

RSU 63 Board Meeting
Date: January 23, 2017
Location: Holden Elementary School
Minutes

Members Present:

Town of Clifton – Dola Hinckley

Town of Eddington – David McCluskey and Rusty Gagnon

Town of Holden – Daniel Allen, Chris Galinski, and Jennifer Newcomb

Susan M. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Members Excused:

Town of Eddington – Nikki More

Chair David McCluskey called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. A flag salute was conducted and a moment of silence was observed.

Motion by Rusty Gagnon with a second by Jennifer Newcomb to amend the agenda and add an executive session to the end of the agenda.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 opposed

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Rusty Gagnon with a second by Jennifer Newcomb to approve the November 28, 2016 regular meeting minutes as written.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 opposed, David McCluskey and Suzanne Wieland abstained

Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff and Others:

Maddy Roberts and Rita Lovejoy organized Sponsor A Child. The staff brought in items for 31 children and 14 families, as well as extra coats for the elementary schools and 8 Christmas dinners.

Alexandria Hafford Cerkovitz earned her Masters in Special Education last month.

The Great Kindness Challenge is this week. In preparing for this challenge an email from the organization went out across the nation recognizing some efforts that have been done in the past. Marquees from both the Eddington and Holden Schools were pictured in that email.

Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:

The Holbrook H.E.A.T. donated \$3,950.00 for Basketball Uniforms and \$2,300.00 for Cheering Mats, which was greatly appreciated by the sports team.

The Eddington Methodist Church donated \$470.00 for snacks for students at the Eddington School who were coming to school without money for lunch milk or snacks.

The Maine Merry Red Hatters donated \$100.00 in honor of Don Spencer's mother, Mrs. Ann Spencer, for library books for the Eddington School.

A Secret Santa donated \$650.00 to pay off or down student hot lunch bills for needy families at Eddington and Holden Schools.

The Eddington/Holden PTG provided 1st trimester Good Conduct Awards for the students.

The Cole Foundation has selected the Holbrook School to receive their annual technology package. This year the package includes a BrightLink 595Wi Interactive WXGA 3LCD Projector.

Presentation – Overview of Student Achievement Data

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) has been reauthorized and is now called the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In the past districts and school across the nation have been rated and ranked on their achievement scores on the required MEA's and SAT's tests in the state of Maine. The new law now requires other aspects of student achievement to be looked at beyond test scores. "Redefining Ready" includes well-researched data that predicts success beyond high school. Some indicators we can use in our K-8 schools include attendance, GPA (grade point average), and participation in co- and extra-curricular activities.

Susan Smith reviewed the attendance data from last school year and this school year for students in Kindergarten through Grade 8. If students miss more than 10% of the school days in Kindergarten and first grade they are often a year beyond in Reading in second grade. The 37 students who have missed more than 10% of the school days so far this year have been absent for a variety of reasons. We have a second student who is considered truant at this point.

RSU 63 has been using the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) from the Northwestern Educational Association (NWEA) for several years to help gauge student progress in reading and math for grades 2 through 8. We give our students this test in the fall and spring. Our long-term goal is to have at least 80% of our students at or above grade level. This year, we are working towards having 65% of our students at or above grade level for reading and 64% at or above grade level for math. This is part of every teacher and administrator evaluations.

The MEAs test students in Grades 3 and 8 plus Grade 11 in Literacy and Math. The test scores are out and public now. When you do look at the information on line, the district scores include our Grade 11 students, which is different than in the past. We do not have comparative information for the 2014-2015 MEA because we gave the Smarter Balance Assessment. Only students in Grades 5, 8 and 11 are tested by the MEAs in Science. Susan Smith reviewed the information on how we compared to other schools in the state for Literacy, Math and Science. Overall, RSU 63 students, including our students in area high schools, scored better on the MEAs than students across the state.

According to most recent financial data (available on January 13, 2017) from the Maine DOE Data Warehouse website, RSU 63 spent \$10,500 per student. The State average was \$12,551 per pupil. On average, the top three districts (for each of ELA, Math, and Science) spent \$14,712 per student.

Questions and Comments from the Public: None

Next Meeting Dates:

Budget & Finance Committee – Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at Holbrook School, 2:30 pm
Policy Committee – Monday, February 6, 2017 at Holbrook School, 6:15 pm

Curriculum Committee – Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at Holbrook School, 3:30 pm
Technology Committee – Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at Holbrook School, 3:30 pm
New School Committee – Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at Holbrook School, 5:30 pm, and
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at Holbrook School, 5:30 pm
Wellness Committee – Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at Holbrook School, 3:15 pm

Reports:

Motion by Rusty Gagnon with a second by Jennifer Newcomb to accept all reports.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 opposed

Budget and Finance:

The committee has been discussing options for the bus garage. One option is to extend the lease. The new lease includes the purchase and installation of another large garage door so that we will be able to work on two buses at once.

