

# RSU 23 Board Minutes

**RSU #23 Board Meeting held at Saco City Hall on September 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.**

## **Meeting Called to Order**

Chair Dave Galli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Chair Dave Galli, Dan Cabral, Skip Cushman, Gary Curtis, Lorraine Whelan, Director of Operations Mike Pulsifer, Superintendent Mike Lafortune, and Business Manager Sharon Laflamme.

Late Arrival: Jim Boisvert

## ***The Pledge of Allegiance was recited***

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Gary Curtis and seconded by Dan Cabral to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2009 meeting. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

## **Public Session**

None

## **Correspondence**

### ***Report on the MSBA Nominating Committee***

Superintendent Lafortune spoke on the MSBA Nomination and discussed the need to appoint a delegate to the MSBA Convention in Augusta.

## **2009-2010 Home School Student Count**

Home School Student counts were enclosed in the Board packets for the Boards review. Currently the number of Home Schooled students for RSU #23 is 29.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### ***Reports from Administrators on Opening of Schools***

The principals of each school in the RSU gave brief reports of opening activities, and reported a smooth opening of school and a smooth transition to the RSU format. Special thanks was given to the Town of Old Orchard Beach, and the O.O.B. Public Works Department for their outstanding work on safety sidewalks on E.E. Cummings Blvd and the entry was to Jameson and Loranger schools.

- ***Young School*** – Principal Harrison spoke on the status of Young School and that it's current enrollment of 321 is the highest in 11 years. He also updated the Board that the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of full-day kindergarten is very successful.
- ***Loranger School*** – Principal Crocker stated that the school year is off to a good start. School enrollment was at 342 and the schools Open House and Workshops have taken place and were very well attended. Principal Crocker stated that he was extremely pleased with all the work that has gone on in preparation for the opening of school. Technology challenges with NutriKids, First Class and ADS (the new accounting program) have been resolved.

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- **Jameson School** – Principal Flaherty reported that Kindergarten testing was successfully and each of the class teams began working hard on new integration. He also updated the Board that MEA testing will start this fall.
- **Fairfield School** – Principal McMullin thanked her custodians and PTO for their hard work preparing for the opening of school. She also welcomed new staff replacing employees that had resigned or retired.
- **O.O.B. High School** – Principal Difusco welcomed new staff and stated school enrollment was currently at 309. Freshman orientation on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school was very successful, with all students attending on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. He explained to the Board a new academic schedule was in place this year that allows for more teacher/student contact and less study halls. He also added that the schools annual cookout would be held Friday night, September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Dayton Consolidated** – Principal Toomey stated the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school was the smoothest ever. She thanked Mike Garrity and the custodians for completing a major project at the school this summer. Principal Toomey welcomed new staff and stated that Open House was a great success. The 1<sup>st</sup> day of all-day kindergarten in Dayton went very well and currently the staff was preparing for October student testing.
- **Saco Transition Program** – Special Ed Director Cathi Faust updated the Board that 6 students graduated last year from the transitional program. Currently 16 students are enrolled and a new program is being implemented along with laptops for the students.
- **Adult Education** – Adult Ed Director Dave Durkee stated that Adult Education was off to a good start and thanked his partnerships for their assistance. He also stated the academic programs are receiving big numbers in registration with new classes for winter. Director Durkee thanked Mike Garrity for his assistance with a new roof on the Learning Center. Finally he stated that a new website will be launched soon for Adult Ed.
- **C.K. Burns School** – Superintendent Lafortune reported for Principal Young. He stated opening of school was very successful with current enrollment at 648.
- **Saco Middle School** – Principal Talbot was unable to attend so a school update was included in the packet for the Boards review. The report stated that current enrollment was at 751 and a new program 'Second Step' will be focused on this year. This program is connected with Loranger Middle School in order to explore ways to integrate the two schools.

## **2009-2010 Budget Update**

Superintendent Lafortune stated that Finance Committee meetings would be held at 6:30 p.m. prior to Board meetings beginning with the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. He also reported that an Augusta meeting regarding curtailment and funding had discussions on many ways to save money, also stating to the Board that State level funding doesn't look promising.

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## **H1N1 Update**

Superintendent Lafortune stated that work is in process by looking at recommendations that are being made by the CDC. The regular flu immunization will be offered the week of September 28<sup>th</sup>, and the H1N1 flu immunizations will be offered in late October/early November. Both immunizations will most likely be offered in the "mist" form. Informational letters on both offerings will be sent home to parents as soon as plans are finalized. These immunizations are voluntary but encouraged and enforcement of washing hands is crucial with sanitation of vulnerable areas.

