

RSU # 12
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (REGULAR) MEETING
Thursday, May 21, 2020 @ 6:30 PM
Remote Board Meeting
Streamed live on the [Sheepscot Valley RSU 12 Youtube Channel](#)
See More Directions Below
Agenda

In accordance with An Act To Implement Provisions Necessary to the Health, Welfare and Safety of the Citizens of Maine in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, as enacted to read: Sec. G-1 1 MRSA §403-A Public proceedings through remote access during declaration of state of emergency due to COVID-19, this meeting will be conducted remotely through online video conferencing. The meeting will be recorded and made available on our website at <http://www.svrsu.org/remote-school-board-meetings> within two days of the meeting. The meeting will also be streamed live on the [Sheepscot Valley RSU 12 Youtube Channel](#). If you wish to submit public comment, then you may do so by emailing Leslie Burgess at leburgess@svrsu.org.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Flag Salute
Meeting called to order at 6:39 p.m.
Sandra Devaney led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Ralph Hilton, Abby Manahan, Alpha Williams, Rick Cote, Michael Lemelin, Will Sugg, Sandi Devaney, Russell Gates, Frank Hample, Susan Stires, Richard DeVries, Stephen Smith, Lynette Conroy, Jerry Nault, Kimberly Hutchinson
Absent: Christine LaPado-Breglia (E), Monique Crummett (E)

2. Focus on Learning: None
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. Please email public comment to Leslie Burgess at leburgess@svrsu.org*

No public comment

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 - removed

We have three retirements this year that Mr. Tuttle would like to acknowledge: Gail Beck, Kindergarten Teacher at Whitefield, Helen Williams, Middle School Teacher at Windsor, Jan Gamache, District Special Education Administrative Assistant, and Rick Lees Special Ed Tech at Windsor School. Mr. Tuttle thanked them for all of their years of service to the schools, towns and the students.

Mr. Tuttle shared that we have a 90% approval rating with parents regarding the distance learning. Mr. Tuttle thanked the board members who have shared with their towns what the RSU has been doing with distance learning.

- c. Approve the Committee Minutes as distributed: None
- d. Accept the Personnel Report - removed
The Personnel Report contains a long list of Continuing Contract Nominations, Probationary Renewals and New Hires that the board needs to vote on.
Motion to accept the Personnel Report as presented.

Richard DeVries - 1st Abby Manahan - 2nd
Motion passes 15-0-0

- e. Accept the Policies as distributed: None

Motion to accept the consent agenda with the exception of the removed items and the adjustments.

Richard DeVries - 1st Frank Hample - 2nd
Motion passes 15-0-0

5. Old Business: None

- a. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Public Comment [Informational]
The public can make comments by contacting the Central Office.

Richard DeVries asked what the status of the solar contract - Mr. Tuttle said he had just received the final contract from the attorney and final signoff would happen soon.

6. New Business (90min)

- a. RSU 12 Budget Validation Timeline Update [Informational]
Mr. Tuttle was hoping to have a meeting to vote on the budget timeline. There may be an executive order from the governor where the district budget meeting is waived and the budget goes straight to referendum on July 14th. Most school districts cannot pass a budget because we cannot gather people together to have the usual meeting.

Richard DeVries asked if there was any possibility of sending a copy of the Budget Presentation to all of the citizens. Mr. Tuttle said we usually send out a budget book which contains all of the same information in the presentation to all

of the voters. The presentation will go on our website. A video explaining the budget will also be available.

b. Technology for Distance Learning from Maine DOE [Informational]

There was recently a press release about how everyone that needs technology for distance learning now has that technology. School districts were surveyed at the beginning of March to collect information on what families needed, which was given to the Maine DOE. We received Chrome Books and hot spots and are considering the best way to use these, which could possibly mean waiting until the fall. The hot spots will run off of cellular towers, which the state will pay for for the first six months, and after that the districts will have to take over.

Frank Hample asked what the monthly cost was and how many were allocated. Deb Taylor said we have 147 hot spots. Mr. Tuttle said the cost per month was about \$40 per hotspot. Deb Taylor said we could suspend the contract and have it start in September and run to March. We have approximately 300 students that do not have reliable internet.

c. Planning for the opening of schools and in-person education [Informational]

Mr. Tuttle has been getting lots of questions about what is happening in the fall with the reopening of schools. The Maine CDC and a group from the DOE have been meeting to draft out how schools would reopen again. RSU 12 is putting together a planning committee to address this as well. There are three possibilities: distance learning continues, school starts again with everyone coming back, or a hybrid of the two. Mr. Tuttle is working with our Union to select and form this committee as some of the changes will affect the job descriptions of our educators. We will try to have a document ready for the board to view and approve in August that outlines the plan.

d. Request that the Board grant the Superintendent the temporary authority during June and July 2020 to issue contracts for teachers and inform the Board at the next board meeting. [Action]

SUGGESTED MOTION: To grant the Superintendent temporary authority during June and July 2020 to issue contracts and inform the Board at the next board meeting.

This is to grant Mr. Tuttle the authority to hire over the summer

e. Approval of Cash Flow Borrowing [Action]

MOTION: I move that the vote entitled, "Vote to Authorize Issuance of a \$1,500,000.00 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note," be approved in the form presented to this meeting and that the Secretary file an attested copy of said vote within the minutes of this meeting.

This is because towns do not always pay their bills in July, so the RSU borrows money until they do if needed. The RSU has not had to do this much in the last few years so the interest has been minimal. There is some concern about how

that will look this year with citizens paying their taxes and the towns having the money to pay.

- f. Approval of Food delivery by bus through June 30th.

SUGGESTED MOTION: *To approve food deliveries with RSU 12 Transportation service through June 30, 2020.*

This is beyond the contracts of our cooks and bus drivers so we will need to pay them their hourly wage above and beyond their contracts. The reimbursement we have been getting will cover the costs, so there will be no additional expense for the RSU.

Motion to approve D, E and F by unanimous consent.

Ralph Hilton -1st Richard DeVries - 2nd

Motion passes 15-0-0

- 7. Adjourn
7:25 p.m.