

RSU # 12  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (REGULAR) MEETING  
Thursday, October 8, 2020 @ 6:30 PM  
**Somerville Elementary School**

*Due to restrictions on crowd size, the public will not be able to attend in person.  
Please see the information below on how to view the meeting remotely.*

**How to view the Board Meeting Remotely**  
**See Directions Below**  
Draft Minutes

*In accordance with An Act To Implement Provisions Necessary to the Health, Welfare and Safety of the Citizens of Maine in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, as enacted to read: Sec. G-1 1 MRSA §403-A Public proceedings through remote access during declaration of state of emergency due to COVID-19, this meeting will be conducted remotely through online video conferencing. The meeting will be recorded and made available on our website at <http://www.svrsu.org/remote-school-board-meetings>. The meeting will also be streamed live on the [Sheepscot Valley RSU 12 Youtube Channel](#). If you wish to submit public comment, then you may do so by emailing Leslie Burgess at [leburgess@svrsu.org](mailto:leburgess@svrsu.org).*

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

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm

Sandra Devaney led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Richard DeVries, Russell Gates, Will Sugg, Monique Crummett, Sandra Devaney, Mary Coventry, Frank Hample, Ryan Carver

Zoom: Michael Lemelin, Suzanne Balbo, Kimberly Hutchinson, Doug Morier, Doug Crochere, Lynette Conroy, Kristina Verney, Steve Smith

Absent: Rick Cote (E)

Administrators present: Deb Taylor, Delia Dearnley, Pat Block, Larry Dancer, Mike Flynn, Michele Grant, Allison Myers, Heather Wilson, Stephanie Oliphant, Mark Deblois

2. Focus on Learning: None

3. 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. Please email public comment to Leslie Burgess at [leburgess@svrsu.org](mailto:leburgess@svrsu.org)*

No public comment

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 - removed

Mr. Tuttle reported that we have finished our first month of school and it has all gone very well. He thanked staff, students and parents for all of their help in getting school started again.

Mike Flynn was asked to share that the Maine Fisheries Association is teaming up with the DOE and using RSU 12 as the test program to offer fresh fish free of charge to the district.

Richard DeVries asked when we would see the results of NWEA testing. Mr. Tuttle explained that testing had just begun. Deb Taylor said the testing window might be extended to make sure we reach remote learners as well, but we will hopefully have results by mid-November.

- c. Approve the Committee Minutes as distributed - removed

Richard DeVries commended Larry Dancer and Howie Tuttle for jumping on the healthy classroom approach so quickly and so early. We no longer recirculate any air which will consequently increase our heating costs, but we can address that. Filters are still in the process of being installed and should be done in the next three or four weeks.

- d. Accept the Personnel Report
- e. Accept the Policies as distributed: None

Russell Gates made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda with b and c removed.

Richard DeVries - 2nd

Motion passes 15-0-0 (Monique Crummett was out of the room during the vote)

Motion to accept the Finance and Facilities minutes.

Richard DeVries - 1st Russell Gates - 2nd

Motion passes 15-0-0 (Monique Crummett was out of the room during the vote)

## 5. Old Business

## 6. New Business (90min)

- a. Substitute Rates for 2020 [Action]

Motion to accept the new Substitute rates as written.

Richard DeVries - 1st Lynette Conroy - 2nd

Mr. Tuttle explained that the change in rate of pay for teachers is going to \$15.00 per hour. We checked rates in the area of other school districts in the area and our rates are competitive. We will be bringing the substitute rates before the board again in December to approve when the minimum wage increases again on January 1st.

Motion passes 15-0-0 (Monique Crummett was out of the room during the vote)

b. Updates to Reopening Plan [Action]

Mr. Tuttle explained that the reopening plan approved in August has been followed but is updated by the Maine DOE. Any updates in the plan will be dated by a date connotation on the page. Mr. Tuttle added a tool that superintendents use (pg32) that came from a document that came from a standard operating procedure when there is a Covid 19 positive case on the Maine DOE website. This table is being used to make decisions, for example, last week we had two individuals test positive for Covid and, according to the table, we quarantined the classrooms involved. Once we started doing contact tracing on where the individuals had been during the week outside of school, it was discovered that there was a basketball event in which there was a large crowd along with another event involving a daycare. In discussions with the CDC, they were supportive of our decision to have remote learning for three days to see if any other individuals tested positive due to these events. This does not mean that we will automatically close and go to remote learning every time we have a positive case. We will go by the recommendations from the Maine CDC. If the guidance is updated, we will update it in the plan as well.

Richard DeVries made a motion to accept the plan with the addition.

Frank Hample - 2nd

Doug Morier suggested two revisions to the plan to clarify (pg 21) bullet #1 and (pg 17) for social/emotional help links to be added to the document.

Richard DeVries amended his motion to include the changes discussed.

