

MINUTES
RSU 13 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2012
ST. GEORGE SCHOOL
6:30PM

Executive Session – 5:30pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm and a quorum was declared. Darryl Sanborn was unexcused absent.
2. Executive Session: To go into Executive Session per MRSA 405 (6) (c) to discuss personnel matters.

It was moved by Brian Messing and seconded by Bill Pearce to go into Executive Session per MRSA 405 (6) (c) to discuss personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session entered at 5:32 pm and Chair Kilgour declared the Board out of Executive Session at 6:25 pm. Return to public session at 6:33 pm.

Regular Board Meeting – 6:33 pm

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.
4. Adjustments to the Agenda:

Add Business Item 9c Brian's Soliloquy.

It was suggested to swap Agenda Items 5 and 6. All in favor.

5. Business Items:

- a. Approval of Job Descriptions: Special Education Director, Special Educator, Principal

It was moved by Arvilla Collins and seconded by Bill Pearce to approve the job descriptions as presented. Motion carried 836 – 84 (Don Robishaw opposed).

- b. Superintendent's Goals Approval

Chair Tess Kilgour read the Superintendent's goals. It was moved by Loren Andrews and seconded by Sally Carleton to approve the Superintendent's goals. Don Robishaw said reimbursement by Medicare was discussed at the board workshop – it was added under Special Education goals. Sherm Hoyt inquired if there would be a public vote on the Strategic Plan. Superintendent Collins mentioned that we could pursue a Survey Monkey to solicit public input. Motion as amended carried unanimously.

- c. Board Goals Approval

Superintendent Lew Collins read the Board's goals. It was moved by Sally Carleton and seconded by Loren Andrews to approve the Board's goals. Carol Bachofner recalled that the term "life long learning" was supposed to be incorporated. It was added to "adopt and implement ... to assure success to all students and to promote life long learning." It will be an ongoing task to define "equity". Motion as amended carried unanimously. Superintendent Collins noted he will have his goals next to his desk and suggested the board have theirs displayed at the board meetings as well.

d. Strategic Plan Timelines

Superintendent Lew Collins described the intended timeline. The website will detail all dates, times and places. Sherm Hoyt asked again if there would be a straw vote, maybe at one of the forums. Brian Messing feels additional public input would be invaluable when considering larger and long-term decisions that have more impact. Other members stressed the fact that the Board members are elected representatives of the public at-large.

e. Award Snow Plow Bid

Business Manager Scott Vaitones recommended the following snow plow bids be awarded as follows:

- *OHS-W, TGS & LLS to Arthur D. Henry, Inc. at an hourly rate of \$70.00/hour.*
- *CCS to Farley & Sons as a contract amount of \$6,900.*
- *SGS to Harlan Black Construction as a contract amount of \$5,800.*
- *Maine Stone was recommended for the following contracts: OHS-E at \$8,475, RDMS & SS at \$6,750, McLain at \$1,400, OHCS at \$1,400, and sanding only at the Bus Garage at \$1,050.*

It was moved by Carol Bachofner and seconded by Sherm Hoyt to award the snow plow bids as recommended by Scott Vaitones. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- *Jennifer Garrett: Spoke on communication between the community and board. She suggested members eliminate participation in some committees and attend local schools for Q & A. She would like to see documentation on the courses being offered and their attendance rates.*
- *John Snow: He is a St. George Select Board member. The Town Education Committee has developed more optimism with the board and the concerns that they have. There is still interest in withdrawing from the district but the town is not ready to deal with the requirements needed. They would like to continue meeting with the board to address their concerns.*

7. Communications: Georges River Education Foundation

Gil Harper, President of The Georges River Education Foundation awarded a total of \$10,417 in grants to CCS (1), LLS (4), SGS (4), and TGS (2) for a variety of projects, from math and fitness initiatives to forest ecology, the topography of Maine, and the study of lobsters and the lobstering industry. Superintendent Collins expressed his appreciation for the grants awarded by the Foundation and is very impressed with them, Trekkers, The Farnsworth, and Herring Gut and the work they do with the district's students.

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 4, 2012
- b. Approval of Minutes of Board Workshop of October 17, 2012
- c. Approval of Policies in Second Reading
 - (1) Policy 1.14 – Advertising in the Schools
 - (2) Policy 1.21 – Hazing
 - (3) Policy 2.11 – Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion

Don Robishaw asked if item c (2) was a first or second reading. Bill Pearce said they decided to go back to the original 'boiler plate' policy so that additional lawyer approval would not be needed. Superintendent Collins noted it is a required policy and needs to follow the law. He also recommends that implementation guidelines be created and put in place for the principals to utilize. A new 'boiler plate' policy is in the works regarding bullying and will be addressed in the future. Don Robishaw reiterated his concerns with the words 'may' and 'should'. Superintendent Collins reminded members that the entire Consent Agenda needs to be approved; it is not meant to have discussion. It was moved by Don Robishaw and seconded by Brian Messing to remove Item c (Approval of Policies in Second Reading). Motion passed 572 – 348 (Loren Andrews, Carol Bachofner, Sally Carleton, and Bill Pearce opposed). **Moved to 9, d.**

It was moved by Loren Andrews and seconded by Brian Messing to approve the Consent Agenda (a) and (b). Motion carried 840 - 80 (Arvilla Collins abstained).

