

RSU # 12
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (REGULAR) MEETING
Thursday, April 11, 2019, @ 6:30 PM
CHELSEA SCHOOL CAFE

Draft Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Gerry Nault led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: Alpha Williams, Richard DeVries, Douglas Crochere, Tara DeLisle, Monique Crummett, Will Sugg, Gerry Nault, Susan Stires, Frank Hample, Ralph Hilton, Russell Gates, Thomas McNaughton, Lynette Conroy

Absent: Rick Cote (E), Sandra Devaney (E), Abby Manahan (E), Terri Blair (E)

Administrators: Belinda Waterhouse, Deb Taylor, Larry Dancer, Mike Flynn, Dede Dearnley, Mark Deblois, Pat Metta, Stephanie Oliphant, Heather Wilson

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 the public session. Those wishing to speak should so indicate on the Public Comment Sign-in Sheet.*

No public comment

3. Focus on Learning - ABLES Program Informational Presentation (30 min)

Dede Dearnley gave a presentation about the ABLE program, which is entering its 10th year. When the RSU came together, we were spending a lot of money educating our ABLE students out of the district. Thanks to a federal grant, we were able to start a program in our own district, beginning in Somerville, then eventually programs at Chelsea and Whitefield. Now, the programs are located at Chelsea School with two classrooms, one focusing on Autism and the other on Behavioral needs. There are two lead teachers as well several ed techs that support both programs. The ABLE numbers have grown from 9 students at the beginning to 16 students currently. Dede introduced staff: Anne Billings, Autism; Chris Abate, OT; Adrien Lemar, Behavior Consultant; and Cindy Woodside, Behavior. The teachers took the board and audience members on a tour of the classrooms. They did a great job explaining and highlighting the programs. Thank you to the ABLES staff for dedicating their evening to educating us.

4. Adjustments and 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]

Consent Agenda items:

- a. Approve the Minutes of the previous meeting as distributed
- b. Superintendent's Report as distributed - removed

Mr. Tuttle wanted to share some good news and asked Mike Flynn to talk about the Chelsea student and staff member who recently competed and won the Farm to School Regional Cooking Competition. The meals prepared had to be compliant and created in a three-hour span. They also used lettuce from the Whitefield Aquaponics in their meal prep. They will be competing on the state level in the finals.

- c. Approve the Committee Minutes as distributed
- d. Accept the Personnel Report
- e. Accept the Policies as distributed: None

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda Items

Thomas McNaughton - 1st Monique Crummett - 2nd

Motion passes 13-0-0

5. Old Business:

6. New Business (60 min)

- a. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Public Comment [Informational]

No public comment

- b. An update on grants received by RSU 12 [Informational]

Every year there are grants available to the RSU. Title I (\$350,000) which is a federal grant based on our student free/reduced lunch count and supports staff costs. Title 2A (\$60,000) is a federal grant for class size reduction, which funds a teacher in the district to keep class sizes. Title IV (\$27,000) is a grant that can be rolled into other Title grants. Title V (\$15,000) is primarily used for professional development. Local Entitlement (\$454,000) is a federal grant based on last year's spending for special education and is used for salaries for staff. The only issue with this grant is that if you spend less money, you get less money. The PreK grant might have some carryover to next year because some schools exited the program and there is money left that they did not use. The Perloff grants have benefitted the schools with 3D printers, etc. Full Plate,

Full Potential grant (\$3100) for the breakfast program and the 5210 Let's Go grant for the water bottle station at Whitefield.

c. Proposed 2019-2020 School Calendar [Possible Action]

The draft has changed slightly from the first draft - Monday, December 23rd was a school day but has since been changed to part of vacation. In order to get out on June 8th, we will start school on August 28th and go for three days.

Motion to accept the 2019-2020 School Calendar

Thomas McNaughton - 1st Monique Crummett - 2nd

Motion passes 13-0-0

d. Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Presentation [Action]

SUGGESTED MOTION: To accept the Finance Committee's recommended 2019-2020 general education budget as proposed, a budget of \$23,022,981.21.

The finance committee and Mr. Tuttle gave a big thank you to board members who came to the budget presentation meetings. The budget had been presented publicly eight times throughout the month of March. The overall sentiment from the meetings was supportive of the budget. The System Administration Comparison slide was discussed as it shows that we have lower costs for administration per student compared to other districts. Mr. Tuttle explained the Prek (p22) situation as the grant is going away but has been replaced by the state subsidy. The program in effect is no cost to taxpayers as it is fully reimbursed the following year. There was discussion about clarifying the graph to show this. The per student cost in the Total Proposed Budget is up less than 2%.

Motion to approve the proposed budget:

Ralph Hilton - 1st Frank Hample - 2nd

Motion passes 13-0-0

e. Board member communication [Informational]

Russell Gates said that he and Frank Hample have been putting notices in the Somerville Newsletters to help communicate with the town and let them know what is going on with the RSU 12 School Board. They encouraged other board members to reach out to their towns in the same way if possible. Whitefield has a town newsletter that the school principal and board members contribute to.

f. §17859. Retiring and returning to work [Action]

Mr. Tuttle explained that this was being discussed at the Policy Committee Meeting. It is in statute that a teacher or administrator can retire and then be re-hired by the school district. They cannot work for 30 days between retirement and getting rehired. A staff member can collect half their retirement and then come back to work. We would not have to pay health insurance or retirement on those employees. There has to be a break in employment, no deal can be given that they will get re-hired and it would be done on a case by case basis. He was asking the board if this is something that they support. Gerry Nault gave some history on this that back in the 1990's there were issues with the state budget and state workers were doing this to help save money. The state had success with this.

Ralph Hilton supported this as long as we follow the law and sees it as a financial benefit to the RSU. Thomas McNaughton also supported this idea. Frank Hample asked if the retirees still will need to apply for the positions (they will). Richard DeVries feels it would be good to do considering the shortage of teachers in the state.

The policy committee suggested the motion: To support the retiring and returning to work provisions as described in Title 5 M.R.S.A. §423 (5) (2)

Monique Crummett - 1st Thomas McNaughton - 2nd

Motion passes 13-0-0

- g. Change in date for May Board meeting to May 2, 2019 [Action]

This change is due to giving time for warrants to be signed and posted before the budget meeting on May 16th.

Motion to change the next board

Ralph Hilton - 1st Richard DeVries - 2nd

Motion passes 12-0-1 (Susan Stires abstained as she is not able to attend on that date)

- h. FoodCorps: Connect Kids to Healthy Food in School [Action]
SUGGESTED MOTION: *To accept the FoodCorps grant award and fund a service member in RSU 12 for \$7000 a year from 2019-2021.*

Richard DeVries - 1st Doug Crochere - 2nd

Mike Flynn applied for a grant and got it which will put someone in our district full time. Our contribution would be \$7000 which can be funded by grants so there will be no cost to taxpayers. It is a two-year commitment.

Ralph Hilton thanked Mike Flynn for testifying in front of the legislature advocating for free lunch for all students.

Lynette Conroy asked if there is going to be a home base for the service rep. Mike Flynn said that decision has not been made yet.

Motion passes 13-0-0

Five-minute break at 8:30 before entering executive session.

7. Executive Session: Enter Executive Session Pursuant to *Title 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)*
(A) Personnel Matter

Motion to go into executive session

Richard DeVries - 1st Tom McNaughton - 2nd

Motion passes 13-0-0

8. Executive Session: Enter Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)
(D) Teacher Negotiations
6. Adjourn: Seeing no objection the chair adjourned at 9:33pm