## **Administrator Attendance at Board Meetings**

Superintendent Lafortune explained to Administrators that the practice of attending Board meetings had been different for each district. Board member Lorraine Whelan stated that Administrators should not be made to come to Board meeting if the meeting doesn't involve their school. Board Chair Dave Galli agreed and explained how this worked in the past.

Board member Gary Curtis stated that he likes to see the Administrators at Board meetings so they are aware of Board recommendations and they are available as a resource especially during the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the RSU #23.

A consensus was made to schedule three administrators per Board meeting to present their schools status. Other administrators are always welcome.

## **Update Loranger School Carpet Removal**

Maintenance Director Mike Garrity reported and thanked his staff and the Loranger School staff with their assistance on removing the carpet and replacing it with tile. He stated that a report would be sent to the Board to keep on file.

## **Modular Update**

Superintendent Lafortune reported there is an opportunity to purchase a modular from the Town of Dayton to use for Alternative Education classes in Old Orchard Beach, next to the High School. He explained that this was a high priority after viewing the current facility.

## **District Badges**

Superintendent Lafortune stated that if any Board member wanted a District Picture Badge, the pictures would be taken on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Business**

### ***Nomination of New Teacher Hires for RSU #23***

A motion was made by Lorraine Whelan and seconded by Gary Curtis to accept the Superintendents nomination of Allissa Bango as a Kindergarten Teacher at Fairfield School, Heather Guevara as Speech Language Pathologist for Dayton Consolidated and Saco Middle School, Tracey Menard as Adult Education Teacher, Gregory Stanley as part-time Adult Education Teacher, Eric Wirsing as Special Education Grade 7 Teacher

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at Saco Middle School, and Allison Conte as Special Education Intervention Specialist at Saco Middle and Loranger Middle Schools . Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

## **Current Resignations**

A list of current resignations from RSU #23 was included in the Board packets' for review. This list was reviewed and acknowledged by the Board.

## **Saco Middle School French Trip**

A motion was made by Jim Boisvert and seconded by Skip Cushman to provide the Saco Middle School French Department permission to organize a trip to Quebec for the 2009-2010 school year. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Board member Jim Boisvert asked if Loranger Middle School could be offered this opportunity in the next school year. Superintendent Lafortune stated this would be looked into and an update will be provided to the Board at a later date.

## **Discussion on Kyle Drive (Dayton) Bus Route**

A Daycare representative spoke to the Board regarding a request for a bus stop on Kyle Drive in Dayton, at a licensed Daycare. Board member Skip Cushman stated that previously the Dayton School Committee did not approve this request as they did not want to set precedence.

Transportation Director Mike Garrity spoke stating school policy of not having a bus go down a road for 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile. Board Chair Dave Galli suggested the Guidelines were reviewed again for any safety issues. Board member Lorraine Whelan suggested making an exception so that it doesn't set precedence if safety is an issue.

The question remains referencing the safety issue, an adult walking with the children and would this be the responsibility of the school or Daycare?

Additional information on the situation and guidelines will be reviewed and addressed at the next Board meeting.

## **Appointment of Human Resource Specialist, Jennifer Bradford**

Superintendent informed the Board of Jennifer Bradford a new Human Resource Specialist replacing our previous H.R. Specialist who resigned.

## **Other**

Board member Skip Cushman asked the Board Chair if some of the Board meetings could take place in Dayton.

Board member Gary Curtis stated that it was decided the meetings would be simulcast and Workshops would take place in Dayton since Dayton has no facility for televising the Board meetings. There will be a number of workshops scheduled throughout the year that will be held in Dayton.

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No correspondence has taken place regarding this so this should be addressed in the future.

## **Executive Session**

Pursuant to Title 1, MRSA § 405 (6)(d) Labor Contract Negotiations

A motion was made by Skip Cushman and seconded by Dan Cabral to enter into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

## **Results of Executive Session**

No action taken

## **Out of Executive Session**

A motion was made by Dave Galli and seconded by Dan Cabral to exit Executive Session at 8:43 p.m. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

## **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dave Galli and seconded by Lorraine Whelan to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Voted unanimously. Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by:

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Lynn Ouellette,  
Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Michael LaFortune,  
Superintendent