

RSU #63 Board Meeting
Date: October 22, 2018
Location: Eddington Elementary School
Minutes

Members Present:

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

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 5:45pm. A flag salute was conducted and a moment of silence was observed.

At 5:47pm Jenn Newcomb made the motion with a second by Steve Carr to enter into Executive Session to review Superintendent Evaluation data (Board Members and District Personnel) pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(A).

Roll call Vote: 8 Yes; 0 No

At 6:55pm Steve Carr made the motion with a second by Jenn Newcomb to exit Executive Session.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Board Chair, Rusty Gagnon called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. A flag salute was conducted and a moment of silence was observed.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Gavin Robinson with a second by John Hutchins to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2018 Board Meeting.

Vote: 7 Approved; 0 Opposed; 1 Abstention by Jenn Newcomb

Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff and Others: Superintendent Smith congratulated the Holbrook Boys "A" and Girls "A" Soccer teams on their Penobscot Valley championship game wins and stated all Holbrook teams displayed good sportsmanship throughout the season.

Ms. Smith thanked the teachers for sending home positive notes to parents. Teachers are noticing a positive change in student behavior when this occurs.

Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:

Mrs. Helms, Grade 1, received approximately \$400 from Donors Choose for Indoor Recess Games. Friends of Acadia donated approximately \$300 for the Grade 5 Field Trip to Hulls Cove. Donors Choose donated approximately \$140 to Ms. Lovejoy for Grade 5 Dynamath.

Presentation:

Superintendent Smith presented information to the Board on Academic Achievement and Curriculum updates. Ms. Smith discussed the various after-school programs starting October 30th. Late bus transportation will be provided for students to get home. The YMCA

after-school child care participation is a little lower this year and the Little Explorers before and after-school child care participation at the Eddington School is going very well.

Superintendent Smith reviewed the Gifted and Talented program. She advised 2.4% of our students are identified as Academically Gifted and Talented and 3.4% of our students are identified as Artistically Gifted and Talented. Students are generally identified in Grade 3 through testing, parent evaluation, NWEA scores, and teacher evaluation. Some students are put on a watch list and re-evaluated the following year.

Additional Educational Technician support has been added at the Eddington and Holden Schools this year. Health instruction has been added once per week for all students in Kindergarten through Grade 8. Advanced PhD students from the University of Maine are working with our students to support their social, emotional, and behavioral needs. Study hall, lunch, and recess was changed this year at the Holbrook School to be in the middle of the day. Teachers feel this has been a positive change for the students. The reconfiguration of smaller homerooms at Holbrook has also been helpful. Spanish instruction has been added for students in Kindergarten through Grade 4 and Technology instruction has been added once per week for students in Grades 5 and 6.

Superintendent Smith shared the preliminary data from the MEA (Maine Educational Assessment) and the NWEA (Northwestern Education Association) assessments. Finalized MEA data should be available in November. The data will be broken down and analyzed to determine areas of need and improvement. Steps have been taken to improve some of the previously identified areas of need.

Questions and Comments from the Public:

Gavin Robinson asked how the Advanced PhD students are impacting students needs. Superintendent Smith advised students have more access to help and are learning additional ways to deal with the stressors in their daily lives.

Jenn Newcomb asked when the finalized testing data will be available for the Board and how will it be presented. Superintendent Smith advised once she has the finalized testing data she will break it down and analyze all the information. She will deliver a report to the Board in January comparing and contrasting the results from previous years. Ms. Smith reminded the Board the testing was completed last Spring and we are just now receiving the data, making the information out dated. The District does use the data to make improvements in areas identified.

Dates of Next Committee Meeting:

Policy Committee: Monday, November 5, at 6:00pm, at Holbrook Middle School

Curriculum Committee: Monday, November 5, 2018, at 3:30pm, at Holbrook Middle School

Budget & Finance Committee: TBD, at Holbrook Middle School

Budget and Finance:

Jenn Newcomb advised a Board action will be brought forward at the November meeting regarding the transfer of funds to the Capital Reserve account.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Smith advised she will be attending the Eddington Selectmen meeting tomorrow.

RSU #63 Chair's Report:

Ms. Gagnon did not present a written report. She stated that the Superintendent Evaluation Data was received and was very positive feedback from staff. Ms. Gagnon was pleased with the number of responses. She advised policy committee will be re-evaluating the questions asked in the Superintendent Evaluation. Some of the questions were found to be duplicates and the amount of questions was hard to graph. Ms. Gagnon also suggested making different surveys for each group of staff (i.e. Administrators, Support Staff, Teachers).

Acceptance of Reports:

Motion to approve written and verbal reports from Administrators, Committees, Superintendent, and Board Chair by Jenn Newcomb with a second by John Hutchins.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

New Business:

Appointment of Negotiation Committee Members: Ms. Gagnon recommended the Budget and Finance Committee members represent the Board in the contract negotiations with teachers and administrators. She stated an email had been received from Mr. Peter Walsh on behalf of the Teacher Association stating interest in starting the negotiation process later in the fall. Mr. Don Spencer indicated a letter had been sent on behalf of the Administrators to Ms. Gagnon's home address.

Motion by John Hutchins with a second by Linda Graban for the Budget and Finance Committee members (Ms. Newcomb, Mr. Carr, and Mr. Robinson) to handle the contract negotiations with the teachers and administrators.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Policies to Approve:

Motion by John Hutchins with a second by Heather Charity to approve policy CB-R – Superintendent of Schools Job Description with corrections; policy EBCA – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan; policy EBCC – Bomb Threats.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Personnel Actions:

Resignations:

None

Reassignments:

None

Appointments

Staff:

Scott Sanborn, Bus Driver

Winter Coaches:

Bob Merritt, Boys "A" Basketball; Chris Nile, Girls "A" Basketball; Amanda McDonald, Girls "B" Basketball; Stephen Wong, Chess.

After School Staff:

Steve Goulette, Coordinator; Erin McDonald, Sandy Rowe, Nikki Goss, Sam Bedore, Brenda DeRoche, and Peter Walsh, Instructors.

Searches:

Searches continue for Substitutes, Boys "B" Basketball Coach, and Cheering Coach

Questions and Comments from the Public: None

Adjournment:

At 8:12pm a motion was made by John Hutchins with a second by Gavin Robinson to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Respectfully submitted by,



Susan M. Smith

RSU #63 Superintendent/Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Approved: November 26, 2018