

RSU #63 Board Meeting  
Date: January 28, 2019  
Location: Eddington Elementary School  
Minutes

**Members Present:**

*Town of Eddington:* Rusty Gagnon, Christina McLeod, and Steven Carr

*Town of Holden:* Gavin Robinson, John Hutchins, Heather Charity, and Jennifer Newcomb

*Town of Clifton:* Linda Graban

*Superintendent of Schools:* Susan M. Smith

Board Chair, Rusty Gagnon called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

At 6:32pm John Hutchins made the motion with a second by Heather Charity to enter into Executive Session to discuss Labor Contract Negotiations pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(D).

**Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No**

Public session resumed at 7:00pm. A flag salute was conducted and a moment of silence was observed.

Motion by Jenn Newcomb with a second by John Hutchins to adopt the amended agenda, as presented by the Board Chair and Superintendent.

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Jenn Newcomb with a second by John Hutchins to approve the minutes from the November 26, 2018 Board Meeting.

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Motion by Steve Carr with a second by Heather Charity to approve the amended minutes from the January 7, 2019 Board Meeting with the attorneys' recommendation and other additions.

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff and Others:** Superintendent Smith thanked Mr. Morgan. The district has been short staffed with bus drivers and custodians this past month. Mr. Morgan has worked very hard to make sure all of the sports trips are covered.

**Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:** \$450.00 Anonymous Donation for school lunch support (\$350.00 from a Holden business and \$100.00 from a Clifton resident). The North Brewer-Eddington United Methodist church gave a \$853.00 donation to support the Healthy Snacks program for students in need at the Eddington School. Courageous Steps provided a rug and some seating for the Guidance Room at the Eddington School. The Cole Foundation donated an interactive projector to the Holbrook School that has been installed in the Art Room.

**Chair's Opening Remarks:** The Chair opened by assuring members of the public that taxpayer impact has always been considered by the Board regarding any recommended budget issue during her tenure. Ms. Gagnon advised everyone agreed some expensive infrastructure projects are needed at each of the District's schools. She pointed out the Board and Superintendent regularly consult with the District's attorneys in addition to reviewing state and existing education law. Ms. Gagnon encouraged anyone with questions regarding any reports to the Board to contact their Board representative or the Superintendent. She concluded with an apology for what some considered abrupt or confrontational remarks she had made at the January 7, 2019 meeting.

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

**Personnel Actions:**

**Resignations:** Emily Havey, Occupational Therapist; Jennifer Barker, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher; Mindy Perry, Eddington School Secretary; and Alexandria Hafford, Special Education Teacher.

**Reassignments:** None

**Elections:** Motion by John Hutchins with a second by Christina McLeod to approve Kasha Robertson as Special Education Teacher.

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Motion by Christina McLeod with a second by Heather Charity to approve Hannah Cote as Occupational Therapist.

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Appointments:** Tina Ferrill, Eddington School Secretary; Leanne McCutcheon, Pre-Kindergarten Long-Term Substitute Teacher; Richelle Pratt, Substitute; Stephanie Chesley, Substitute; Heather Benner, Substitute; and Chelsea McKay, Substitute.

**After-School Staff:** Nikki Goss, Guided Study; Sam Bedore, Grade 4 and 5 Math Masters; Peter Walsh, Robotics (2 sessions); Brandy Walsh, Art; and Desiree Doughty, National History Day.

**Searches:** Searches continue for Substitutes, After School Grade 3 Math Masters Instructor, and Holbrook Drama Advisor.

**Dates of Next Committee Meeting:**

Policy Committee: Monday, February 4, 2019 at 6:00pm, at Holbrook Middle School

Budget & Finance Committee: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 3:00pm, at Holbrook

Curriculum Committee: Monday, February 11, 2019 at 3:30pm, at Holbrook

**Budget and Finance:** Nothing to add to Business Manager Report or Budget and Finance Committee Report.

**Superintendent's Report:** Nothing to add to Superintendent's Report.

**RSU #63 Chair's Report:** Nothing to add from the Board Chair.

**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**

**New Business:**

**Budget Cost Center Transfer for FY18:** Susan Smith advised this is a recommendation from the auditor and Budget and Finance Committee to transfer \$21,000.00 from FY18 regular instruction to FY18 special education instruction cost center.

Motion by Gavin Robinson with a second by Steve Carr pursuant to Title 20-A, Section 1485, subsection 4, the Board authorizes the transfer of funds from the FY18 approved regular education instruction cost center to the FY18 approved special education instruction cost center in the amount of \$21,000.00.

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Policies to Approve:** Motion by John Hutchins with a second by Christina McLeod to approve policy GBGE – Return to Work and Light Duty Assignment.

