

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD APRIL 27, 2011 AT 6:00 PM AT WEST BATH SCHOOL. (NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Board. Such action, either to approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the **May 23, 2011** meeting).**

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**Members Present:** Timothy Harkins, Chairperson; Julie Rice, Vice Chairperson; Chet Garrison, Robin Buczkowski, , Betsy Varian, Alan Walton, David Barber; Zack Shaw, Student Representative; William C. Shuttleworth, Superintendent of Schools

**Members Absent:** Elizabeth Young

**Others Present:** Sharon Brown, Nancy Harriman, Kari Babcock, Emily Thompson, Peter Kahl, Sally Brown, Rick Joyce, Laura Joyce, Tom Rackmales, Charlie Bingham, Ruth Moore, Seth Koenig and members of the RSU 1 community

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Harkins called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM CHAIR**

Chairperson Harkins thanked West Bath for hosting tonight's meeting and highlighted some of the good things taking place in our schools.

Chairperson Harkins addressed some misinformation that is spreading throughout the community regarding the budget and the budget process. Mr. Harkins clarified the following points; 1) Georgetown is not a part of RSU 1, 2) The school budget has not increased from \$16 million to \$26 million in 3 years. The \$26 million refers to the budget after consolidation as we are now educating twice as many students, and 3) The fact that the board members were elected with a handful of votes may apply to one member but does not apply to the majority of the board.

Vice Chairperson Rice addressed another point which is that some people feel that they have no local control. Mrs. Rice reminded the public that we have elected board members from each community, SAGs for each school, numerous budget hearings that are open to the public and a two-step budget process.

Chairperson Harkins stated that over the course of the budget process the Board has heard a variety of wide ranging opinions. The Board values everyone's opinion and has tried to provide a forum for individuals to express them. When opinions are supported by inaccuracies it does the community a real disservice. Our fiscal situation is not a result of mismanagement by RSU 1 or administration but the result of a lack of funding at the state level. We are obligated to provide our children with an education and we as a Board want to be responsible and honor the interest of all parties.

### **APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES OF MARCH 28, 2011 AND APRIL 11, 2011**

The minutes were revised as follows:

- Page 1 under Recognition and Comments by Chair, second paragraph – Revised to read "...out of the school."

**MOTION:** Rice

**SECOND:** Varian

**VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Students (1-0)

**TO:** Approve the minutes of March 28, 2011 as revised.

**MOTION:** Walton

**SECOND:** Barber

**VOTE:** Board (7-0)  
Students (1-0)

**TO:** Approve the minutes of April 11, 2011 as presented.

## **ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

The agenda was adjusted as follows:

- Personnel Items: Add resignations of Pat Payson, Ed Tech at Woolwich School and Julia Plumb, Academy teacher at Morse.
- Add out-of-state field trip request
- Table Item 11.3 Assistant Superintendent job description
- Table Item 10.8 Second Reading of Policy IK
- Add Item 8.4 Schedule B Committee Report

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

Morse teacher and Bath resident Tom Rackmales thanked the Board for continuing to have these dialogues regarding the budget. Mr. Rackmales stated that the budget is the work of individuals who are paid good salaries to put it together and felt this is an accountability issue where specific and detailed responses to how the budget came to be should be answered. Mr. Rackmales stated that we have been here before and asked how we can change the process and are there specific things we can do now in order to avoid going through this painful process every year. Other questions Mr. Rackmales would like to see answered included; 1) Who decides who teaches the large classes this year, 2) Can we freeze salaries and hold all of us accountable in our schools, and 3) Can we start building a case to keep our teachers by conducting more evaluations.

Morse teacher and Woolwich resident Charlie Bingham shared his thoughts on the importance of having a full time health educator at Bath Middle School. Mr. Bingham felt that we need to spend money on the health and wellness of our students or we will end up spending more later. The district received the \$65,000 grant to have a health coordinator; however, one stipulation is that we need to have a middle school health teacher during the second year in order to keep the grant.

Morse Principal Peter Kahl gave the Board a breakdown of the class sizes at Morse. Morse currently has 48 teachers with each teaching 6 classes. There are 288 sections built in the schedule over a course of a year. We have 66 classes with fewer than 13 students in them; however, not all 66 classes run concurrently. Only 45 of those classes are core classes and met one of the requirements for graduation. The others consisted of electives, writing labs, and credit recovery classes. Due to dropping student enrollment at Morse High School we will have 4 fewer teachers next year, fewer core classes offered and increased class sizes. Next year we will have 10 classes with less than 13 students per class. The average class size next year will be approximately 21-22 students. We will continue to offer summer school and the credit recovery classes in order to keep our dropout rate down. We will have more information in May once we run the schedule and will provide the Board with the numbers.

## **WOOLWICH BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that the construction is progressing well. Currently we are working on two major initiatives. 1) To seek approval from the state to add a backup generator to the school at their expense, and 2) To submit a second application to the Department of Environmental Protection to approve a new septic system that will be more effective.

