

RSU 63 Board Meeting  
Date: June 26, 2017  
Location: Holbrook Middle School

Minutes

**Members Present:**

*Town of Eddington:* Samantha Berube, Rusty Gagnon, David McCluskey

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

*Town of Clifton:* Buzz Moore

*Superintendent of Schools:* Susan M. Smith

**Members Absent:**

*Town of Holden:* Daniel Allen

Chair, David McCluskey called the meeting to order at 6:29pm. A flag salute was conducted and a moment of silence was observed.

David McCluskey asked for motion to adjust the agenda and move personnel discussion to after the presentation. Motion made by Rusty Gagnon and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenn Newcomb.

**Vote: 6 Approved; 1 Abstention**

Motion made by Rusty Gagnon with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenn Newcomb to approve minutes from May 22, 2017 Board Meeting; June 1, 2017 Special Board Meeting; and June 1, 2017 Budget Meeting.

**Vote: 6 Approved; 1 Abstention**

**Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff and Others:** Susan Smith received letters from the University of Maine about Desiree Doughty and Peter Walsh for their participation over February and April breaks (52 hours) at the University of Maine. They observed professors and provided feedback. The University uses the information to plan professional development opportunities. The Grade 8 Promotion and Student Award list was presented to every board member for review.

**Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:** Notes of appreciation were sent to H.O. Bouchard, Coke, Angelos, Olive Garden, Miguels, and Frank's Bakery for support of the Community Luncheon. We are hoping to make this an annual event and get more volunteers. Appreciation was also extended to Marie Baillargeon and Laurie Smith for organizing the event.

The Seminary Hill Day Light Masonic Lodge in Holden donated 36 bikes and helmets to the Holden and Eddington Schools as part of the Books for Bikes Program.

PTG donated 220 Sweet Frog gift certificates for "Good Behavior" during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester for the Eddington and Holden Schools and also paid for the Grade 2 "Diver Ed" field trip.

Penobscot Chapter of Maine Retired Educators Association donated \$200 for the Community Read Aloud Program at Holden and Eddington Elementary Schools.

### **Presentations:**

#### **How Our Students Are Doing in High School**

Richard Modery, principal at Holbrook Middle School, presented test scores for current seniors. Those students have performed relatively well. During their 8<sup>th</sup> Grade year in 2012-13, our students scored better than the state average on the Maine Educational Assessments in Math, Science, and Literacy. During their junior year, these students performed above state average on the SAT in Math and Literacy and slightly below the state average in Science.

Mr. Modery also presented information regarding our current freshmen. Mr. Modery and Joy Walters recently visited Bangor High School, Brewer High School, Hampden Academy, and John Bapst Memorial High School to see how the students were doing. 91% felt they were prepared for high school. John Bapst Memorial High School and Hampden Academy students felt there was not enough homework given at Holbrook Middle School. Students at Bangor High School and Brewer High School felt there was more homework given at Holbrook Middle School. The change from having "Specials" (classes such as music, Spanish, and art) once or twice per week to having them daily, along with the amount of work required in those classes, has been a challenge for many students. Socially, students are doing well, getting involved, and reaching out to each other. Many of our freshmen are participating in extra-curricular or co-curricular activities. For the most part, students felt as though they were successful during their first year of high school. School counselors felt the biggest struggle is getting students to do their homework. Mr. Modery's and Mrs. Walters' visits to each high school provided more information than we have been able to gather in the past.

Rebecca Schwartz-Mette, University of Maine Professor, and five doctoral students presented **Building Resilience and Student Success** and information about the FRIENDS program, based out of Australia. We will use a three-prong approach: 1. Support Students, 2. Support Parents, and 3. Support Staff. FRIENDS is a social and emotional learning curriculum with a focus students aged 4-7, 8-11, and 12-15. Goals include regulating emotions, solving problems, improving social skills, and adapting coping strategies. Students who participated in FRIENDS showed lower depression, less anxiety, and reduced behavior problems. These students increased their self-esteem, social skills and math skills. Rebecca and her doctoral students will be starting instruction with our students in the fall. They will also lead some staff training and two or three parent sessions. This is all at no cost to RSU 63. Students in our Kindergarten and Grades 2, 5, and 7 will be the inaugural classes for

the Maine and the country. Grade levels were chosen based on recommendations from our school counselors. Student progress will be tracked for one year.

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

**Personnel Actions:**

Everyone was reminded about the retirement luncheon for Susan McKenzie's at the High Tide Restaurant on Tuesday, June 27, 2017, at noon. Shelley Wyman's role in Superintendents Office was announced. The newly elected Board Members, Gavin Robinson representing Holden, and Samantha Berube representing Eddington were recognized.

