

RSU # 12
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (REGULAR) MEETING
Thursday, March 22, 2018 @ 6:30 PM
CHELSEA SCHOOL CAFE

Draft Minutes

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Flag Salute

Meeting began at 6:36 p.m.

Flag Salute led by Gerry Nault

Attending: Barbara Baston, Richard Cote, Douglas Crochere, Alpha Williams, Will Sugg, Russell Gates, Christopher Johnson, Richard DeVries, Susan Stires, Terri Blair, Tara DeLisle, Keith Marple, Thomas Birmingham, Thomas McNaughton, Gerard Nault
Spencer Bailey will be arriving late.

Absent: Sandra Devaney (E)

Administrators: Belinda Waterhouse, Pat Block, Delia Dearnley, Larry Dancer, Deb Taylor, Tom Soule, Maggie Allen, Dale Hayward, Pat Metta

2. Public Comment: **(10 min)**: *Public Comment at School Board meetings is to be restricted to items on the agenda. Comments regarding individuals or personnel matters are not appropriate for public session. Those wishing to speak should so indicate on the Public Comment Sign-in Sheet.*

Jonathan Villeneuve - Alna - Discussed referendum on ballot in Alna regarding school choice. Requested that the board form a study committee if the vote is affirmative to take some time to study the impact to the RSU budget, school capacity, and the legality of the "grandfather clause."

Abbie Manahan - Alna - Introduced herself to the board as a parent, resident, and school board candidate.

Carl Wilson - deferred

Shannon Cotta - Alna - She is running for selectman and thanked the Alna school board members for their service. Asked the board to be cautious regarding the school choice issue and asked for a study group.

Aaron Robinson - Alna resident - Concerned how the school choice referendum will affect the children of Alna.

Roger Drolet - Whitefield - Concerned that the minutes of Dec. 14th and Jan 11th were severely understated regarding the comments made by parent and community members regarding Whitefield School. He asks the board not to approve the minutes until they are completed.

3. Consent Agenda (20 min)

Note: Items may be removed from the Consent Agenda on the request of any one

member; items not removed may be adopted by general consent without debate. Removed items may be scheduled for consideration immediately after the Consent agenda or placed on the agenda at the discretion of the board. [Action]

Motion to accept the consent agenda as listed below.

Thomas McNaughton - 1st; Thom Birmingham - 2nd; Motion passed 15-0-0

Consent Agenda items:

- a. Accept the Minutes of the previous meeting(s) as distributed
Mr. Nault discussed the the question of the minutes and what is missing with Roger Drolet, offering to have him go into the minutes and let Mr. Nault know what is missing. Mr. Drolet refused the offer.
Mr. Marple asked that another person who had spoken at the meeting receive the same offer to adjust the summary. Mr. Nault agreed.

7:15 pm - Spencer Bailey arrived

- b. Accept the Policies as distributed: None
4. Superintendent's Report as distributed - Mr. Tuttle discussed the security breach of some student's google accounts at Windsor School. We were caught by surprise by this, but have learned from this situation and will do better next time. There was a former student of Windsor Elementary School responsible who has been questioned and confessed. Our system was not hacked, as this student logged directly into google accounts.
Mr. Marple questioned what has been done regarding password security. Deb Taylor discussed all of the work that is being done in the RSU and with Google to prevent this from happening again. Mr. Marple requested that a notification about the event and guidance for password security be sent to all schools.
Richard Drolet - works for IT for the state and reported that Google is not a secure system.
5. Board Chairman's Report as distributed - Mr. Marple discussed the report representing us as "Agents of State." He read a few points of "Ten Commandments for Better Communication for School Officials."
6. Committee Minutes as distributed - Accept the Personnel Report as distributed - Mr. Marple made a motion to divide the Personnel and Policy Committee. Mr. Marple stated his motion does not change any policies except for the change of inviting all members of the Personnel Committee to be a part of administrator hiring committees instead of just two members. Chris Johnson agreed as there is a lot of hiring to be done and is difficult for the joint committee to do both. Mr. DeVries questioned that it might be burdensome to the interview process.
1st - Keith Marple; 2nd - Tara DeLisle; Motion passes 10 - 5 - 0 (passes by weighted vote as well)
7. Old Business: (20 min)
 - a. Alna School Choice Petition - Ralph Hilton, petitioner, spoke regarding the school choice referendum that is up for vote in Alna. Alna is changing the policy and

reorganizing how they pay tuition for enrollment. He encouraged voters to really read the referendum before voting. He discussed the cost involved for Alna residents for students to continue to have K-8 choice. Mr. Marple questioned what the costs were tuitioning students to public vs. private school. Barbara Baston stated that some parents would still send their children to private school if they felt that strongly about the education, but would absorb the cost themselves.

8. New Business (80 min)

- a. Opportunity for Public Comment on use of Federal ESEA Funds - Deb Taylor explained that ESEA Funds are the federal umbrella in which the school district receives federal funds. The district has to apply annually for the funds provides the opportunity for public comment. Mr. Tuttle let people know they could come to Central Office to review the documents explaining the ESEA Funds. Mr. Johnson suggested documents could be reviewed and there will be an opportunity to comment at the April meeting.
- b. Social Work Presentation - Stephanie Oliphant presented School Social Work Services that are provided in the schools. She is an LCSW, which is a master level social worker. She discussed her work with children, staff, finding resources for families, IEP involvement, crisis intervention, therapies, and individual counseling. She offered to answer questions about her position. Chris Johnson asked if she would be involved in programs in the schools who are affected by trauma. Mr. Marple commended her on how helpful she has been to the Whitefield community.

