

RSU # 12
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (REGULAR) MEETING
Thursday, February 14, 2019, @ 6:30 PM
CHELSEA SCHOOL CAFE

Agenda

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

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Rick Cote lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: Abby Manahan, Ralph Hilton, Richard Cote, Doug Crochere, Alpha Williams, Russell Gates, Frank Hample, Richard DeVries, Susan Stires, Tara DeLisle, Lynette Conroy, Gerard Nault, Thomas McNaughton

Absent: Sandra Devaney (E), Will Sugg (E), Terri Blair (E), Monique Crummett (E)

Administrators present: Belinda Waterhouse, Mike Flynn, Larry Dancer, Delia Dearnley, Deb Taylor, Mark Deblois, Pat Metta

2. Focus on Learning - The importance of Student Self-Assessment and Goal Setting

Kim St. Onge from Windsor School gave a presentation regarding Proficiency Based, Personalized Learning that has been going on in her classroom. As part of the course through UMF, an Action Research Project needed to be done. She has done Promoting Self Regulation Through Formative Learning. It has helped her to better help students with their learning in the classroom. She got the students involved in a discussion to find out what they thought of their learning and how to make them understand the proficiency based learning. Peer review protocol was introduced so they could give fellow students for feedback and self reflection that they would do on their own to see if they were meeting a learning target. Students are constantly setting goals for their learning, both short term and long term which helps them to get excited about their education. A student feedback survey was overall very positive and showed they are understanding the process.

Thomas McNaughton asked if she was able to implement this type of learning, which they have been able to do which has given students multiple opportunities to learn something. He agreed that anytime students can get excited about their learning is great.

Mr. Tuttle said courses are offered in RSU 12 through UMF and many teachers are participating to perfect their craft and help students with their learning.

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

No public comment

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 Approve the Committee Minutes as distributed - removed

Mr. Tuttle discussed chronic absenteeism in the schools. It is not necessarily truancy as much as it is missing 10% of the school year. Absences are higher in PreK and Kindergarten, which could possibly be due to illness or because parents might consider it optional. Our rates are better than the state average. All of the schools have been making improvements, particularly at Chelsea. Trauma Informed training has been implemented to make staff aware that it is not always known what the student is going through at home and to show empathy to students when they arrive at school.

Richard DeVries: Chelsea has received a 3D printer from the Perloff family. Should the board write a thank you and publish it in the newspaper to encourage other donations to the other schools?

He also mentioned the curriculum report that talked about converting the libraries and technology centers and thought an article about this would also help promote the idea of making donations to the schools. He discussed libraries shifting to technology centers and asked what the timeline is on that. Many of the libraries are in progress to make that happen, and others are working on it.

Blake Brown, former board member and current bus driver, challenged Windsor School to do a fundraiser to help one of our families and Mr. DeVries suggested that a letter be sent to him thanking him for all of his efforts.

He also asked if Palermo had moved up the list for a new school building yet. Mr. Tuttle had not heard of any money being put toward construction, but he will look into it.

Gerry Nault believes it would be a number of years before the school was replaced.. He feels the district may be challenged to replacing the school and there may be some caveats placed on the construction and suggest consolidation.

Thomas McNaughton feels if we short change Palermo on things that they need it would be a disservice to the staff and students as it could take a long while for the DOE to decide what to do.

Richard DeVries asked if there was a timeline for changing the libraries to technology centers. Mr. Tuttle said that changes are already in process for the libraries and computer labs to be combined into Learning Commons of the schools to be used more effectively with the students. They will still learn library skills but have opportunities to do coding, use 3D printers, etc. The Perloffs have been very generous to the district and have donated equipment for a number of years, including 3D printers, Aquaponics equipment, a digital kiln for Whitefield, and more. In return, they only want us to use it. A thank you letter to them should also be sent out.

Gerry Nault asked if there was enough space in the schools. Chelsea's library and computer lab are next to each other. Windsor has equipment in their library. Whitefield is a work in progress as there is a laptop cart in the library. Palermo has the library and computer lab next to each other. It is more about using the staff and designing curriculum to utilize these programs. Gerry asked if there would need to be physical changes to the libraries to accommodate the programs. Mr. Tuttle said there have been some changes made, such as casters on bookshelves to make them mobile, but we are still brainstorming ideas.

Lynette Conroy asked if we have any outside resources willing to help with the costs of the Learning Commons. Also, she asked about the Apple use in the schools where most businesses use PC's. Deb Taylor said we are aware of the role of PC's in the world, that we need our students to understand some basic skills around formatting, word processing, etc and now we would like to encourage the coding and robotics learning. Lynette asked if there was any sort of book rotation between the schools to reduce the cost of buying new books. Tara DeLisle asked about renting ebooks - could the students who have technology provided by the schools to use this. Deb Taylor said the libraries connect with each other and the public libraries so they can share resources. The schools have book rooms that have more instructional books used in the classroom. We do have apps on the computers for middle school students and ereaders that are in some of our libraries that students can utilize.

Mike Flynn shared that the breakfast in the classroom had been implemented in Windsor. Before the program it was 35% and it has jumped to 72% participation in the last two weeks. It has helped to get in touch with staff and students who have been asking a lot of questions about nutrition. We also doubled our revenue in that time.