Motion passes 13-0-2 (Monique Crummett was out of the room during the vote, Steve Smith and Michael Lemelin abstained)

c. RSU 12 and RSU 40 Adult Education Collaborative Agreement [Action]

Richard DeVries moved to accept the agreement

Frank Hample - 2nd

Mr. Tuttle said that the finance committee reviewed it and is supportive of the agreement and only asked if it could be started earlier than the July 1st date. Mr. Tuttle will go back to RSU 40 to ask for that. We do a cost-sharing collaboration with the district and the oversight board that needs to be formed would include both superintendents and one school board member from each district. We currently have a collaboration with other districts for our high school students.

Motion passes 15-0-0

d. Use of RSU 12 Buildings [Action]

On page 18 of the plan, it states that we will not be having outside organizations use the buildings this year. We do allow some potential exceptions for the towns. The town of Chelsea is asking to use the building for the Christmas Tree Lighting - the cafeteria, gym, bathrooms. The event is scheduled for late November. The school board needs to decide if these types of events should be allowed.

Russell Gates asked if the town would be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing the building after the event.

Mr. Tuttle said that the town would have to follow state guidelines.

Ryan Carver questioned whether school sports would be allowed inside. Mr. Tuttle said that currently there is no decision on inside sports yet, such as basketball.

Sandra Devaney asked if the Boys and Girls Club was following the CDC guidelines. They are following the guidelines.

Frank Hample asked if they would need to sign an agreement that they will enforce the safety requirements.

Suzanne Balbo asked if the town was asking for access to the building or if they would be having a craft fair and be offering food and drink. Yes, the town would like to do all of that.

Stephanie Oliphant said that Windsor and Palermo were also going to be having craft fairs.

Doug Morier asked if there was a list available of all uses of the buildings. Mr. Tuttle was looking at the reopening plan which says only the municipal requests by towns could use the buildings (i.e. voting).

Lynette Conroy asked about remote learning for election day. (Item g)

Russell Gates said that there is potential that votes could be counted into the morning hours and asked if that would be enough time to clean and sanitize. We do expect a late night and early morning for the custodians, but they would only be using the gym.

It was asked if we would charge for custodial services at Chelsea, which we could do under these circumstances.

Frank Hample asked if a request could be done through the municipality.

Ryan Carver said that youth sports is not part of the town or the schools and is concerned with the schools not being available to them. Frank Hample suggested the youth sports partner with the municipalities to request building use.

Mr. Tuttle said we are still waiting for guidance from the MPA and will be deciding on RSU 12 athletics next month. He is asking about the tree lighting event specifically.

Sandra Devaney asked if we could add something to the RSU Building Use form stating that they will comply with the CDC guidelines. We can add that provision. How would we decide who would be charged for cleaning?

Richard DeVries does not think the idea of charging for extra cleaning is appropriate as we need to encourage support from our towns.

Richard DeVries made a motion that the superintendent makes the decision on a case by case basis but that the specific safety guidelines must be in writing.

Frank Hample - 2nd

Mary Coventry added that having any groups follow the school protocols would be part of the agreement.

Motion passes 10-6-0 (5186 - 5015)

Richard DeVries suggested we discuss this in the November meeting as well.

Doug Morier suggested that we do not charge for cleaning but that we do have a specific application process.

Mr. Tuttle said we will add a provision for safety protocols.

e. Somerville Deed Approval [Action]

Richard DeVries moved that the deed be approved.

Frank Hample - 2nd

Monique Crummett asked for clarification that it states that they will get their own electricity and heat source, which they are. The topic of the generator is still being discussed.

Richard DeVries said that it will help the people of Somerville.

Frank Hample said it would depend on Somerville getting the grant.

Motion passes 16-0-0

f. Board committees [Informational]

Mr. Tuttle thanked board members for signing up for committees but pointed out that we need at least one more board member for the Negotiations Committee, which is understandably a bigger commitment than the other committees. He asked board members to consider joining the committee.

g. November 3rd, Remote Learning Day [Possible Action]

Mr. Tuttle explained that on election day we will be going to remote learning for the students. Chelsea and Windsor need the gyms for voting, Whitefield is still deciding. Palermo has said they do not need the school. We need the space for students and will not be able to use it on election day. If Palermo does not need the building for voting, students will be in session that day.

h. MSBA Delegate [Action]

Mr. Tuttle explained that the fall conference will be done over Zoom this year and they have a delegate assembly where one board member from each district will get a vote. We need to nominate one delegate.

Frank Hample nominated Sandra Devaney to be RSU 12 Delegate.

Monique Crummett - 2nd

Motion passes 15-0-0.

Sandra Devaney accepted the nomination.

The board welcomed Mary Coventry and Kristina Verney, our newest board members from Westport Island and Alna respectively.

7. Adjourn - 7:59 pm