Abbie Manahan asked if the schools all had guidance counselors and Ms. Oliphant explained the different roles within the schools as well as services that are provided outside of the school.

There was a public question about how referrals are made, which was explained Melissa Vallieres asked if the services were provided or billed to insurance companies.

Roger Drolet - Is there any requirement for the RSU to report things to her? She explained that she was very well aware of what was going on in all four schools. He emphasized that additional staff is needed.

9. Consideration of the formation of an anti-bullying Committee - Russell Gates discussed the meeting and its members. He discussed the mission of the committee and its purpose.

Motion was made to established the Anti-Bullying committee with charges as presented.

1st - Chris Johnson; 2nd - Thomas McNaughton

Discussion: Mr. Marple questioned the appeals process to the board when parents feel their issues are not addressed.

Mr. Marple made a motion to table this agenda item until the next meeting.

2nd - Tara DeLisle; Motion failed: 5 - 10 - 1; Terri Blair abstained from the vote

Discussion of the first motion to accept the committee: Chris Johnson said that the committee covers all of the issues, such as the appeals process to the board. Keith Marple feels that the committee does not have the authority it needs. Chris Johnson asked for clarifications of what powers he felt was missing. Tara DeLisle discussed that

she has heard that Whitefield parents specifically felt that it was arbitrary, but understands the wording as stated to be sufficient. Chris Johnson explained that the committee had all of the powers necessary.

Sarah Ricker - MDOE - Discussed bullying the procedure and the state laws around it and the appeal process. The appeal process is not clear in some districts. Suggested looking at the model policy on the MDOE website and stated that our RSU was on the right track.

Frank Hample - asked if professional staff could be invited on to the committee.

Will Sugg - Can the committee go into executive session to protect confidentiality? Chris Johnson said that the board could go into executive session.

Roger Drolet - asked why the piece was removed from the original charge. It was explained that the sub committee cannot override the powers of the whole board.

Keith Marple - Questioned how the appeals would be reported to the board.

Chris Johnson - The committee will be charged with informing the board.

Motion passed: 14-0-1; Keith Marple abstained from the vote.

10. Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Presentation - Three handouts were given to the board members regarding the budget. The original needs-based draft budget was up by two million. Many changes occurred during late February and March. Health insurance and retirement increases came in lower than originally budgeted. A loan to replace all the roofs at once will be less expensive. The state is changing the funding for vocational students, so that has been removed from the budget in anticipation of the law passing. Some of our 8th graders will be attending charter schools, which the RSU does not pay for.

Mr. Tuttle discussed the list of priorities provided and encouraged open discussion. He stated that the Finance committee would be touring the towns starting next week to present the draft budget and request feedback from the public.

Richard DeVries said that by doing the roofs and generators all at the same time would save money.

Barbara Baston would like to see the Math Coach added back in.

Keith Marple would like to see cameras added in the schools near the bathrooms due to graffiti issues.

Keith Marple asked if the survey the Finance Committee discussed was going to be sent out to board members. Mr. Tuttle asked the board members if they wanted to participate in a survey and what they would like to add. Richard DeVries would like items the district is working around be removed from the list. Keith Marple would like all of the items to stay on the list and prioritized. Richard Cote requested that the survey can suggest things the board would like to see added, but also the things they would like to see decreased.

Thomas McNaughton asked about specifics on the details of the budget to be able to communicate it to the towns.

Tara DeLisle asked about the JMG program, it was explained that the RSU was on the waitlist. She asked how the math coach position would work in the schools. It was explained that they would be in the schools to directly support staff and students.

The survey will be sent out to the board and the detail will be available to the board on Monday as the first presentation will be to Chelsea on March 28th.

Will Sugg asked parents and community members in attendance to encourage others to come to the budget meetings and to the budget vote at Chelsea School on Thursday,

May 17th.

Richard DeVries reiterated that board members communicating the budget was very important.

Thomas McNaughton requested information on the cost of high school tuition. The tuition paid for 9 - 12 students is a large part of the budget and knowing the numbers would help to explain it to the towns. Mr. Nault explained that tuition bills need to be paid and that cannot be cut from the budget. Keith Marple asked to have data provided for tuition lines. Chris Johnson requested information on how many students are being educated. The RSU has added almost 30 additional students.

11. Whitefield Information - Tom Soule Interim Principal, acknowledged that while there is a cloud over Whitefield, there are a lot of good things happening. He discussed his own personal interactions with students, Hidden Valley Nature Center presentation, PTA meeting had triple the number of parents and they have many ideas, read a few letters from local organizations to Whitefield School. The Margaret Chase Smith Library has invited the school to visit to honor the fundraising efforts of a recent Dodgeball tournament. He highlighted all of the many activities that have been going on and will go on in the future.

Mr. Tuttle explained that the Whitefield Collaborative Committee Project meets each Monday night and has been having great conversations and making progress. There is a website and press release available as well. It is very innovative work and holds a lot of promise.

Keith Marple discussed the work of the committee and a discussion at the past meeting asking for open communication.

Tara DeLisle acknowledged Tom Soule's presentation and the overall positive change in the school. Keith Marple echoed this sentiment.

9:10 pm - break before executive session.

12. Executive Session: Enter Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A) To review the duties and responsibilities of Board members
Richard DeVries - 1st; Thom Birmingham - 2nd; Motion passed 15-0-0
Out of Executive session at 10:04
13. Adjournment - Seeing no objection, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:05pm