

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

Agenda

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

The meeting began at 6:36 pm

Jerry Nault led the Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance - Spencer Bailey, Barbara Baston, Richard Cote, Douglas Crochere, Alpha Williams, Sandi Devaney, Will Sugg, Christopher Johnson, Richard DeVries, Tara DeLisle, Keith Marple, Thomas Birmingham, Jerry Nault

Absent: Russell Gates (E), Susan Stires (E), Thomas McNaughton (E)

Administration in Attendance: Belinda Waterhouse, Deb Taylor, Maggie Allen, Tom Soule, Larry Dancer, Delia Dearnley, Pat Metta

2. Focus on Instruction - Windsor students share "Night at the Museum" projects

Dr. Allen thanked the board and those in attendance for supporting the students and their projects.

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

Jonathan Villeneuve - Alna - urged the board to deliberate on the process concerning the school choice vote in Alna regarding legality, wording, financial impact on the towns, residency, and asked that time be taken to adequately study the impact.

Shannon Cotta - concerned that the "grandfathering" will impact families that may have siblings that will be born after July 1, 2018 and will not be able to attend the same school. He would like the language to be added.

May Mitchell - Alna - She asked questions about students being able to remain in their schools if they have to leave for an extended amount of time due to educational opportunities or deployment. Urged the board not to rush to a vote.

Ralph Hilton - Alna - Spoke of the large turnout (421 people) for voting, and the high percentage of support for this amendment. Urged the board to vote yes for the first reading and encouraged people to watch Lincoln County Television to see the first public hearing and see the presentation. A yes vote now will give the opportunity for more discussion, a no vote will not. A hand out was distributed about the impact of the referendum on RSU 12 funding.

Terri Blair arrived at 6:51 p.m.

Doug Baston - Alna Selectman - There was six hours public hearing that answered many of the questions that were raised at this meeting. The purpose it to honor the

request of the people of Alna, who voted by a 2-1 margin for the referendum. The school choice is still better than most other towns in the state. If a family wants to reunite siblings that are born after July 1st, then they should pay as every other family that attends private school in the state.

Carl Wilson - Alna - He agreed there were two public hearings but did not feel they were good conversations about the issue. Urges the board to take time to consider this change, look into the consequences of enrollment.

4. 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 made to approve the consent agenda with exception of removed items.

Tom Birmingham - 1st

Christopher Johnson - 2nd

Motion passes 13-0-0

Consent Agenda items:

- a. Approve the Minutes of the previous meeting as distributed
- b. Superintendent's Report as distributed
- c. Board Chairman's Report as distributed
- d. Approve the Committee Minutes as distributed
- e. Accept the Personnel Report as distributed - Removed

Brittany Hanson - hired to be the full time Windsor nurse and will start 4/23/18 (Kendra Anderson will be full time at Whitefield School)

Mark DeBlois - Whitefield Principal

Heather Wilson - Windsor Elementary

Stephanie Oliphant - Palermo Elementary

Rena Pelton - retiring bus driver from Palermo

Keith Marple asked if the funds were in place for the new nurse. The funds are in next year's budget.

There was a public question regarding Stephanie Oliphant's position at Whitefield - the position will need to be replaced.

Motion to approve the personnel report as presented.

Richard DeVries - 1st

Richard Cote - 2nd

Motion passes 14-0-0

f. Accept the Policies as distributed - Removed

Richard DeVries asked if there have been changes in the law regarding policies and why there is a backlog. Chris Johnson explained that we have not received information of new laws with policy recommendations. Some policies, such as the bullying policy, require a lot of discussion and take longer. We do not need to review every policy.

i. JHCDA - Allergy Policy - First Reading

Motion was made to accept JHCDA Allergy Policy for first reading.

Richard DeVries - 1st

Richard Cote - 2nd

Motion passes 14-0-0

g. Correspondence as distributed - Removed

Keith Marple addressed the response to the Whitefield Selectman regarding policy KE and asked why the board has never heard parental complaints. Mr. Nault stated that neither he nor Mr. Tuttle have received any requests from parents to come to the board to make an appeal.

5. Old Business: **(20 min)**

- a. Opportunity for Public Comment on use of Federal ESEA Funds - no public comment

6. New Business **(80 min)**

- a. Alna petition to amend a section of the Reorganization Plan (First Reading)
[Action]

Mr. Tuttle and Mr. Nault spoke with Drummond Wilson regarding the petition. Mr. Nault summarized the discussion:

Voting will be done by paper ballot. Any absent board members will register as a "no" vote. The paper ballots will serve as a record of the vote.

If the proposition fails in the seven towns, there is no change.

If the proposition passes in the seven towns, there is a good chance of legal action being taken to challenge some aspect of the text that is being proposed. The court would then have to decide.

An injunction is a possibility before the vote to prevent the vote from happening which would also be decided by the court.

The RSU's position on the proposal from Alna is whether or not to allow the towns to vote on the matter.

Christopher Johnson does not feel that two readings show intent to study how this will affect the towns and the students. He would like to see the board do a study first before doing the first and second readings to answer questions.

Richard DeVries asked about residency and who determines the requirements regarding whether a person lives in a town. Mr. Tuttle explained the RSU has a residency form that requires documents that parents need to provide to prove residency in their town.

Richard Cote asked what happens if it goes to the towns and fails. Mr. Nault explained that would be the end of that submission and the original provisions would be in effect.

Chris Johnson - He stated that a new request could be reworded, resubmitted. He asked about the legality of any amendments to the original request.

Keith Marple - supported tabling at this time to better study the proposition as there is no time rush.

Barbara Baston - offered to discuss the questions at the meeting now instead of prolonging things. There is a lot of misinformation out there and the people in Alna have worked hard to get to this point and there is no need to put everything back into committees. Questions can be asked as there may already be answers for them.

Richard DeVries - He asked how many new home building permits are being pursued in Alna since it was stated that all existing properties were purchased. Doug Baston said there are a few who are in the process of building. Richard asked what the birth rates were in Alna in 2015 (8), 2016 (7), and 2017 (9). Ralph Hilton answered the question but said it was not a reliable way to figure out future student count.

Richard Cote - What is the bottom line cost to the towns in the RSU if it is approved?

Barbara Baston - if it is approved, it will not change anything for a while as those students currently attending private schools will stay the same. If it fails, it will eventually raise costs for all towns if more people move into Alna and attend private school as there will be increased tuition costs.

Motion to approve to allow a vote for the first reading of the Alna proposal to change K - 8 student choice.

Richard DeVries - 1st

Richard Cote - 2nd

Chris Johnson made a motion to table the motion on the first reading of the Alna proposal.

Keith Marple - 2nd

It is a preferred motion, no discussion

Motion fails 5 - 8 -1 (weighted vote: 2934 yes, 5008 no)

Sandra Devaney abstained

Chris Johnson was concerned that the motion failure defeats the purpose of putting together a subcommittee to study the effects of the proposition.

Mr. Nault suggested that if the question was defeated, the Alna proposal would be off the table.

Barbara Baston - A yes vote by the board would keep the option open and a study could be done before the second reading.

Keith Marple feels approval would save the school budget in the future.

Mr. Nault asked if the board was ready for the vote on the first reading. Keith Marple questioned why the vote was being done by ballot.

Will Sugg - The only way to continue the discussion is to vote yes.

There was a public comment questioning the difference between tabling the issue vs. voting yes to continue the discussion. There was a discussion about the need to vote yes to keep the discussion going. The board members that are missing are automatic "no" votes. The board needs 7406 weighted votes for the proposal to move forward.

Keith Marple - Questioned how much time a subcommittee would be allowed to conduct the study.

Chris Johnson - When does the board have to pass the second reading to get it on the June vote? Mr. Nault responded that it would need to happen for the May board meeting.

Richard DeVries - Questions for the committee need to be specific so they can be answered quickly and easily. Mr. Nault suggested that the committee could send out an email to the board to get questions.

Will Sugg - The vote needs to take place before the decisions of the committee are made.

Keith Marple - did not feel two weeks is enough time for the committee

Chris Johnson - The committee should gather information that has already been collected to consider as well and test whether the sources have answered all the questions to the board's satisfaction.

Richard DeVries - Feels the table motion of the first reading should be revisited

Doug Baston - asked if the best interest of the citizens of Alna are being taken into account - if the committee was going to answer questions about the impact on the RSU or relitigate the whole question.

Chris Johnson - the committee will be looking at the impact on the RSU

Spencer Bailey - Could the vote could be taken tonight and then board members could inform themselves and make a decision for the 2nd reading?

Chris Johnson - There are questions that board members do not feel they can answer on their own without help from the finance committee regarding school funding questions and financial implications and if there will be anything that will be detrimental to the students.

Ballot vote to approve the first reading of the Alna petition:

Motion for the First Reading passes: 13-4-0

8850 - 767 (weighted vote)

Yes votes: Birmingham, Johnson, Crochere, Sugg, Blair, Bailey, Williams, Nault, Cote, DeLisle, Baston, Devaney, DeVries

No votes: Marple

No votes due to absence: Stires, Gates, McNaughton

Richard DeVries motioned to form a committee to answer questions regarding the Alna proposal and report to the board at the May meeting.

Richard Cote 2nd

Discussion:

Barbara Baston asked that any questions be submitted as soon as possible.

Ralph Hilton asked if anyone else would be allowed on the committee.

Chris Johnson responded that it would be a committee of board members but the meetings would be public and anyone with information would be welcome to attend.

Doug Baston asked about the procedures of the committee regarding being a public meeting, transparency, and what questions would be considered.

Frank Hample - what is the standing to Alna with any amendments to the proposal? Mr. Nault responded that the board would have to take it into consideration and discuss.

Doug Baston - the charge to the committee is to discuss the impact of the petition on the students and the towns. He feels the town of Alna has already done this.

Chris Johnson - the committee will not ignore the wishes of the town but needs to assess the impact on the students and the RSU.

Motion passes 13-0-1

Keith Marple abstained

The Ad Hoc School Choice Question committee will meet Monday, April 16th at 9 am at Central Office.

b. Approval of out of state field trips **[Action]**

- i. Windsor School 8th Grade trip to North Conway May 29th - May 30th
- ii. Windsor School 6th Grade trip to Boston Museum May 31st - June 1st
- iii. Whitefield School 5th Grade trip to Boston June 15th

- iv. Whitefield School 8th Grade trip to Boston and Canobie Lake Park on June 7th and 8th.
- v. Chelsea 8th Grade trip to Boston June 8th

Motion made to approve the trips.

Richard DeVries - 1st

Tara Delisle - 2nd

Motion passes 14-0-0

7. Adult Education Budget Presentation **[Action]**

SUGGESTED MOTION: *To accept the Finance Committee's recommended 2018-2019 Adult Education budget.*

Mr. Vose gave an overview of the Adult Education program. He recognized Carol Davis and her work with the program. There are about 100 people who sign up for classes. The program offers a variety of classes and programming. Adult Ed is also committed to improving literacy in the RSU by working with Read with Me, Headstart, and through a family literacy grant offers books to parent and grandparents who participate in the program. He also highlighted the GED program and help offered to get students transitioned to college.

Will Sugg asked if the program reached out to students that may have dropped out of school. Mr. Vose said he attends many meetings and will first strongly encourage a student to stay in school, but if that is not an option, they will work with students. Mr. Tuttle said that the RSU does reach out to students who have dropped out.

Richard Cote - 1st

Richard DeVries - 2nd

Motion passes 14-0-0

8. Sheepscot Valley Regional Service Center **[Possible Action]**

There is a draft agreement that needs to go to the DOE to create a Regional Service Center. It was created by Drummond and Wilson. A vote from the board is needed to send the draft agreement to the DOE for review. It is like the agreement from last year with special ed, high school but the new draft will have services added to it.

Services suggested include ed tech training to work in behavior classrooms, bulk purchases of custodial supplies, etc. The list is not static, changes can be made. Participating in this will help us retain our \$39,000 administrative subsidy. Mr. Tuttle feels it will save the district money in the long run.

Motion to authorize to send the RSC agreement to the DOE for review.

Chris Johnson - 2nd

Motion passes 13-0-0

9. Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Presentation **[Action]**

SUGGESTED MOTION: *To accept the Finance Committee's recommended 2018-2019 general education budget as proposed, a budget of \$22,223,292.38.*

Sandra Devaney requests that Mr. Tuttle goes over just the updated changes to the budget.

Pg 8 - Causes of the budget increase. The first line is staff, salary, and benefits followed by tuition and then the pieces being added to the budget. Prek, social worker,

Doug Crochere asked for clarification of the pre k funding and state subsidy - the grant had been paying for the program, but the subsidy was still coming from the state. There is a very little local cost for a PreK program as the subsidy received for PreK students almost covers the cost of the program because we are collaborating with two Headstart agencies to provide the service.

Chris Johnson asked for further clarification and it was explained that money would be put towards the program but would be fully funded.

Keith Marple - would like to see the math coach added back into the budget and delay the purchase of two buses and fold the nutrition director into the Regional Service Center.

Chris Johnson asked about the cost of bus maintenance vs. replacement. Mr. Tuttle explained that it is important to keep up with bus maintenances and purchases. If we delay the purchase of the two buses and try to keep them going, we will most likely be looking at buying four buses next time.

Sandra Devaney and Richard DeVries - support keeping the buses in the budget

Keith Marple stressed a math coach is important to bring up the math grades.

Chris Johnson asked if the nutrition director would be under the Regional Services or if another district had a part-time nutritional director, would they be willing to work part-time for the RSU?

Sandra Devaney questioned whether the nurse was a need or a requirement by law for the school. Mr. Tuttle responded that it was not a requirement by law, but more for safety in the buildings, especially if a part-time nurse is in the wrong building in the event of an emergency.

Barbara Baston asked what would the percentage increase be to replace the nutrition director with a math coach. There is an increase of .18%

Tara DeLisle and Terri Blair are also in support of adding in a math coach.

Deb Taylor spoke of a Windsor math teacher who also does math coaching for Palermo School. She feels having a math coach would be highly beneficial to the district.

Richard DeVries - can we be creative with the UMF to get math coaching? Deb Taylor responded that they do not have the personnel to supply math coaching.

Richard Cote would like to add the math coach, but the money should be found somewhere else in the budget. He would not like to see an increase in the bottom line.

Keith Marple agreed.

Mr. Tuttle summarized that the board would prefer a math coach and a nutritional director. reduce the PreK funding. Thus, the budget will not change.

Sandra Devaney would like to see a reading/writing coach to prepare students for high school in the future.

Deb Taylor stated that we have a half-time position currently in the district. She also stressed that the food service director is important as well.

Sandra Devaney asked if a nutritional director for the district was proposed in the ad-hoc committee.

Will Sugg was on the committee and said nothing would happen without a nutritional director.

Larry Dancer - the regulations to keep up with, reviews to go through is a time consuming

Barbara Baston - could we do a half-time math coach?

Keith Marple - the nutritional director could be better shared in the RSC

Mr. Tuttle will work on the changes proposed without increasing the budget.

Chris Johnson - are there any other school districts that have a part-time nutritional director who would be willing to work for the RSU as well?

Will Sugg encouraged board members to get people to come to the budget meeting and vote in favor

Richard Cote -1st

Sandra Devaney - 2nd

Motion passes 14-0-0

10. To approve and sign the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Warrants **[Action] - deferred**

MOTION: I move that the Vote entitled, "Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted," be approved in the form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting.

VOTE TO CALL AND APPROVE THE WARRANTS FOR THE BUDGET MEETING AND THE VALIDATION REFERENDUM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE NOTICE OF AMOUNTS ADOPTED

VOTED: That the warrant for the Regional School Unit No. 12 (the "Regional School Unit") Budget Meeting presented to the meeting be approved and that a Regional School Unit budget meeting be called for May 17, 2018 for the purpose of voting on the annual budget for the Regional School Unit for the 2018-2019 fiscal year;

That the Warrant and Notice of Election for the Regional School Unit Budget Validation Referendum presented to the meeting be approved, and that a Regional School Unit budget validation referendum be called for June 12, 2018 for the purpose of approving the budget adopted at the Regional School Unit budget meeting for the 2018-2019 fiscal year; and

That the form of Notice of Amounts Adopted at Budget Meeting presented to this meeting be approved, and that the Superintendent of Schools of the Regional School Unit be authorized and directed to complete said Notice in accordance with the Regional School Unit budget meeting on May 17, 2018, and to cause copies of said Notice, as

completed, to be delivered to the municipal clerks of each municipality of the Regional School Unit for posting at the polling places for the June 12, 2018 Regional School Unit budget validation referendum.

11. Calendar/Announcements: 2018-2019 School Calendar **[Informational]**

School Draft Calendar is being reviewed by the association. The board is asked to review before the next meeting. The projected last day of school on the 2018-2019 Board calendar is June 6th.

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

Motion to enter into executive session

Chris Johnson - 1st

Sandra Devaney 2nd

9:30 p.m. entered into executive session

13. Adjourn