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Motion by Heather Charity with a second by Christina McLeod to approve policy JLFA – Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response.

**Discussion on Policy JLFA:** Ms. Newcomb asked if this policy ties in with the Sex Offender Registry. Superintendent Smith advised the Sex Offender Registry is part of a different law and RSU #63 policy.

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Motion by John Hutchins with a second by Christina McLeod to approve policy JLCEA – Students with Diagnosed Allergies and Sensitivities and policy JLCEA-R – Students with Diagnosed Allergies and Sensitivities – Administrative Procedures.

**Discussion on Policy JLCEA and JLCEA-R:** Superintendent Smith thanked the parents that brought the need for this policy to her attention and for their input in creating this policy. Ms. Newcomb stated she is pleased to see the policy be district-wide so all schools have the same procedures in place.

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Old Business:**

**Facilities and ESG (Energy Systems Group):** Ms. Gagnon called for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss this topic. Superintendent Smith added, due to the recent questions and feedback they want to make sure that everyone has a clear understanding of

ESG's work, other options, and timelines. She received some legal advice that needs to be shared with the Board.

At 7:37pm a motion was made by Jenn Newcomb with a second by Christina McLeod to enter into Executive Session for discussion regarding the legal rights and duties of a school unit pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. section 405 (6)(E)

**Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No**

Public session resumed at 8:32pm

Motion by Christina McLeod with a second by John Hutchins to continue the Board meeting past 8:30pm

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Motion by Jenn Newcomb with a second by Linda Graban to direct the Superintendent to notify ESG we are suspending work with them effective immediately and to direct the Superintendent to negotiate new terms, scope, and timeline with ESG.

**Vote: 6 Approved; 2 Opposed (Steve Carr and John Hutchins)**

Ad-Hoc Committee for Proceeding Toward One Campus: John Hutchins suggested we suspend the formation of an Ad-Hoc Committee until the Board has a clearer understanding of what is going on with ESG.

Rusty Gagnon advised the Ad-Hoc committee could start the EPA and DOT review and approval process for the three existing sites. Preliminary results could help the Board make their decision on which direction is best.

Jenn Newcomb feels deciding what our direction is and how we are moving impacts what we do with ESG or any energy company.

Gavin Robinson stated the Ad-Hoc committee is not just about ESG. It will help develop the vision and direction the Board wants to go.

Mrs. Smith shared information from Deer Isle Stonington schools. She felt putting together a packet of information for the community on cost parameters for one campus (low and high), energy cost savings that would happen each year (low and high), and the cost of the bond along with other costs and benefits of having one campus (transportation, etc.) would help educate the communities so the Board could have a straw-vote in June. This vote would help guide the Board in making their decision on the direction they should move that the towns would support.

Motion by Steve Carr with second by John Hutchins to form an Ad-Hoc Committee with a focus on moving toward one campus. Duties include developing a list of pros and cons prior to a public straw vote in June, potentially moving forward with a formal referendum vote in November.

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Motion by Steve Carr with a second by Jenn Newcomb for the initial membership of the Ad-Hoc Committee to be comprised of Linda Graban, Heather Charity, and John Hutchins. The committee will vote on who will chair and deliver the first report at the February Board Meeting.

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Community Communication and Outreach: Heather Charity expressed concern and the need for the Board Meetings to be publicized more. She felt it should be posted on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, town websites, school websites, etc. to spread the word more about the meetings.

Superintendent Smith advised the meetings and agendas are posted on the school website. She will start posting it on Facebook, however we don't have staffing to do more social media posting. She also advised the towns do share and post the agendas for school board meetings.

Discussion took place on other ways to spread the word about upcoming Board Meetings

**Questions and Comments from the Public:**

Bill Rand, Town of Clifton Selectman, mentioned that controversy is a great way to bring people and attention to meetings. Mr. Rand questioned if the Board's agenda was to move to one campus. Ms. Gagnon advised it was the direction the Board voted to move at the January 7, 2019 meeting. Mr. Rand asked if at the time of the straw vote, would the Board have the potential cost to the towns or the impact on the mill rates. Superintendent Smith advised the Board would look to the towns for guidance on how the mill rates would be affected with low end and high-end estimates. Ms. Gagnon advised the movement to one campus would be paid for with a bond. Mr. Rand stated the towns will want concrete figures at the time of the straw vote. Mr. Rand asked for clarification on the Board's vote to suspend work with ESG and what that meant in regards to the \$100,000.00 re-payment to ESG. Steve Carr advised the Board hoped the full amount would not be due to ESG.

**Adjournment:**

At 9:05pm a motion was made by Steve Carr with a second by John Hutchins to adjourn the meeting.

**Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Respectfully submitted by,



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

Approved: February 25, 2019