

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

Draft Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm

Sandra Devaney led the Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: Alpha Williams, Monique Crummett, Doug Crochere, Richard DeVries, Abby Manahan, Will Sugg, Sandra Devaney, Rick Cote, Frank Hample, Susan Stires, Ralph Hilton, Gerry Nault, Thomas McNaughton, Russell Gates

Absent: Tara DeLisle (E), Lynette Conroy (E), Terri Blair

Administrators in attendance: Deb Taylor, Delia Dearnley, Pat Block, Larry Dancer, Mike Flynn, Kayla Sikora, Heather Wilson, Stephanie Oliphant, Mark Deblois, Pat Metta

2. 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.*

3. Focus on Learning - Coding, Robotics, and 3-D printing in RSU 12

Deb Taylor introduced Michael Praschek from Windsor and Diane Carrillo from Palermo, who came to give a presentation about 3D printers in the schools. Ms. Carrillo said they have been integrating 3D printing projects into their curriculums since its purchase before Christmas break. She showed several examples of things they have made using computer programs and printers. The students have had a great time learning how to get their ideas to work with the programs and printers. Many thanks to the Perloff Foundation for giving the printer to Palermo. It has become a very valuable learning tool with the students. Mr. Praschak spoke about the STEM program he has been using in the classroom. Thanks to generous donations and grants, they have been able to bring engineering standards to the students. He has been using the 3D printers with his middle school students and the robotics club. The program encourages students to start with basic shapes, then move to projects with moving pieces and eventually freelance in the school to come up with their own projects. He also teaches Lego Robotics in the same three-tier structured program. Students have also been learning Coding to get the objects to move. Thanks to donations, the students were able to make self-watering machines for plants, which will be potted and go home with students next week.

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 as distributed Approve the Committee Minutes as distributed
- c. Accept the Personnel Report
- d. Accept the Policies as distributed- removed
  - i. JLFA - Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response - Second Reading

Richard DeVries commented that younger children need to be able to be hugged and the first line of the policy seems to prevent that from happening without it being considered sexual abuse. He feels it would prevent a teacher from being able to hug a child. Frank Hample asked if he had a recommendation to reword it. He does not at this time but feels that it needs to be revisited and the wording clarified.

Thomas McNaughton feels reviewing the awareness training every four years is too long and recommends that the training be done more often. Mr. Tuttle said there are many items that are sent down from the state and always require training. Currently, there is a wealth of laws coming from the state that always ends with *staff will be trained* which makes the list of trainings quite long. Some trainings are required every year, while others are every other or every so many years. All staff does 6.5 hours of training each year.

There was no motion to accept the policy. The Policy Committee will look at it again and bring it back to the board.

5. Old Business: None

6. New Business:

- a. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Application Process [Informational]

Deb Taylor talked about the application which is crafted to access Title Funds. The RSU collects data and reports it out annually. We are at the early stages and invite public comment, which can be done by calling Central Office or calling to speak to Deb Taylor. Public comment is encouraged and is open until June. The state is in flux - the state makes their ESSA application to the federal government and the schools make their applications to the state. There is an amendment that has not been approved yet, so there could be some changes with more schools being identified at Tier 3. We don't believe any of the schools in the RSU will be identified. Mr. Tuttle said we will do a presentation of our grant funds at the next board meeting.

- b. An Update on Progress Towards the RSU 12 Vision of a Proficiency-based, Personalized learning system in RSU 12. [Possible Action]

Mr. Tuttle reminded the board about Kim St. Onge's presentation last month about students owning their learning in the classroom. Deb Taylor discussed that RSU 12 has been following our long-range plan for our proficiency-based

learning in our schools. We have a sense of where kids are and where they are going in their learning. Our beliefs are that students learn in different ways and time frames, success breeds success and influences a team attitude and motivation, and that mistakes are inherent in learning. We struggle for clarity and change is difficult, but we agree on the clarity of the lens in which we make decisions. This is a work in progress.

Richard DeVries asked how completely the staff was incorporating this vision. We are all learners and the shift is happening in grading and reporting as well as instruction.

Thomas McNaughton asked how the shift was measured. Our observation and evaluation system helps us do this as principals are in classrooms to see it.

Gerry Nault said it can be difficult to see as there are no tangible results, so should there be a change in testing results? It could take years to show up in testing as it takes time to change the way the students learn. There is a disconnect in the shift and the state tests.

Thomas McNaughton asked how early they are starting to teach the children. This is a Prek-8 approach, which may not show results for years.

Mr. Tuttle talked about the goal of building a foundation of lifetime learning - we want people to like learning and continue after they have finished school.

Richard DeVries made a motion to endorse and reaffirm the RSU 12 Vision of a Proficiency-based, Personalized learning system in RSU 12 and to continue to use this approach with RSU 12 students.

