

RSU # 12
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (REGULAR) MEETING
Thursday, January 13, 2022 @ 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>.
Face coverings will be required at this meeting*

Draft Minutes

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

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm

Sandra Devaney led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Will Sugg, Kathryn Temple, Deborah Myers, Russell Gates, Sandra Devaney, Richard DeVries, Rick Danforth

Zoom: Rick Cote, Mary Coventry, Deborah Talacko, Kimberly Hutchinson, Kristina Verney, Doug Morier, Suzanne Balbo, Lynette Conroy, Dustin Mellor, Ryan Carver

Administrators in Attendance: Delia Dearnley, Michele Grant, Mike Flynn, Allison Myers, Stephanie Oliphant, Mark Deblois, Heather Wilson

2. Approval of the Agenda (5 min)

Mr. Tuttle has made an adjustment to the agenda to move the Focus on Learning until after the Restorative Practices Presentation (7a).

Richard DeVries - 1st Russell Gates - 2nd

Motion passes 16-0-0

3. Focus on Learning: Palermo's Positive Behaviors, Interventions, and Supports

Stephanie Oliphant discussed PBIS, which is being used in all of our schools. She showed the board a video that demonstrated what PBIS is, commented how it works well with restorative practices, and gave a slideshow presentation about how it works in the classrooms and schools.

Kathryn Temple asked how specific the data can get for a particular student. Mrs. Oliphant said they could easily narrow down information.

Russell Gates asked if PBIS has had a positive effect considering the last two years with Covid and masks. Mrs. Oliphant said behaviors were really low last year because of all the restrictions but there have been a few more challenges this year with restrictions being loosened.

Kathryn Temple asked if there was a difference in morale. Mrs. Oliphant said it is definitely better working in a school that uses PBIS because everyone is on the same page.

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 - removed
 - i. JICK - Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention in Schools [Second Reading]
 - ii. JICK-R - Administrative Procedures [First Reading]
 - iii. BEDB - Agenda [First Reading]
 - iv. BEDB-R - Agenda Format [First Reading]

Motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item E and its sub-items listed.

Russell Gates - 1st Richard DeVries - 2nd

Motion passes 16-0-0

Mary Coventry brought some changes in language to the policies JICK and JICK-R to the board's attention. Some minor changes have been made to BEDB and BEDB-R and she explained those changes to the board. The updates are minor but work well to reflect the work of the board. She encouraged board members to review the policies.

Motion to accept the policies

Richard DeVries - 1st Rick Danforth 2nd

(Mr. Carver has arrived to the meeting over Zoom @ 6:51 pm)

Motion passes 17-0-0

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business: (90min)

- a. Restorative Practices Presentation [Informational] - Niki Mathews from Windsor and Karen McCormick and some students from Whitefield demonstrated for the board a restorative circle, which is a discussion/sharing tool for students.

Heather Wilson commended the students and asked about the activities as well as if they have ever had a problem brought to the circle and how it helped. The students described doing their birthdays, seasons, etc and how there was an issue with name calling but doing several circles helped to resolve the issue.

Richard DeVries asked if they ever included people such as a sheriff in the circles and Ms. McCormick said they would and have often included the school's principal and student support coordinator in their circles.

Mr. Tuttle asked if someone does something that hurts feelings or breaks rules, how does the circle solve that? Ms. McCormick said it was more of a focus on repairing relationships more than breaking rules and their consequences. Ms. Mathews says they often will ask questions on what happened and how they move on from there.

Richard DeVries asked the principals if there had been changes in their communities as a result of the circles. Mr. DeBlois explained how the circles have had a positive impact on the students and the school. He also recognized and thanked Ms. McCormick and Ms Mathews for all of their efforts and hard work in making this practice an integral part of the district. Heather Wilson commented witnessing circles firsthand in Ms. Mathews' classroom.

Sandra Devaney and Kathryn Temple thanked the students for coming and commended them for doing a great presentation on behalf of the board.

- b. Updated Standard Operating Procedures [Possible Action]

Mr. Tuttle has communicated the updated Covid protocols with the board, emphasizing that there have been two updates in the last week and there are some considerable changes. A covid positive student only needs to

quarantine for 5 days (unless they have symptoms), outbreak status has been characterized as 15% of staff and students combined that are out with illness, universal masking has been defined (there was no definition before) and now includes after school activities, close contacts no longer need to be quarantined and contact tracing does not need to be done, which is an incredible time saver. Parents will still be contacted, but it would be their decision if they did not want to send their children to school. Because of this change, basketball teams will need to start wearing masks on the court in order for us to keep the universal masking benefits. Buses are no longer considered close contacts. Pool testing is still encouraged for staff and students.