Motion by Rusty Gagnon with a second by Suzanne Wieland to authorize the Superintendent to sign and extend our bus garage lease through June 30, 2019.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 opposed

Jenn Newcomb asked if we were to look at a purchase of that building, could a portion of our lease payments be credited against that purchase price? It would be something to consider.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Smith added to her written report. The results from the air quality test we did at Holbrook School came back fine with no problems.

Every year the Maine State Superintendents' Association looks at the legislation being put forward that has to do with education and makes recommendations on whether to support, oppose or just monitor the legislation. Most of the bills coming forward are in the monitoring category with a couple of support and two bills MSSA opposes. LD48 is about superintendent's agreements (transfer to another district). The current law states that if a school district does not have a public school for that grade level the family can't request to go to the district. The family can't appeal that decision to the Commissioner or the Board of Education at the State level. In the proposed LD48 that language is being taken out and a sentence allowing a transfer to a private school approved for tuition purposes would be added.

At this time David McCluskey had to leave the meeting. Mr. McCluskey turned the Board meeting over to Vice Chair Rusty Gagnon until his return.

Southern Penobscot Regional Program for Children with Exceptionalities (SPRPCE) is a collaborative, which we are already a part of, and is efficient and effective in providing special education services for students with high needs. There are 14 districts in the collaborative and each district has a representative to the Board to SPRPCE. The superintendents met last week and voted unanimously to recommend that SPRPCE apply for an Educational Efficiencies and Opportunities grant. It is due on February 23, 2017. SPRPCE would like to pursue alternative education programs for students in grades 7 to 10. The SPRPCE Board will meet tomorrow. Nikki More is our representative to the SPRPCE

Board. Jennifer Newcomb is the alternate representative, however she is unable to attend tomorrow's meeting.

RSU 63's Chair Report: No report.

Old Business:

- 1) **New School Committee and Timelines** – We had a very productive New School Committee Meeting last week. We are starting to write the narrative portions to go with the application. We need to decide how we want the committee to be run. Do we want a Board member to be the Chair of the committee or a more open informal community committee with a facilitator?
Motion by Dola Hinckley with a second by Suzanne Wieland to accept the New School Committee as a community committee with the Superintendent as the Facilitator of the meetings.
Vote: 6 yes, 0 opposed
- 2) **Pre-Kindergarten for 2017-2018** – We have been discussing two options for childcare for Pre-K students. In Option 1 RSU 63 would have full control of the program and hire a person to be a RSU 63 employee in charge of the childcare program. In Option 2 we would lease out the portable space to have an outside entity run a Pre-K Childcare Program for RSU 63. Option 2 requires a Request for Proposal (RFP) and developing a Memorandum of Understanding to iron out what is the responsibility of each party. In addition to the letter from Nikole Wilkinson expressing interest in heading up the Pre-K Child Care Program included in the Board packet, the Bangor YMCA has also expressed interest in providing child care opportunities. There would be some up-front costs involved with Option 2 (roof repaired, building sound and ready to go, general cleaning, legal fees for RFP and Memorandum of Understanding). Superintendent Smith reviewed some of the steps we will need to complete and questions we will need to answer in this process. The Pre-K application for districts with existing Pre-K programs is due to the State by March 31, 2017. If our application is not in by then, it would effect our funding.
Motion by Jennifer Newcomb with a second by Dola Hinckley to go forward with having our space leased for Pre-K child care next year and using Brann & Isaacson to help get the Request for Proposal and Memorandum of Understanding in place.
Vote: 6 yes, 0 opposed

New Business:

- 1) **After School Program Coordinator and Technology Curriculum Development Project Leader** – Superintendent Smith recommends short-term hiring of an After School Program Coordinator and Technology Curriculum Development Project Leader. Both of those positions fit nicely with our vision statements. Both positions also provide teacher leadership opportunities, which is another area we want to grow in. Susan Smith discussed the funding and compensation for the positions, as well as other areas of responsibility.
Motion to move forward with the After School Program Coordinator and Technology Curriculum Development Project Leader in accordance with the salary compensation presented by the Superintendent.
Vote: 6 yes, 0 opposed

2) **Policies:**

Policy EHAA, IJND-R, IJNDB and GCSA are all marked for Annual Review. There are two basic changes in these policies coming before the Board. The first change is from Annual Review to Review as Needed. The second change is taking out the specific year and leaving it open so that the forms can be used over and over without have to go to the Board every year just to change the dates.