Resignations: Malcolm Coulter, Bus Driver; Tom Coleman, Grade 2 Teacher Holden Elementary; Diana Higgins, Pre-Kindergarten Eddington Elementary; and Kristi Morrow, Summer Math Camp Teacher.

Jacob Joy will be taking over the Summer Math Camp.

Don Spencer introduced Aurora Stickle as Literacy/Reading Recovery Teacher at Eddington Elementary; Erin Boulrier Adams as Grade Two Teacher at Holden Elementary; Ashley Bean as Grade Four Teacher at Holden Elementary; and Shelly Miller as Educational Technician III Math Support at Holden Elementary.

Jesse Gauthier introduced Stephen Goulette as Educational Technician III Grades Seven and Eight Resource Room at Holbrook Middle School; and Jessica Russell as Special Ed Educational Technician III Grades Five and Six Resource Room at Holbrook Middle School; and Carolann McClellan as Occupational Therapist for the District.

Richard Modery introduced Andrew Kirby as Grade Eight Science Teacher at Holbrook Middle School.

**Elections:**

Aurora Stickle-Literacy/Reading Recovery Teacher, Eddington Elementary School;  
Erin Boulrier Adams-Grade 2 Teacher, Holden Elementary School;  
Ashley Bean-Grade 4 Teacher, Holden Elementary School;  
Carolann McClellan-Occupational Therapist, RSU 63; and  
Andrew Kirby-Grade 8 Science Teacher, Holbrook Middle School.

Motion to elect by Rusty Gagnon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenn Newcomb.

**Vote: 7 Approved, 0 Opposed**

Searches: Susan Smith announced the search for a full-time Pre-Kindergarten Teacher has begun, the half-time Pre-Kindergarten Teacher position has been reopened, and part-time Pre-Kindergarten Educational Technician III is still

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ongoing. All positions have been posted in-house and online. Summer Substitute Custodian interviews have begun. That position will be floating, temporary, and part-time. We will soon be activating the search for a Custodian and for Bus Drivers.

Reassignments: Susan Smith advised that Jeff Smith will be moving from Custodian to Bus Driver in August; Jan Logan will move to a Day Custodian at Holbrook Middle School, Daryl Frye will move to Day Custodian at Holden Elementary, and Kim Colavito will move to Substitute Bus Driver.

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

**Dates of Next Committee Meeting:**

Budget & Finance Committee-Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2017 at Holbrook School, 9:00am. This was changed after appointment of new committee members to Wednesday, July 26, 2017, at 10:00am at Holbrook Middle School. The meeting dates for all other committees (Policy, Curriculum, and Technology) have not been determined.

**Discussion and Motions Regarding Reports:**

Rusty Gagnon questioned the Curriculum Committee Minutes, Topic III Health Materials and why Grade 6 was not included in the use of "*The Great Body Shop*". Mr. Modery advised it was being phased in slowly. After technology standards are implemented this fall, the focus will then turn to the Health Curriculum. Jenn Newcomb recommended that the John Baptist Memorial High School and Brewer School Department Minutes be included in the Board Packet along with the Bangor School Department and RSU 22 (Hampden Academy) Minutes. Mrs. Newcomb questioned the fuel usage versus mileage for the 2015-2016 year (less mileage, higher fuel usage). Mr. Morgan will get this information to Mrs. Newcomb.

Motion to approve reports by Rusty Gagnon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenn Newcomb

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Budget and Finance:**

The RSU 63 2017-2018 budget passed with a little more than a two to one vote ratio.

Motion to approve Budget and Finance reports by Rusty Gagnon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Buzz Moore.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Superintendent's Report:**

Ten teachers worked with Ashley Perry last week on Technology Standards. They have drafts to share with all staff in the fall. Our district met three out of four goals on the NWEA testing. There will be a full presentation to the board in the fall. Mrs. Smith attended the Commissioners Conference and met with Scott Brown who is in

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charge of the new construction school application process. A team of five will start doing site visits in the fall, and will visit our district tentatively in September. They ask that the Superintendent, Facilities Director, and Principal meet and tour the schools with the team. Approval will be based on needs of the schools. They have a total of 79 applicants, including our three schools. One applicant has dropped out.

