

## REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 19

TO: RSU 19 Board of Directors  
FR: Robin McNeil / Mike Hammer  
DT: September 12, 2019  
RE: **Policy Committee Meeting Agenda**



DAY: Tuesday  
DATE: **September 24, 2019**  
TIME: 6:30 PM  
PLACE: Central Office

### AGENDA

#### I. Public Comment

#### II. Policies

##### A. Policy Review

1. JJIBB School Colors and Symbols
2. EFD Hot Lunch Credit - Delete

##### B. New Policies

1. EFC Free and Reduced Priced Food Services
2. IMGB Therapy Dogs

#### III. Other

#### IV. Adjournment

**A.D.A. Notice:** If you have a special need that must be met to allow you to fully participate in this meeting, please contact the Office of the Superintendent at least two (2) days prior to this meeting.

**SCHOOL COLORS AND SYMBOLS**

The RSU 19 Board of Directors believes that the acceptance of school colors and symbols enhances school atmosphere and pride. It also provides a vehicle for individual school recognition.

Below are the approved individual school colors and symbols:

School	Colors	Symbol
<del>Corinna Elementary</del>	<del>Blue/White</del>	<del>Pegasus</del>
Etna-Dixmont	Red/White	Eagles
<del>Newport Elementary</del>	<del>Green/Gold</del>	<del>Hornets</del>
Sebasticook Valley Elementary School		Wildcats
Somerset Elementary School		Panthers
Nokomis Regional Middle School		Warriors
Nokomis Regional High	Burgundy/White/Gold	Warriors
<del>St. Albans Consolidated</del>	<del>Maroon/Gold</del>	<del>Cubs</del>
<del>Sebasticook Valley Middle School</del>	<del>Burgundy/White</del>	<del>Wildeats</del>
<del>Somerset Valley Middle School</del>	<del>Burgundy/White</del>	<del>Panthers</del>

**HOT LUNCH CREDIT**

RSU 19 does not allow students to charge for meals except under very limited circumstances. Students who have unpaid accounts from a previous year will not receive any credit until all payments are current. Students who are current in their payments will be allowed to continue as usual, on a limited basis, when they forget to bring their lunch money as long as the bill is paid prior to the beginning of the next week. No student with the previous week's charges unpaid will continue to receive lunch or breakfast. All charges are to be brought to a "paid up" status by the end of each week, prior to the student receiving any breakfast or lunch the following week. Parents will receive notification of unpaid lunches after a two-week time period.

Parents or guardians with unusual financial circumstances may apply to the Superintendent of Schools for a waiver of the above policy. The decision of the Superintendent will be final.

## FREE AND REDUCED PRICE FOOD SERVICES

RSU 19 shall take part, as feasible, in the National School Lunch and other food programs that may become available to assure that all children for whom this School Board is responsible shall have the opportunity to receive proper nourishment.

Parents shall be advised that this program is available and eligibility criteria shall be made public.

In accordance with the guidelines for participation in these programs, and in accordance with the wishes of the Board, no child who a teacher believes is improperly nourished shall be denied a free lunch, or other food, simply because proper application has not been received from his/her parents or guardian.

It shall be the policy in our schools that when school lunch is desired, payment is expected on that day or in advance by/for pupils not eligible for free lunches. Should there be any difficulty in obtaining such payment, the matter is to be resolved by direct contact with the parent (or student, if emancipated). No student is to be denied food as a disciplinary measure.

The administration shall establish and publish, as appropriate, procedures that conform with state and federal requirements and the intent of this policy regarding participation in programs for free/reduced price meals and supplementary food.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 6601 et seq.

## THERAPY DOGS

The RSU 19 School Board supports the use of therapy dogs by teachers or other qualified school personnel or contracted services provider (“Owner”) for the benefit of its students subject to the conditions of this policy.

### Definitions

**Therapy Dog:** A “therapy dog” is a dog that has been individually trained and certified to work with its Owner to provide emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship to school-aged students. Therapy dogs are not “service animals” as that term is used in the American with Disabilities Act. The dog must be well behaved and have a temperament that is suitable for interaction with students and others in a public school setting. Therapy dogs are personal property of the owner and are not owned by the School District.

**Owner:** An individual who owns the therapy dog and who guarantees the therapy dog has been properly trained, certified, vaccinated, and who insures the animal against all potential liabilities. An owner must be either an employee of the district or a contracted service provider. The owner is limited to having one trained therapy dog on school grounds at any given time.

**Therapy Dog Standards and Procedures.** The following requirements must be satisfied BEFORE a therapy dog will be allowed in school buildings or on school grounds within the RSU 19 schools:

**Request:** An Owner who wants to bring a therapy dog to school must submit a written request form to a principal and/or the superintendent for approval. The request must be renewed each school year. The request must also be renewed whenever a different therapy dog will be used.

**Training and Certification:** The Owner must submit the American Kennel Club’s Canine Good Citizen Certification or its equivalent as determined by the Superintendent. The certification must remain current at all times.

**Health and Vaccination:** The therapy dog must be clean, well groomed, in good health, housebroken, and vaccinated against diseases common to dogs. The Owner must submit proof of current licensure from the local licensing authority and proof of the therapy dog’s current vaccinations from a licensed veterinarian.

**Control:** A therapy dog must be under the control of the owner through the use of a leash or other tether unless the use of a leash or other tether would interfere with the therapy dog’s safe, effective performance of its work tasks. The therapy dog must be under the Owner’s control at all times.

**Identification:** The therapy dog must have appropriate identification identifying it as a therapy dog.

**No Disruption:** The therapy dog must not disrupt the educational process by barking, seeking attention, or any other behavior.

**Health and Safety:** The therapy dog must not pose a health and safety risk to any student, employee, or other person at school. A “health” risk may be defined to include both physical and mental health. The interpretation of what poses such a potential risk is left up to the building Principal or his/her designee and is not subject to appeal. A therapy dog will not be brought into a classroom if a student in that classroom has a documented allergy to the animal. It is the responsibility of the Owner to verify the absence of documented allergies by consulting with the school nurse.

**Supervision and Care of Therapy Dogs:** The Owner is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the therapy dog, including any feeding, exercising, and clean up while the animal is in a school building or on school property. The school district is not responsible for providing any care, supervision, or assistance for a therapy dog.

**Authorized Area(s):** The Owner shall only allow the therapy dog to be in areas within school buildings or on school property that are authorized by school district administrators.

**Insurance:** The Owner must submit a copy of an insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the therapy dog while on any school property in an amount determined by the Superintendent.

**Exclusion or Removal from School:** A therapy dog may be excluded from school property and buildings if a school administrator determines that:

1. A handler does not have control of the therapy dog;
2. The therapy dog is not housebroken;
3. The therapy dog presents a health and safety risk as defined above;
4. The therapy dog presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school; or
5. The animals’ presence otherwise interferes with the educational process.

The Owner shall be required to remove the therapy dog from school premises immediately upon such a determination by school administration.

**Allergic Reactions:** If any student or school employee assigned to a classroom in which a therapy dog is permitted suffers an allergic reaction to the therapy dog, the Owner of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by the administrator.

**Damages to School Property and Injuries:** The Owner of a therapy dog is solely responsible and liable for any damage to school property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the therapy dog.

The School Board wishes to make clear that a student's access to a therapy dog is considered an educational opportunity/privilege, and not an educational right.