Motion by Jennifer Newcomb with a second by Daniel Allen to approve Policy EHAA – Agreement to Publish Student Information on Website, Policy IJND-R – Websites, Policy IJNDB – Student Computer Internet Use, and Policy GCSA – Employee Use of School-Issued Computers, Devices, & the Internet as written.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 opposed

In Policy EFC we needed to change the price of school lunch to reflect the current school year.

Motion by Jennifer Newcomb with a second by Daniel Allen to approve Policy EFC – School Lunch Program as written.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 opposed

Policy GBEBA was tabled at the last Board Meeting to get input from the Teachers' Association.

Motion by Jennifer Newcomb with a second by Suzanne Wieland to approve Policy GBEBA – District Personnel Dress as written.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 opposed

Our Policy IHGBA was last reviewed in 1997. Rusty Gagnon contacted MSMA and requested their sample policy for us to use.

Motion by Jennifer Newcomb with a second by Suzanne Wieland to approve Policy IHGBA – Home Schooling, Participation in School Programs as written.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 opposed

Motion by Jennifer Newcomb with a second by Daniel Allen to approve Policy JIH – Student Searches, Policy JJ – Student Activities (Co-curricular & Extracurricular), Policy JJA – Student Organizations, Policy JJI – Philosophy of Athletics, Policy JJIBB – Sportsmanship, and Policy JJIBC – Relations with Booster Groups.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 opposed

Motion by Jennifer Newcomb with a second by Suzanne Wieland to approve Policy JJE – Fundraising.

Jennifer Newcomb asked about the details on page 3, Section V. Also, there were asterisks next to items 11 and 14 in Section V (A), but no explanation of what the asterisks meant. Suzanne Wieland also felt that all items did not need to be listed. Jennifer Newcomb amended her motion to approve Policy JJE – Fundraising with the change to delete Section V in the policy.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 opposed

In Policy JJIBA – Hiring & Evaluation of Coaches, there were two typing errors to be corrected. Also, Jennifer Newcomb realizes there is a written preference for teachers to

be coaches. Mrs. Newcomb would also recommend the preference for parents not to be coaches, but not to exclude them because there are times when you have no one else, in the policy. Mrs. Newcomb recommended the following language be added: *In an effort to promote consistency in coaching and eliminate bias or favoritism, a parent should only be considered for a coaching position of their student's team when no other qualified candidates exist.*

Jennifer Newcomb amended her motion to approve Policy JJIBA – Hiring & Evaluation of Coaches with the proposed recommended language added to the policy.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 opposed

It was agreed that Policies JJE and JJIBA would be brought to the Policy Committee for review of the changes made to these policies and then brought back to the Board for a 2nd Reading.

Personnel Actions:

1. Resignations: Bus Driver Bonnie Brown has resigned.
2. Leaves: Grade 6 Teacher Andrea Turmelle in on Leave under FLMA.
3. Elections: None
4. Appointments: The following appointments to RSU 63 have been made since the last board meeting: Michael Shepherd – Chess Coach, Dustin Raatz, Mika Oullette and Cory Dunning – Substitute Teachers, Bruce Blackmer – Bus Driver to fill Bonnie Brown's position, Terry Farren – Substitute Custodian, Greta Brown – After School Educational Technician. Cheryl Estey has been put back on our list of Substitute Bus Drivers.
5. Searches: We are still looking for Substitute Bus Drivers and Substitute Teachers.
6. Reassignments: Nikki Goss Ed Tech III in the 5/6 Resource Room, to Ed Tech III supporting the Grade 6 Math position where Andrea Turmelle can only be there part of the time. This is a temporary reassignment.

Questions and Comments from the Public: Suzanne Wieland asked about the oven at the Holbrook School. We expect the grant application time period to open in January/February. We are still waiting for that opportunity.

Executive Session: At 8:16 p.m. a motion was made by Rusty Gagnon with a second by Daniel Allen to go into executive session to discuss the acquisition of property pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(C).

Roll call was taken with all members replying "Yes". Vote: 7 yes, 0 opposed.

At 8:40 p.m. David McCluskey declared the Board out of executive session.

At 8:41 p.m. a motion was made by Jennifer Newcomb with a second by Suzanne Wieland to adjourn the meeting. **Vote: 7 yes, 0 opposed.**

Sincerely,



Susan M. Smith
Superintendent of Schools