Lynette Conroy asked if the school gardens would be used in the salad bars/nutrition programs. Several schools have asked if they can use product that they grow, which they will be able to do.

Rick Cote asked if there was an increase in school lunch participation with staff and students - there has been a slight increase so far in both groups, about 3-5%. There should be better data within a month. Mr. Flynn did not calculate absenteeism when figuring his report, so the true percentage may be higher than 72%.

He is currently working on a grant for salad bars and the application for a Food Corps rep was finished today. The hope is to have salad bars in all the schools to promote eating well and creating revenue.

- c. Accept the Personnel Report
- d. Accept the Policies as distributed
 - i. JLFA - Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response - First Reading
 - ii. IHBAC - Child Find - Second Reading

Motion to accept the consent agenda with one item removed.

Motion passes 13-0-0

4. Old Business: None

5. New Business:

- a. MidCoast Conservancy proposed hiking trail Whitefield [Action]

There is a proposal for the Midcoast Conservancy who had a grant with some leftover money and would like to create a trail that would be on RSU 12 property that would include a current trail, the Happy Farm Trail. The board would need to approve this as well as from the town of Whitefield.

Gerry asked if the RSU would have any financial obligation, Mr. Tuttle said he would find out.

Richard DeVries - 1st Tara DeLisle - 2nd

Motion passes 13-0-0

- b. Learning Commons [Informational]

We have already touched on this topic, which is about use of our libraries. Deb Taylor said that what we are trying to do is to bring library and research skills and technology skills together. This will help our students to better develop their skills.

Abby Manahan asked about the staffing - would there be a district librarian to oversee all of the schools. The DOE requires that school districts have a certified librarian in the district, which are getting harder to find. Mr. Tuttle said yes, ideally certified librarians would still be responsible for a Learning Commons similar to a library. In fact, librarians are often called media specialists in schools now.

Susan Stires commented that books are technology too, just an older form of technology.

- c. Draft Calendar [Informational]

The first draft of the school calendar was given to the board and needs to be approved in April as well as be presented to the teachers union. We are planning to start after Labor Day next year. We also have moved one workshop day to after the last day of school to help with snow days. The winter break is long because of the way the holidays fall this year. The last day of school would be June 11th. There are 10 snow days built into the calendar.

Tara DeLisle commented that the term "built in" should not be used as the days are added on to the calendar. Rick Cote suggested adding "SN" on the last 10 days to show what the extra days could be.

Mr. Tuttle said that it might be possible to have six half days of school on a Friday instead of three workshop days, so the school days would count and it would not

be a whole day off for students. This just an idea at this point, as he has not discussed it with anyone yet.

Tara DeLisle said there might be some feedback about the Wednesday early releases and then adding six more half days.

Lynette Conroy asked how the teachers felt if full days would be more valuable than shorter workshop days - no one has been told yet as it is just an idea.

Susan Stires recommended that it is important to have mornings and does not feel that Friday afternoons would be beneficial to the staff.

Ralph Hilton likes the long holiday vacation for time away to rest.

d. A preliminary presentation of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget [Informational]

A press release was distributed with the schedule of Budget Presentations that will be sent to the towns. We do ten budget presentations to the RSU. Citizens can go to any meeting - if they cannot go to the one in their town, they can go to another town and hear the presentation and ask questions to help them understand how the budget was formulated. The finance committee will be at the meetings. Board members are encouraged to go to the presentations in their towns and are welcome to come to any of the presentations.

The particulars of the budget are not ready yet and we do not have our subsidy information yet. We are supposed to receive this information tomorrow as there were issues at the state in meeting the Feb. 1st deadline. There is still work to do on the budget as it is a rough draft and we are up on student count. We base the budget on students that are in seats now. The budget will be ready for the first presentation at the end of February in Chelsea.

Richard DeVries commented that last year's budget we added a teacher after the budget had been approved. Now this teacher needs to be added into the budget this year.

Ralph Hilton said the minimum required mil rate is going down and there is a bill in the legislature to put teacher pensions back to the state and out of school budgets.

Gerry Nault said we should consider the 279 - the operating allocation is the amount of money the state expects you to spend, based on inflation, students, etc. Our allocation has increased by about 3% each year 2015-2019. The mil rate is how much the towns are expected to pay to support local education and receive subsidy. The mil rate has increased about 1% per year. These two things have caused school budgets to go up.

Ralph Hilton suggested that everyone go to their town's budget presentations as it will help sell the budget to the select boards and citizens.

Russell Gates asked if there was progress on charting out costs per town yet. Mr. Tuttle has a prototype to help explain how the formula works, as people do not understand or think is changing each year. The budget is figured out by the number of students in the town and then the contribution from the state to each

town is subtracted, which is different for each town. Mr. Tuttle has gotten feedback about gearing the presentation toward the needs of the town and welcomes any other feedback and suggestions from board members from each town.

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

Motion to enter into executive session.

Gerry Nault - 1st Ralph Hilton - 2nd

7. Adjourn 8:42 pm