones for cheerfully providing reams of information when she asks. The \$1.6M hole does not include any costs for current negotiations. She noted the staff attendance figures that continue to be a concern.

13. Committee Reports and Upcoming Meetings

- a. Curriculum: Chair Sally Carleton reported the committee did not meet last month. Next meeting is March 21, 2013, at 5:30 pm.
- b. Facilities & Transportation: Chair George Emery reported the committee met on March 5, 2013. Next meeting is May 7, 2013, at 5:30 pm.
- c. Finance & Insurance: Chair Darryl Sanborn reported the committee met on February 14, 2013. Next meeting is March 14, 2013, at 6:00 pm.
- d. Policy: Chair Bill Pearce reported the committee met on February 25, 2013. Next meeting is March 18, 2013, at 4:00 pm.
- e. Technology: Chair Loren Andrews reported the committee did not meet last month. Next meeting is March 28, 2013, at 6 pm.
- f. Many Flags/One Community: Loren Andrews reported the Board met in February. Next meeting is March 14, 2013, at 6:00 pm.
- g. MCST: Chair Bill Pearce reported the committee met on February 27, 2013. Next meeting is TBD.

14. Adjournment: *It was moved by Darryl Sanborn and seconded by Nancy Jeffers to adjourn at 8:10 pm.*

**The next regular meeting of the RSU 13 School Board will be
Thursday, April 4, 2013, at 6:30 pm
at McLain School.**