**RSU 63 Chair's Report:**

Mr. McCluskey gave his 36<sup>th</sup> Chair report. Tonight will be election of chair, vice chair, and numerous committees. Mr. McCluskey said, "One thing that really helped me a lot was to really recognize what my role was here at this school and what my role was not. As Chair you do have the ability because this group only supervises one person, right here (motioned to Superintendent), this person (motioned to Superintendent) supervises everyone else. It's very easy, to insert yourself into the daily operations of the school, and be careful of that. That is my word of advice for whoever becomes chair. It's very easy to become involved and you don't want to be involved."

**Acceptance of Reports:**

Motion by Rusty Gagnon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenn Newcomb

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Old Business:**

**Traffic/Safety Issue:** Flashing lights and mobile signs are the most effective for slowing down traffic. Kelly Theriault and Lt. Russell are looking into grants to purchase flashing signs.

Door locks have been installed at Holden with buttons on the inside for locking classrooms.

**Pre-K Childcare Update:** K-6 afterschool care will be provided by the YMCA at Holbrook. Pre-K childcare will be available at Eddington Elementary School from 11:30am until 5:00pm; Kindergarten and Grade One will be 3-5pm. Nicole Wilkinson is hoping for 12 or more students. Ms. Wilkinson and the YMCA have their own insurance and a 45-day cancellation clause to benefit both parties. Details are being finalized and updates will go out to parents and the community.

Suzanne Wieland recommended RSU 63 have a Facebook page that is strictly informational with no comments and that school board members should refrain from commenting and quoting policy on other peoples posts and pages. Susan Smith and George Cummings will revisit creating an RSU 63 Facebook Page. Mrs. Smith will also contact Eric Johns regarding the title of the SAD 63 Community Collaborative Facebook Page.

**New Business:**

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Motion to Certify Referendum Results by Jenn Newcomb, "It is moved that the Computation and Declaration of Votes dated and attached here to and it is hereby approved (attachment A). Furthermore, that the Computation and Declaration of Votes be entered upon the records of the District. Furthermore, that a certified copy of the Computation and Declaration of Votes be sent to each of the municipal clerks within the District."

Motion by Jenn Newcomb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Buzz Moore.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed.**

Motion to approve Board Meeting Schedule for 2017-2018 School year by Rusty Gagnon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenn Newcomb.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Motion to authorize Superintendent to hire new employees during summer months by Rusty Gagnon and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenn Newcomb.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Motion to approve Amended Cooperative Agreement for Southern Penobscot Regional Program for Children with Exceptionalities (SPRPCE) by Jenn Newcomb and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Suzanne Wieland.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Motion to approve Amended Inter-Local Agreement for Southern Penobscot Regional Program for Children with Exceptionalities by Rusty Gagnon and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenn Newcomb.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Motion to authorize Superintendent to sign Cooperative Agreement and Inter-Local agreement with SPRPCE by Rusty Gagnon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jenn Newcomb.

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Election of Chair:**

Jenn Newcomb nominated Rusty Gagnon; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Buzz Moore

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Election of Vice-Chair:**

Rusty Gagnon nominated Jenn Newcomb; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Buzz Moore

Jenn accepted nomination

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

**Review of Committees and Committee Members:**

Policy Committee: Daniel Allen, Sam Berube, Gavin Robinson

Curriculum Committee: Suzanne Wieland, Buzz Moore, Jenn Newcomb

Technology Committee: Gavin Robinson, Suzanne Wieland, Dave McCluskey

New School Committee: Buzz Moore, Gavin Robinson, Sam Berube

United Technology Center (UTC) Board Member: Dave McCluskey

SPRPCE Board Member: Jenn Newcomb, Suzanne Wieland. The next SPRPCE meeting is August 24, 2017 at 6pm.

Brewer High School Liaison: Jenn Newcomb

John Bapst Memorial High School Liaison: Buzz Moore

Hampden Academy Liaison: No volunteer

Bangor High School Liaison: No volunteer

District Wellness Committee: Gavin Robinson, Suzanne Wieland

**Election of Budget and Finance Committee Members:**

Buzz Moore, Clifton; Jenn Newcomb, Holden; and Dave McCluskey, Eddington, expressed interest. Motion by Suzanne Wieland to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sam Berube

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

New meeting date: Wednesday, July 26, 2017, at 10am

**Election of Warrant Officers:**

Motion to elect Jenn Newcomb and Dave McCluskey by Jenn Newcomb and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sam Berube

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

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

Motion to adjourn by Buzz Moore, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sam Berube

**Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed**

Adjourn 8:29pm

Respectfully submitted by,



Susan M. Smith

RSU 63 Superintendent

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Approved: August 28, 2017