

**RSU 63 Board Meeting
October 26, 2015
Eddington School
Minutes**

Members Present:

Town of Clifton – Dola Hinckley;

Town of Eddington – Rusty Gagnon, David McCluskey and Nikki More;

Town of Holden – Chris Doering, Chris Galinski, Jennifer Newcomb, Suzanne Wieland; and Dr. Kenneth Smith, Superintendent of Schools.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. A salute to the U.S. Flag was done and a moment of silence observed.

Approval of Minutes: The following motion was made, seconded and passed. **“It is moved to approve the September 28, 2015 regular meeting minutes as written.”**

Newcomb/More

7/0/0

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

Acceptance of Gifts/Donations:

Special Education Teacher Kristen Russell at the Eddington School was the recipient of the “Keep Calm and Take A Sensory Break!” Ms. Russell had to raise approximately \$630.00 for shipping, but we received a kit sand and water table with clear tub, and a shelf and cover at a cost of \$433.97 each. It was a grant that will be a gift to the system.

Kristen Russell and Grade 1 Teachers Samathan Bedore, Krista-Rae Helms, Ashley Perry applied for and received grants from PetCo. Each of the four teachers will be setting up an animal habitat in their classrooms with a hermit crab, fish, bearded dragon, and a crested gecko. The PetCo grants paid for the animals and supplies.

Questions and Comments from the Public:

Representative Peter Lyford, a volunteer with the Katahdin Area Corporation Boy Scouts of America, informed the Board that from time to time the scouts are given property to manage for the troops. Recently they were given 606 acres in Eddington. They had a committee meeting and Mr. Lyford asked if in the future, the scouts would be interested in selling any of the land for the new RSU #63 and the committee voted to do that. Mr. Lyford distributed a map to the Board members, which outlined the property. It is just an option for RSU #63 that may or may not work out.

Next Committee Meeting Dates:

Budget & Finance Committee – November 9, 2015 at Holbrook School, 5:30 p.m.

Policy Committee – November 2, 2015 at Holbrook School, 6:15 p.m.

Operations/Facilities Committee – November 3, 2015 at Holbrook School, 3:45 p.m.

Curriculum Committee – January 13, 2016 at Holbrook School, 5:00 p.m.

Technology Committee – TBD

Presentation – Pre-K to Grade 5 Science (Michele Archambault, Tom Coleman, Brenda DeRoche and Susan Smith:

Much of the information that is being shared tonight with the Board members is through the Maine Elementary Sciences Partnership, a partnership to strengthen elementary student learning through science education. Michele Archambault, Tom Coleman and Brenda DeRoche are Science Resource Partners that attend the meetings at the University of Maine and bring back information to our district. We will be discussing community, professional development, and high quality instructional resources. Some work with the physical science partnership at University of Maine with grades 6-9 really helps show the importance of these three ingredients and how they work together when it comes to making change, improving student learning, and sustaining change.

Susan Smith discussed the schools and districts that participate in the Maine Elementary Partnership. We have groups in the Central, Northern and Southern part of the state and we get together virtually and live and in person throughout the year. Professional development is ongoing. There are many opportunities for the teachers to participate in the professional development, i.e. workshops that focus on science, summer time leadership opportunities, and collaboration with professors at the University of Maine, and middle and high school teachers.

Tom Coleman discussed the instructional strategies and resources we use in our district. Talk Science is a way to go about your interaction with the students to promote science in the classroom. Research tells us that if we get the student to talk about science it will help in so many different areas, including the exploration of science. Mr. Coleman demonstrated a Talk Move on how to engage in productive talk in the classroom with several RSU #63 elementary school students participating in the discussion with Mr. Coleman about the demonstration.

Brenda DeRoche spent one week during the summer at the University of Maine working on Write Science, which was built off of Talk Science. In Talk Science we get the students to start to talk about science and ask the students what their evidence or reasoning is for making a particular statement. The students do illustrations of what their claim is and draw why what they feel is true. As the grades go on, they go into a more detailed ability to express what their writing is, what their claim is and give reasoning as to why the claim and evidence go together to support their belief.

Michele Archambault discussed STEMscopes, which is an on line resource. It is an inquiry-based program where the students are discovering and exploring many different science concepts that align with the curriculum. Another part to it is “Illuminate”, which is an on line resource for the teachers. The teachers go in and assess the student’s prior knowledge and hook them into the concepts you are going to be teaching them. The portion “Do” is a scientific investigation where the students conduct experiments. We “Assess” is another online resource for teachers, providing 3 options for how they are going to assess the

student; open-ended responses, multi-choice responses, or providing claim evidence and reasoning.

The connections that science has to math, reading and writing, as well as natural curiosity has helped in all the content areas and we feel science education is very important. Susan Smith recognized all our supporters – The University of Maine, Schoodic Education and Research Center, Siemens, RiSE Center, Maine Department of Education, and the National Science Foundation. The Maine Science Teacher Association recognized the work we are doing.

Budget & Finance:

- 1) Business Manager Report – Nothing further to add to written report
- 2) Budget and Finance Committee – Did not meet this month due to illness of committee members.

Superintendent:

There are other countries that have different expectations of their students. When our students complain about tests, they should look at some of those countries that spend 2 or 3 days on one test.

Dr. Smith distributed the preliminary enrollment numbers for October 1. We have six children that are being home schooled and they are part of our enrollment projection. When it is finalized, the Board will be able to look at 10 years down the road to get a rough idea of what we might anticipate for students, which has real implications for your budget as far as secondary students and transportation for elementary students.

David McCluskey arrived to the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Jennifer Newcomb asked about the influx of ninth grade students. There was a discussion on home-schooled students.

RSU #63 Chair:

Mr. McCluskey forwarded the letters from the Teachers' Association and Administrators regarding contract negotiations to Dr. Smith. We have a meeting scheduled for this Thursday at 3:30 p.m. with the Administrators group. We have communicated with the Teachers' group and waiting for them to get back to us on when they will be ready to start their negotiations.

Jake Morgan's Board report indicates that there are several maintenance items and asked if any of these would necessitate any purchases in the coming year. Yes, Mr. Morgan will be recommending replacing a bus. Jennifer Newcomb asked which vehicle was it that we just spent a large amount of money on. It was for bus #31. Nikki More asked if the plow truck would have to be replaced. Yes, we will be discussing that at the Operations Meeting. Nikki More asked about homeless students. Do we have any homeless students in RSU 63?

The following motion was made, seconded and passed. **"It is moved to approve all written and oral reports as presented to the Board."**

Newcomb/More

8/0/0

At this point in time, David McCluskey took over the meeting as Chair.

Old Business:

- 1) AOS Withdrawal: There was a public hearing tonight prior to the Board Meeting on the RSU #63 withdrawal from AOS #81. Rusty Gagnon prepared a one-page sheet on the withdrawal, which should be posted next to the Warrant and Notice of Election for the referendum vote. The principals agreed they would send the one-page sheet prepared by Rusty Gagnon home to the parents.
- 2) School Reconfiguration: It was agreed to take this item off the regular agenda.
- 3) New School Committee: The architects Oak Point Associates are going through all three schools to do an assessment about where we are as far as codes and safety issues and costing it out if we stayed where we are for 10 or 15 years and the cost to update to code/standards. The study will be complete in December and there will be a Board presentation. If the study shows a single school would more cost effective than trying to maintain three buildings, they will then be working on a concept plan on what the new school would look like. That presentation will be done to the public in conjunction with the Annual Budget Meeting for next year's fiscal budget. In the course of that presentation we would know how many acres of land we would need to have for this new school. When the public vote on the proposed FY17 budget in June, there would also be a referendum to the public asking if they would agree with us continuing to go forward with the new school. If approved, the next phase in 2016-2017 would be looking for the land. The following year (2017-2018) we would advertise for architectural services. The following year (2018-2019) we would start construction with a one-year period for construction.
- 4) Teachers' Contract Negotiations: We have not met with the Teachers' Association yet and scheduled to meet with the Administrators' group this Thursday.
- 5) School Construction Process: Nothing further to add
- 6) School Facilities Study: Nothing further to add
- 7) Comprehensive Enrollment Projection: Once we authenticate the October 1 enrollment numbers, we will give the numbers to the firm to do the projections, which we should have this winter.

New Business:

- 1) Policies: Rusty Gagnon pulled Policy DI and Policy GCBBB from the list of policies for the Board to approve, as the Budget & Finance Committee did not meet and get a chance to review the policies.

The Board members discussed Policy JICA, Student Dress Code. The Student Handbook specifically mentions open-toed shoes and length of shorts/skirts, but the

Policy JICA does not. It was agreed that we would add the following sentence to the policy: Clothing attire needs to meet the Student Handbooks appropriate to the age.

The following motion was made, seconded and passed. **"It is moved to approve on first reading Draft Policy JI, Student Rights and Responsibilities as written; Draft Policy JIC, Student Conduct as amended; Draft Policy JICA, Student Dress Code as amended; and Draft Policy JICK, Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Hazing as written."**

Gagnon/Newcomb

8/0/0

- 2) New Board Member Orientation: David McCluskey reviewed the Table of Contents discussed at the September Board Meeting. Mr. McCluskey asked the Board members if they had anything they would like to add to the Table of Contents. If not, we should move forward with a draft document. We have guidelines for Board behavior, behavioral expectations and how everything is structured, but we have no one who is responsible to monitor these things to be sure we are in compliance. Ultimately elected officials are responsible to the people who elected them. But if there is a transgression from these policies and expectations, Mr. Doering feels it is up to the Board Chair, and perhaps the Superintendent, to have a discussion. He feels it might be useful to be written into a policy and adopt as our structure. Rusty would like to see an orientation to the Policy Binder. Mr. McCluskey will be asking for some information on the funding pieces – summary and structure – and once received, he will prepare a draft format to present to the Board members at the November 16, 2015 Board Meeting.
- 3) Review/Approval of RSU #63 Employee Handbook: We had our current Employee Handbook reviewed by legal counsel. There were many items in our current handbook that did not conform to current law and suggested revisions to correct these items and ambiguities were given to us by legal counsel to review. Dr. Smith distributed a new Employee Handbook for Support Staff effective November 1, 2015. Mr. Galinski asked why if any employee is engaged in outside employment they must inform their supervisor. Some reasons would be because of insurance and worker's compensation. Tom Coleman asked if there are items that have been reviewed against the teachers' existing contract and is it appropriate to ask that the Teachers' Association take a look at the proposed new handbook prior to approval to see if there are any issues the teachers might have? The handbook is for support staff and covers at-will, non-contracted employees only. Mr. Coleman apologized and said he did not understand it was for another group of employees. The following motion was made, seconded and passed. **"It is moved to approve the Regional School Unit #63 Handbook for Support Staff with an Issue Date of November 1, 2015 as written."**

Gagnon/Newcomb

8/0/0

Personnel Actions:

- 1) Resignations: None

- 2) Leaves: None
- 3) Elections: None
- 4) Appointments: The following motion was made, seconded and passed. **"It is moved to approve the following appointments to RSU #63: Erin McDonald – Cross Country Coach; Bob Merritt – "A" Boys Basketball Coach; Chris Nile – "A" Girls Basketball Coach; and Gene Worcester – "B" Boys and Girls Basketball Coach."**

Gagnon/More
8/00/0

- 5) Searches: We are having trouble getting a Cheering Coach for this season. If we are unable to find a Cheering Coach, we may not be able to offer cheering this year. The University of Maine has a program and they might have a college student looking for extra money. Mr. Modery has also reached out to the University of Maine and Husson College with no expressed interest. Also, the Big Ten Cheer Group also have college students that coach.
- 6) Reassignments: None

Questions and Comments from the Public: None

Executive Sessions:

At 8:00 p.m. Rusty Gagnon made the following motion and Nikki More seconded the motion. **"It is moved to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A)."**

Roll call was taken with all members replying "Yes".

Gagnon/More
8/0/0

At 8:09 p.m. David McCluskey declared the Board out of executive session.

At 8:10 p.m. Rusty Gagnon made the following motion and Jennifer Newcomb seconded the motion. **"It is moved to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A)."**

Roll call was taken will all members replying "Yes".

Gagnon/Newcomb
8/0/0

At 8:29 p.m. David McCluskey declared the Board out of executive session.

At 8:30 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Hinckley/Gagnon
8/0/0

Sincerely,

Kenneth Smith, EdD
RSU #63 Superintendent of Schools