Deborah Myers asked to clarify if all afterschool activities will be required to wear masks. They will all be required to wear masks.

Will Sugg asked how much of basketball season was left and when the masks would need to start. Basketball season will end in February and Mr. Tuttle will notify the schools tomorrow.

Rick Danforth asked if there were any specifications on the types of masks. Mr. Tuttle has heard that students need to be wearing masks that fit properly, but has not heard about particular types of masks.

Ryan Carver asked if the board needed to vote. Mr. Tuttle explained that the board already voted to follow the SOP's so we would just be following them.

c. Budget Development Primer [Informational]

Mr. Tuttle gave the board members a handout that was a general overview of the budget and went over different pieces of information. (The example is not our actual budget - it is just to show the board members how it is created.)

Richard DeVreis commented on how much K-8 and 9-12 instruction costs.

Deborah Myers asked if 504's are all handled through Special Education. Delia Dearnley is the District 504 coordinator and each school has a designated 504 coordinator and she explained the different needs of the students and how they are addressed.

Kathryn Temple asked if extra money rolled over and Mr. Tuttle explained that anything we had would roll over to the next budget.

Richard DeVries commented that the price of fuel has gone up quite a lot from last year and that will need to be considered in the new budget.

Mr. Tuttle let the board know that the public School Budget Presentation Schedule is done and was sent out to the board today.

Rick Danforth asked why the budget is estimated by 3%. Tuttle said historically, the budget has gone up an average of 3% each year and a lot of the costs have to do with collective bargaining, insurances and tuition, which we have no way to negotiate. Tough choices are usually made in other areas such as capital improvements.

Rick Cote commented that a large percentage is salaries.

Kathryn Temple asked if grant funds will be available to help with the budget. Mr. Tuttle said there are grants available, but that the district also needs to look to the future when using them.

Will Sugg said no increase would be great, but it is never truly zero when you consider the cost of tuition.

d. Chelsea 8th grade field trip to Boston [Action]

Suggested Motion: To approve the Chelsea 8th Grade Field Trip to Boston

Motion to approve the field trip.

Richard DeVries - 1st Rick Danforth - 2nd

Will Sugg let the board know that the money is raised by the students, not a budget item.

Ryan Carver asked if the board could approve all of the 8th grade field trips. Mr. Tuttle explained that the board usually waits for the schools to submit their trips and locations to the board for individual approval.

Motion passes 17-0-0

e. Capital Area Technical Center Cooperative Agreement 2021 -2022

Suggested Motion: To approve the Capital Area Technical Center Agreement as proposed

Mr. Tuttle explained that we have students that attend CATC and the state used to pay the district and the district would pay the tuition bill. Now the state pays the technical centers directly based on student count. This agreement is to have an advisory committee made up of representatives from districts to make a decision on cost sharing. The cost sharing comes from total student counts, not just how many are actually attending the tech centers. A budget would be developed and approved before December 31st. The budget is based on projected allocation as we do not find out subsidies until mid-February. If there is change, they can reconsider the budget but cannot increase it. The language is not clear in this agreement. Mr. Tuttle said the board can make a motion to approve this or wait until next month so they can read through it.

Kathryn Temple asked if other tech centers might be doing less complicated agreements. Mr. Tuttle did not know about other centers.

Russell Gates made a motion to approve the agreement.

Richard DeVries - 2nd

Rick Danforth asked when we would know what our share would be. Mr. Tuttle said we would know by December 31st.

Motion passes 17-0-0

Russell Gates asked about an information piece of legislation that was added to the board packet. LD 1789 was discussed during the finance committee meeting and is an emergency action that affects districts like ours especially because we tuition out our students. We only pay 2/3rds tuition to a high school if a student attends a tech center. This proposal has been put forth by those schools who would like to get the other 1/3rd of the tuition paid, which would be about a \$400,000 increase to our budget. Mr. Tuttle said the board should collect their thoughts and let representatives know how it would affect our district financially.

Deborah Myers asked for clarification on how the tuition rate is determined.

Will Sugg wondered what representatives might have decided to propose this kind of bill and how they were influenced to do so. Mr. Tuttle believes the schools would like to see this funding and may approach someone about this bill.

Mary Coventry commented that the language seems to have a cost sharing element and asked how it worked with the cooperative agreement. Mr. Tuttle said the private schools would be invited to join the advisory committee and share costs as well.

Mr. Tuttle will find out more and keep the board informed.

Motion to enter into Executive Session.

Richard DeVreis - 1st Rick Danforth - 2nd

Motion passes 17-0-0

Two minute break before entering into Executive Session.

8:44 pm

8. Executive Session: Enter Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E) legal matter.
9. Executive Session: Enter Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) personnel matter.
10. Adjourn without objection 9:14pm