9. Reports

a. Report of the Superintendent & Business Manager:

Lew Collins: Superintendent Collins reviewed the AYP results with the Board and noted that 50% of our schools met AYP compared with 35% statewide. He reviewed the origination, purpose, and utilization of the ratings. He has enjoyed visiting all the schools and outside learning facilities like Herring Gut. He conducted a straw poll among students on what time they would like to start and was surprised to learn that they wanted to start earlier to get out earlier. Enrollment and absence reports were presented. It was questioned why the loss of 16 – there were discrepancies between last month's report and this month's figures and differences between the district's attendance and Infinite Campus. In the aggregate, the enrollment is dropping considerably. IT staff is also trying to determine between absenteeism and tardiness. Loren Andrews asked about the status of Superintendent's agreements and Superintendent Collins noted that it is fairly even (-19 in and out). Arvilla Collins had volunteered to be the representative to MSBA; she reported that only one person had voted to allow the Education Commissioner to override superintendents' agreements, as most would like control to remain with superintendents at the local levels.

Scott Vaitones: He has spent a lot of time with the auditors and found some positive news, which he will report at a later meeting. He has been Chair of Maine School Management Workers' Comp Trust board for last 4-5 yrs. He has been meeting with Scott Hall, Todd Johnston, and Steve Sylvester to find solutions for absenteeism and to find people to work. He attended excellent workshops over two days at the MSMA conference. Bill Pearce asked if there was any damage from Sandy – only a few leaks. George Emery asked for records of health insurance claims and if insurance can be put out to bid. Scott Vaitones feels it needs to be a public process, he needs to be directed by board, and MEA will probably need to be involved – basically a collective process.

b. Report of the Chair:

Tess Kilgour asked the board to give thought to possibly combining committees – Curriculum, Finance, and Policy are the primary functions – and give her feedback by email. She also enjoyed the MSMA conference and asked for a synopsis by other board attendees. She detailed activities conducted at and by various schools in and for the community, including a Veterans breakfast at Rockland Middle School and "Cinderella" at OHSE. The administrative team is absent during the board meeting as they are meeting in another room to work on the many projects they have as a team.

c. Report by outgoing board member Brian Messing:

He thanked the citizens of Rockland for allowing him to serve three times. He has tried to balance the needs of his constituents, the district and the students, occasionally at the price of causing controversy but always with respect of others opinions. He encourages the

continued improvement and cohesiveness of the board, as well as better communications between the board, staff and the community. Many positive long-term projects are in the pipeline, including the strategic plan and capital improvement reserves. He strongly believes in the Many Flags concept and feels it is vital to the area. He thanked the board (past and present), the administrators, teachers and support staff for all their hard work. He finally suggested that the public at large get involved in their community, whether becoming a member of a civic organization, volunteering, or serving on the school board – it is hard work but incredibly rewarding. He received a standing ovation by the board.

d. Approval of Policies in Second Reading

(1) Policy 1.14 – Advertising in the Schools

It was moved by Carol Bachofner and seconded by Brian Messing to approve Policy 1.14. Motion passed unanimously.

(2) Policy 1.21 – Hazing

It was moved by Bill Pearce and seconded by Sherm Hoyt to approve Policy 1.21. Don Robishaw thought that with no action and review that this should have been first reading, not second. Tess Kilgour noted that this version had originally come out as first reading. Carol Bachofner agrees with Don Robishaw on the wording but understands it is legal policy and agrees with using guidelines. Motion passed unanimously.

(3) Policy 2.11 – Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion

It was moved by Carol Bachofner and seconded by Bill Pearce. Brian suggested striking the section in bold (on pg 2, 4, b) as it is a note only. Motion passed as amended unanimously.

10. Committee Reports and Upcoming Meetings

- a. Activities: Chair Tess Kilgour reported the committee met on October 10. Next meeting is December 11, 2012, at 6:00 pm.
- b. Curriculum: Chair Sally Carleton reported the committee met October 18. Next meeting is November 13, 2012, at 5:30 pm.
- c. Facilities & Transportation: Chair George Emery reported the committee will meet on November 6, 2012, at 5:30 pm.
- d. Finance & Insurance: Scott Vaitones reported the committee met on October 10. Next meeting is November 8, 2012, at 6:00 pm.
- e. Policy: Chair Bill Pearce reported the committee met on October 22. Next meeting is November 19, 2012, at 4:00 pm.
- f. Technology: Chair Loren Andrews reported the committee met on September 27. Next meeting is November 29th at 6:00 pm.
- g. Mid Coast School of Technology: Chair Bill Pearce reported the committee met on October 24. Next meeting, November 28, 2012, at 7:00 pm.
- h. Many Flags/One Community: Chair Loren Andrews reported the committee met on October 15. Next meeting is November 29, 2012 at 6:00 pm.

11. Adjournment: *It was moved by Carol and seconded by Brian Messing to adjourn at 8:22 pm.*

**The next regular meeting of the RSU 13 School Board will be
Thursday, December 6, 2012, 6:30pm, McLain School**