

RSU #63 Board Meeting
Date: December 2, 2019
Location: Holbrook Middle School
Minutes

Members Present:

Town of Eddington: Charles Baker, Jr., Steven Carr, and Christina McLeod

Town of Holden: Gavin Robinson, John Hutchins, Heather Charity, and Holly Whitmore

Town of Clifton: Linda Graban

Superintendent of Schools: Susan M. Smith

Chair, John Hutchins called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Motion by Gavin Robinson with a second by Christina McLeod to enter into Executive Session to review Superintendent Evaluation data pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A).

Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No

Public session resumed at 6:30pm. A flag salute was conducted and a moment of silence was observed.

Administrator Absent Excused:

Transportation and Facilities Director: Jake Morgan

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Gavin Robinson with a second by Christina McLeod to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2019 Board Meeting.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff, and Others: Superintendent Smith advised the Best Buddies Program was nominated for the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Magna Award. Jayden Schoppee placed third out of 4,000 students in the middle school division of the "What Freedom Means to Me After Interviewing a Veteran" essay contest.

Acceptance of Gifts/Donations: RSU 63 was awarded \$500 for computer science education planning from Educate ME and Project Login.

Presentation: Superintendent Smith introduced George Cummings, Technology Director. Mr. Cummings reviewed a handout that detailed all devices, software, and servers: including age, location, quantity, and how the device(s) were acquired (i.e. lease or donation). Mr. Cummings highlighted devices that will need replacement or updating.

Questions and Comments from the Board: Gavin Robinson asked if the aging devices and software posed any security risks. Mr. Cummings advised the software will become obsolete before it becomes a security threat. It also becomes difficult to obtain replacement parts. Charles Baker asked about the cost was to replace/update the servers as they enter their end-of-life stages. Mr. Cummings advised \$3,000 to \$3,500.

Questions and Comments from the Public: None

Dates of Next Committee Meeting:

Student Success Committee: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 3:30pm, at Holbrook

Budget and Finance Committee: Monday, December 9, 2019 at 6:00pm, at Holbrook

Curriculum Committee: Monday, January 6, 2020 at 3:30pm, at Holbrook

Policy Committee: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 5:30pm, at Holbrook

Facilities Advisory Committee: To Be Determined

RSU #63 Board Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2019

Page 1 of 3

Budget and Finance: Nothing to add to the Business Manager Report. Nothing to add to the Budget and Finance Committee Reports.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Smith advised the Board that she and Jake Morgan, Transportation and Facilities Director met with Ed Daly of Energy Systems Group (ESG). He would like the opportunity to meet with the Board to express apologies for events that took place.

Superintendent Smith and Holly Whitmore planned to attend a grant writing class through the Maine Community Foundation. Due to weather, the class was rescheduled to December 10th. Ms. Smith is unable to attend however Ms. Whitmore will be attending on the behalf of them both.

Education Week is a research-based journal that did an article called "What School Shooters Have in Common." The Secret Service also sent out information saying there is no profile for a school shooter. School Security is an industry and some security upgrades are an overreaction. No research has proven or shown that adding security devices to schools are making a difference. Lockdowns are sometimes backfiring and showing the school shooter how these types of events are handled and showing younger students this is normal, when in fact it is not.

RSU #63 Chair's Report: None

Acceptance of Reports: Motion to approve written and verbal reports from Administrators, Committees, and Superintendent by Heather Charity with a second by Christina McLeod.
Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Old Business:

Facilities Advisory Committee Update – Recommendations for FY21 Budget: Charles Baker reviewed the priority lists for each school. His recommendation on behalf of the Facilities Advisory Committee is a bond for \$2.3 million with payment over a 15-year span. This would address the larger problems and projects completions would occur over the next three years. The second option would be \$350,000 in FY21 budget to address some of the immediate needs. Superintendent Smith advised the approved Revolving Fund Grant applicants will be notified February 1st. Mr. Baker suggested reaching out to the University of Maine Engineering program. Holly Whitmore reached out to them and there is possible interest in helping RSU 63 with some engineering projects (i.e.: traffic study, parking, etc.).

New Business:

Policies to Rescind: JHBB – Attendance, Punctuality, Home Instruction, and Excused Absences; JB – Equal Educational Opportunities. Language from these policies were included in other required policies. Language from policy JHBB on Home Instruction was added to policy JEA.

Motion by Heather Charity with a second by Gavin Robinson to rescind policies JHBB – Attendance, Punctuality, Home Instruction, and Excused Absences; JB – Equal Educational Opportunities.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Policy to Approve: AD – Educational Philosophy; ADA – Goals and Objectives; ADF – Commitment to Learning Results; JEA – Student Attendance, Absences, Home Instruction, and Truancy; JEA-R – Student Attendance, Absences, Home Instruction, and Truancy – Administrative Procedures; Christina McLeod, policy committee chair, advised the only changes to policies were grammatical, the addition of language from policy JHBB, and updates to reflect new state laws.

Motion by Gavin Robinson with a second by Steve Carr to approve policies AD – Educational Philosophy; ADA – Goals and Objectives; ADF – Commitment to Learning Results; JEA – Student Attendance, Absences, Home Instruction, and Truancy; JEA-R – Student Attendance, Absences, Home Instruction, and Truancy – Administrative Procedures.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Personnel Actions: Superintendent Smith expressed condolences to the Clark family for the loss of longtime RSU 63 employee John Clark.

Resignations: None

Reassignments: None

Elections: None

Appointments: Gene Worcester, Girls "B" Basketball Coach; John Walsh, Chess Coach; and Amy Shepherd, Educational Technician III at Holbrook Middle School.

Searches: Searches continue for Substitutes.

Questions and Comments from the Public: None

Adjournment: At 7:41pm a motion was made by Gavin Robinson with a second by Heather Charity to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Respectfully submitted by,



Susan M. Smith
RSU #63 Superintendent/Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Approved: January 27, 2020