

RSU #63 Board Meeting  
Date: February 26, 2018  
Location: Holden Elementary School

Minutes

**Members Present:**

*Town of Eddington:* Samantha Berube and Rusty Gagnon

*Town of Holden:* John Hutchins, Jennifer Newcomb, Gavin Robinson, and Suzanne Wieland

*Town of Clifton:* Linda Graban

*Superintendent of Schools:* Susan M. Smith

*Excused Absent:* David McCluskey, Town of Eddington and Jake Morgan, Transportation and Facilities Director.

Board Chair, Rusty Gagnon called the meeting to order at 7:17pm. A flag salute was conducted and a moment of silence was observed.

Motion by Jenn Newcomb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gavin Robinson to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2017 Board Meeting.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff and Others:** Superintendent Susan Smith recognized the Geography Bee Winners, Spelling Bee Winners, Basketball Champions, Cheerleaders, and Chess Team Members. Superintendent Smith recognized Aiden Howe, Grade Three at the Holden Elementary School, for his participation in the "3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Cabbage Program." Aiden was selected as the overall winner for growing the largest cabbage in the State of Maine and will receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship to be tentatively presented on March 9, 2018.

**Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:**

Michelle Voci received \$536 from Donors Choose for a classroom rug (photo presented for viewing). Representative Peter Lyford donated a United States Flag to the Eddington School. The Boys Scouts of America local branch will retire the old flag. Circle K "Fuel our Schools" Grant of \$1,000.00 has been used to support the literacy program and start up the Chess Club at the Holden School.

**Presentations:**

Mr. Richard Modery, Holbrook Middle School Principal, presented Standardized Testing results. Handouts were given to all Board Members on the comparative data of Holbrook students and the State MEA (Maine Educational Assessments) in English Language Arts, Math, and Science for Spring 2016 and Spring 2017. The 2017-2018 ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) report cards are also available on the RSU #63 website. Students in Grade Eleven and students in Grade Eight and Five have met or exceeded the State scores in all three subjects. Mr. Modery advised that the students from RSU #63 are doing well while they are at Holbrook and in High School.

Mr. Modery discussed the comparative data of RSU #63 students and NWEA (North Western Educational Assessment) Math and Reading assessments. The NWEA is not a required assessment by the State, but is a very helpful way to measure achievement and

growth over time. Assessments are given in early September and May. Teachers in Grades Two through Eight use these assessments to set academic goals for each student and monitor the progress over the school year.

Mr. Don Spencer, Elementary School Principal, discussed how the NWEA is used at the Elementary Schools. If a student is noted as needing an intervention, the NWEA is the first point of review. This guides the instructional needs of the student.

The MEA's are given to students in Grades Three and Four. Our students met or exceeded State average in both ELA and Math. Students at the Eddington School are not given State assessments. Students in Kindergarten through Second Grade use the DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) to determine fluency, accuracy, and comprehension in reading, writing rubrics, and the Math in Focus Program to assess math skills. If students are struggling, Mr. Jesse Gauthier, Director of Special Services is sent a request for evaluation and the student is assessed for the need of additional accommodations.

**Board Discussion Regarding Presentation:** Superintendent Smith concluded and confirmed that the Board of Directors want more MEA comparative data of the District to area schools and NWEA's current scores versus previous years. This information will be prepared for the March Board Meeting.

**Questions and Comments from the Public:**

None.

**Dates of Next Committee Meeting:**

Budget & Finance Committee: Monday, March 20, 2018, at 5:00pm, at Holbrook

FY19 Budget Workshop: Thursday, March 1, 2018; Thursday, March 8, 2018, at 5:00pm, at Holbrook

Policy Committee: Tuesday, March 6, at 4:30pm, at Holbrook

New School Community Committee: Thursday, March 15, 2018, 5:30pm at Holbrook

Technology Committee: Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at 3:30pm, at Holbrook

Curriculum Committee: Combined with Wellness Committee, Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 5:00pm, at Holbrook

**Discussion and Motions Regarding Reports**

Motion to approve written and verbal Committee and Administrative Reports by Jenn Newcomb; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Suzanne Wieland.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Budget and Finance:**

No change to Business Manager Report. Budget and Finance Committee Reports were shared. FY19 Budget Workshops are in the preliminary steps. Future workshops are scheduled. Discussion on the status of Yvonne Mitchell's repayment took place. Further information is in the Budget & Finance Committee report from February 12, 2018.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Smith attended a training session on the Superintendent's role in Collective Bargaining. Shelley Wyman will be attending School Records Retention training in March

RSU #63 Board Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2018

Page 2 of 4

in Bangor. Jake Morgan attended Pesticide Training over February vacation. Mr. Morgan will be attending a School and Workplace Violence training in April. The Holden Police Department will also be sending an officer to this training. Chief Greely advised he would be willing to attend or send an officer for a Question and Answer session or presentation to one of the School Board meetings. The Board agreed this would be of interest and asked for it to be scheduled.

**RSU #63 Chair's Report:**

Rusty Gagnon discussed her conversation with Sheriff Troy Morton regarding school preparedness. As recent unfortunate events are happening closer to home, she questioned if the teachers are trained on how to handle these situations. Superintendent Smith advised the District does work with staff and students. Working Lockdown drills, defensive lockdown drills, and evacuation drills are practiced with students. Other emergency protocols are also in place.

Discussion took place on "Active Shooter" training for the staff and students. Mr. Modery advised this is not something that staff and students participate in. Law enforcement and emergency responders have conducted "Active Shooter" training in our schools in the past, after hours, as an officer training session.

Ms. Gagnon asked if parents are aware of these practices. Superintendent Smith advised that when questions arise, they are answered. Superintendent Smith also advised that she has email and posted information on "Ways to talk to your child about violence." Superintendent Smith also advised the "FRIENDS" workshop is coming up on March 8<sup>th</sup> and will be discussing coping skills to help students handle stress.

**Acceptance of Reports:**

Motion to approve written and verbal Budget & Finance, Superintendent, and Board Chair's Reports by Sam Berube; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gavin Robinson

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Old Business:**

**Cost Benefit Analysis:** Next meeting is Thursday, March 15, 2018. Discussion is tabled until after the meeting and new information is presented. We expect a new proposal from Oak Point Associates.

**New Business:**

**School Management Leadership Center (SMLC) Part II Application:** Superintendent Smith advised Part II of the Application process requires individual boards to vote to continue with Part II of the Application by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Smith recommends the Board vote to move forward with this application process.

Motion by Suzanne Wieland; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Graban that the Board authorizes and approves the participation of RSU #63 in the Southern Penobscot Regional Program for Children with Exceptionalities' Part II application to be approved as a School Management and Leadership Center pursuant to 20-A M.R.S. Chapter 123, with the intent that upon the Commissioner of Education's approval of the Part II application that the Board shall vote to

approve an interlocal agreement and cooperative agreement that are consistent with the interlocal agreement submitted with the Part II application.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Dates for Special Board Meetings:**

Executive Sessions for Administrative Contract Reviews, for Kelly Theriault and Jake Morgan will be Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 6:30pm, at Holbrook School.

FY19 Budget Informational Meeting will be Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at 6:30pm, in the cafeteria at Holbrook School.

Budget Meeting will be Wednesday, May 30, 2018, at 7:00pm, in the gym at Holbrook School with a Board Meeting at 6:30pm.

**Personnel Actions:**

Rebecca White has been appointed as a Substitute.

Searches continue for Substitutes, Softball Coach, and Track Coach.

**Questions and Comments from the Public:** None

**Adjournment:**

At 8:58pm a motion was made by Sam Berube; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gavin Robinson to adjourn the meeting.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Respectfully submitted by,



Susan M. Smith

RSU #63 Superintendent/Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Approved: March 26, 2018