Thomas McNaughton - 2nd

Motion passes 13-0-0 (Abby Manahan was out of the room during the vote)

c. RSU 12 Adult Education Budget - [Possible Action]

Kayla Sikora, our part-time Adult Ed Director as well as the Adult Ed Director for RSU 40. She has been working to change our academic areas, a new brochure has been created which has been brought to the Career Center in Augusta. Our Winter/Spring program has been going very well -substitute teacher classes, substitute bus driver classes, Little Libraries, partnering with Literacy programs. The state subsidy for Adult Ed was cut some this year - these cuts were made across the board for the whole state. She hopes to grow the program and bring it back to where it was. She can be reached at the Adult Ed Office on Mondays or by cell or email. Carol Davis is also a resource for questions.

Gerry Nault asked how many students we were currently serving. Enrichment classes serve about 100 people. We have only a few students for academics, which she is hoping to increase. He asked what the market potential for RSU students and she feels it has a lot of potential, for example with community members in need of high school diplomas.

RSU 12 is part of the midcoast hub, which affords us grants that help pay part of salaries, fund programs, and share resources.

Richard DeVries was very supportive of the substitute teacher and bus driver courses.

Sandra Devaney suggested reaching out to the community through town offices and other outlets. Kayla agreed it would be a great step to find out what community needs are.

The Adult Ed Budget local allocation has increased \$10,000 to keep what we have because of the lost state subsidy. FY 2020 shows the amount that each town will be assessed based on the cost-sharing formula.

Thomas McNaughton asked why we were not budgeting enrichment revenue, which is difficult to do as it is hard to gauge what profit could be made. The program is still paying off the deficit from Wiscasset, which is where the enrichment profits have been going. Once it is paid off, it can be allocated back to local funds.

Motion to approve the Adult Education Budget

Ralph Hilton - 1st

Rick Cote - 2nd

Motion passes 12-0-2 (Thomas McNaughton and Gerry Nault abstained)

d. RSU 12 Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Information and Presentation [Informational]

The Finance Committee has been going to all the towns to present the budget. Some towns have questions, but the overall sentiment is that the budget seems to be supported. They will be meeting with Chelsea on March 27th to explain how education funding works. Our budget meeting is on May 16, 2019.

A community member asked that RSU 12 clarify how we measure goals. The state is requiring 20% growth by 2030. The School Climate Survey will be given to students each year and then expanded to include staff and parents.

Budget Priorities that were made last year have made significant, positive changes and would like to be maintained in this budget. There is a trained person in every building to support Bullying Prevention. Maintaining the Technology Infrastructure - the state MLTI program may possibly give districts money to buy their own devices, which would not be a benefit as the state is able to get better deals by purchasing in bulk. The capital improvement plan continues, though with smaller projects this year after last year's roof and generator improvements. There are additional funds to maintain our buildings, which has decreased significantly due to roof repairs and generators. There had been a question brought up at Chelsea about why buses are replaced every ten years when the diesel engines should last a long time, but it is the rest of the bus repair issues that make it necessary to retire a bus. Larry Dancer did say that the new buses are undercoated to help prevent rust issues and that the buses are

washed on a regular basis. Richard DeVries is looking into a state facility that the buses could be taken to for cleaning at no cost.

Total Proposed Budget - we are still waiting on some costs, such as health insurance, retirement contribution, and teacher negotiations. The overall expense budget is up 3.6%. The General Fund Expenses Less Revenues is where we derive the budget based on student cost. Ralph Hilton pointed out that the cost per student should be clarified that it is a number that has nothing to do with special services required by some students.

Student count in some towns is going up, which is how the town share is figured out. We have more students in high school than in our K-8 schools, which has contributed to our budget increase. We have no control over the cost of high school tuition.

The Pre K Expansion Grant and RSU 12 Pre K program slide explains how the program has paid for itself. This year we will be receiving more subsidy than what it costs to run the program.

The budget will need to be approved by the board at the April meeting, so if there are any changes or suggestions, board members are encouraged to contact Howie and Belinda or a finance committee member.

Will Sugg was asking about high school tuition and asked if there was a way to present the high school tuition costs so that taxpayers would understand how much the increase affects the final percentage. Gerry Nault said it should not be presented that way as the RSU has school choice and the voters would not support changing that. Will said it was more to show the voters that the high school part of the budget is out of our control and not in line with the way we keep the K-8 budget.

Ralph Hilton asked how to deal with the law that says you have to retain the school choice. Thomas McNaughton said it was not as much about changing school choice as much as illustrating how much it contributes to the budget increase. Sandra Devaney said it would be nice to show the taxpayers how that has been over the last five years' budgets.

9:00 pm - five-minute recess before the executive session.

7. 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

Motion passes 13-0-0

8. Executive Session: Enter Executive Session Pursuant to *Title 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (D)*  
Teacher Negotiations

Motion to enter into executive session.

Richard Devries - 1st Rick Cote - 2nd  
Motion passes 13-0-0

9. Adjourn: Seeing no objection, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm