

RSU # 12  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (REGULAR) MEETING  
Thursday, December 9, 2021 @ 6:30 PM  
**Chelsea Elementary School**

*The meeting will be recorded and made available on our website at  
<https://www.svrsu.org/page/video-recorded-school-board-meetings>.*

Draft Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm

Sandra Devaney led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Will Sugg, Rick Cote, Ryan Carver, Deborah Myers, Doug Morier, Russell Gates, Deborah Talacko, Kathryn Temple, Kristina Verney, Sandra Devaney

Zoom: Suzanne Balbo, Lynette Conroy

Absent: Mary Coventry (E), Rick Danforth (E), Richard DeVries, Dustin Mellor, Kimberly Hutchinson

Administrators in attendance: Deb Taylor, Michele Grant, Larry Dancer, Mike Flynn, Allison Myers, Heather Wilson, Mark Deblois, Stephanie Oliphant

2. Approval of the Agenda (5 min)

Motion to approve the Agenda

Russell Gates - 1st Ryan Carver - 2nd

Motion passes 12-0-0

3. Focus on Learning: Chelsea Elementary School

Allison Myers, Chelsea School principal, gave a Covid-19 update for the school. She gave comparisons from last year to this year, emphasizing the positive changes that have happened this school year. There has been no known transmission of cases within the school as they have come from outside known sources. She discussed how pool testing has been helpful keeping quarantine numbers down.

Mr. Tuttle commented about the positive case on the basketball court, which has also occurred in Palermo and Windsor, saying that if the students were participating in pool testing they would be exempt from quarantining.

Rick Cote asked if the numbers included faculty and staff, which they do.

Ryan Carver asked students that are participating in a youth event outside of school and participating in the program, if pool testing would exempt them from quarantine. School pool testing does not include outside of school activities.

Kathryn Temple asked what the absentee numbers had been like pre-Covid. Heather Wilson commented that before Covid, they would have 10-12 students absent per day and are now averaging around 50 or more per day.

Stephanie Oliphant commented that they sent home 14 students just yesterday from daycare and basketball exposure.

Doug Morier commented that the contact tracing has been a valuable tool. Mr. Tuttle commented that we do not know of any students that have been quarantined and then tested positive, which makes him believe that the virus is not spreading within the schools. He thanked the principals and nurses for all their work with the contact tracing.

4. 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.*

No public comment

5. 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
- c. Approve the Committee Minutes as distributed
- d. Accept the Personnel Report
- e. Accept the Policies as distributed:
  - i. ACAA-R - Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure [Second Reading]
  - ii. JICK - Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention in Schools [First Reading] - remove

Motion to accept the consent agenda with the exception of item E, ii.

Russell Gates - 1st Deborah Talacko - 2nd

Motion passes 12-0-0

Mr. Tuttle discussed the JICK Policy and the wording added to define Bullying and what qualifies as components of bullying.

Motion to accept the policies as distributed

Russell Gates - 1st Ryan Carver - 2nd

Motion passes 12-0-0

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business: (90min)

a. 21st Century Community Learning Center [Informational]

Meagan Bowdoin, Director of the Chelsea CLC Program, gave a presentation about the program. Camp Chelsea is a free after school enrichment program for Chelsea, Windsor, Whitefield and Palermo students in grades 3-8. The Camp provides learning opportunities, social growth, tutoring and as well as additional services for student health and wellbeing. She discussed the variety of activities that they have been able to do with the students, including cooking with Mike Flynn and Sarah Lavallee from Food Corps as well as a family night. The program also runs over February and April vacations, four hours a day for four days.

Russell Gates asked if any particular learning deficiencies needed more attention, but she said she really did not notice one being more than another. Kathryn Temple asked if the data shows improvement from this program, which Meagan does track for the DOE. She asked if there were plans to continue this after the grant expired, Mr. Tuttle said the district is hoping to keep renewing the grant. It has been hard to get staff members to stay to work in the program, but we are still asking people to participate. Will Sugg asked how the academic assistance is determined for a student and she explained that there was communication with the teachers about student needs.

b. Head Start programming COVID-19 requirements [Informational]

Mr. Tuttle explained that we have a Head Start collaborative program to help fund our PreK program. Headstart is a federal program and federal employees are required to be vaccinated, but they are able to get an exemption and would be required to participate in pool testing. This rule would also affect any staff member that came into contact with Pre K students for 15 minutes. Mr. Tuttle is putting together a list and will be discussing this with the union. There is also the chance that this requirement could change or be held up in the courts.

c. School Board Governance Policies and Procedures [Informational]

Mr. Tuttle has taken some of the school board policies and put them together to help discuss the way the board should function, especially this year. He wanted to discuss the role of the school board, the pitfalls, the responsibilities as well as the way the public understands how the board works.

Rick Cote left the meeting at 7:40 pm

Mr. Tuttle gave a presentation, beginning with the Code of Ethics and stressed the importance of the board working as a team. He went through the policies, giving examples of situations and circumstances as well as their outcomes. He discussed how he is not in charge of the board and he cannot correct a member that violates a policy - the board has to do that for themselves. He gave them examples of how this would be done.

Ryan Carver asked if a board declared a vacancy if the town could still leave that person on the board, which they can do. Will Sugg said that some towns have a recall mechanism for board members in violation.

Mr. Tuttle introduced a new policy regarding Board Member Use of Social Media, which includes anything online posted publicly but, he also said emails and text messages could potentially be requested under Freedom of Access. Social media can be a positive tool, but also should be used carefully. The policy is not meant to restrict freedom of speech, but asks board members to be cautious with how it is used. Mr. Tuttle explained that there is a difference, for example, between encouraging people to attend school board meetings versus trying to get a group of people to come to a meeting to lobby a particular opinion to sway the board.

We use Robert's Rules of Order for our meetings and Mr. Tuttle discussed the roles of board members. He went over how we have a quorum, etiquette rules for the meeting, and motion and amendment procedures.

He discussed Public Comment and said there is a revised statement for Sandra Devaney to read the next time we have public comments that clarifies the protocol. Mr. Tuttle also gave instructions for board responses to the public as well. Sandra Devaney said that we do want to hear public comments which will be taken into consideration when the item comes up on the agenda and that we should be civil and respectful.

Will Sugg commented that he tries to encourage board members who do not have children or grandchildren in the schools to attend a school function, such as the Ed Fair, music concerts, sporting events, graduations and town meetings. He also encouraged board members to attend the Budget Presentation meetings that Howie gives to the towns.

d. Budget Development Process [Informational]

Mr. Tuttle updated the board that every building and director is in the process of inputting their budget and we are working on estimating our tuition costs and staffing for the next school year. This is all due January 15th and will be presented to the Finance Committee in February.

Deborah Myers asked about the decision for our district high school. Mr. Tuttle said no decision has been made yet and does not need to be made this year.

Motion to recess before entering Executive Session

Russell Gates - 1st Ryan Carver - 2nd

Motion passes 12-0-0

Five minute recess at 8:36 pm

8. Executive Session: Enter Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) for the discussion of a personnel matter.
9. Executive Session: Enter Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) for negotiations.
10. Adjourn 9:05pm