## **AD HOC MATH CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT**

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that the committee has not had the opportunity to meet yet as the two scheduled meetings had to be canceled. The first meeting will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> with a second meeting scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. The committee will put together an accurate report on what curriculum we are providing and have feedback on what we are doing. Each member will visit a neighborhood school system and report back to the committee on what they are doing to be successful. The goal for this committee is to set the plate for ongoing curriculum work moving forward next year while continuing to improve math delivery services in RSU 1.

## **HELP-A-KID REPORT**

Board member Garrison updated the Board on the Help-a-Kid Foundation. A report to the Board on the relationship between RSU 1 and Help-a-Kid should be available by June. The foundation has a tax exempt number and should be receiving the certificate shortly. Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that Julie Kenney's art class is designing a new logo and has provided many samples to the committee for their review. They have narrowed it down to two and asked the students to refine them a little bit before they make their decision.

## **SCHEDULE B REPORT**

Vice Chairperson Rice reported that the SEA negotiating team and the Board negotiating team met on Monday to review the Schedule B Committee's report. An agreement will be written and signed by both parties in order for it to be included on May's Board agenda for Board approval.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Shuttleworth stated that we need to think of how can we do business differently in the long term while dealing with the never ending loss of revenue from the state. The district has lost \$5.2 million since becoming RSU 1 while continuing to be proactive by expanding the Pre-K program, creating the educational foundation, improving district wellness and health curriculum, creating the credit recovery program and summer school program which increased our graduation rate, expanding vocational offerings, and integrating the RTI model.

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that he expects the revenue and expense ledger to be in the black at year's end. This money will be used to offset next year's budget.

The Davenport Foundation has awarded Morse High School and West Bath School \$500 a piece to support the Odyssey of the Mind teams. Superintendent Shuttleworth acknowledged Barry Sturgeon and his team for their support of many of the initiatives in our schools.

The last student day will be Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Chairperson Harkins inquired as to what was the status of the Odyssey of the Mind loan from the school district. Superintendent Shuttleworth responded that it was almost paid off and acknowledged Elise Copeland for all her hard work. Vice Chairperson Rice reported that Judi Mansfield felt this would be paid off after the upcoming spaghetti supper and middle school dance.

## **REVIEW RSU 1 BUDGET 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR**

Chairperson Harkins reported that the Board received another updated budget from the Superintendent as requested with a 2.5% and a 2.99% target. Mr. Harkins asked the Board to review the budgets and come to the budget hearing tomorrow night prepared to decide as a group on a final budget so the Superintendent can prepare the budget for the May 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Vice Chairperson Rice questioned the proposed technology budget as presented by Technology Director Dean Emmerson as it included some new items in the budget. Superintendent Shuttleworth explained that Mr. Emmerson has proposed adding a new e-mail system at no cost and purchasing more projectors for the classrooms. Most teachers have adequate computers in their classroom; however, they do not have enough projectors.

Superintendent Shuttleworth provided clarification for Vice Chairperson Rice on whether the 2.5% target included any cut in sports at Morse High School by reporting there are no cuts under Morse sports included in the proposed budget.

Vice Chairperson Rice asked whether the math and science positions at Morse High School are still being cut. Superintendent Shuttleworth responded that it came down to numbers and we found that we can continue to provide the number of classes we need. Morse Principal Kahl reported that the numbers in Chemistry are lower than expected next year.

Vice Chairperson Rice inquired as to whether we need to order all the textbooks that are included in the budget and whether we could use resources online or in the community instead. Superintendent Shuttleworth responded that we cut most of them out of the budget but we have some very old textbooks at the high school level. Morse Principal Kahl stated that if we wanted to use an online textbook we would be required to purchase a set of textbooks and the CD for the textbook that would only be good for a year.

Vice Chairperson Rice reported that she has heard from a lot of taxpayers who are hurting. They have heard what concessions the SEA have made with the increase in health care, but that increase was only for those employees with dependent care policies. Mrs. Rice stated that getting raises and having a job is a tremendous bonus in today's economy. She asked for any update on Chairperson Harkins' prior request to the SEA for a conversation around their willingness to discuss the contract.

Chairperson Harkins reported that the administrators have made an offer to take two furlough days next year. The Board responded that they appreciated their willingness to make this concession but the Board feels that the sacrifice needs to be district wide. The Board has not had a formal response from the SEA on the Board's second request to reopen the contract but early indications are that they are not willing to do so. The Board is holding a public hearing tomorrow night at Bath Middle School and another special Board meeting to vote on the budget will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Morse High School. The Board welcomes any input and hopes that the public is part of the discussion.



**TO:** Adopt Policy ILD – Educational, Research: Student Submission to Surveys, Analyses, or Evaluations as presented.

## **SECOND READING OF POLICY IK – REPORTING OF STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

This item was tabled until next Board meeting.

## **REVIEW BOARD GOAL PROGRESS**

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that data requested during last month's Board meeting was to be created during our math curriculum meeting; however, it had to be rescheduled. The committee will hold their first meeting on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Shuttleworth will report back to the Board next month.

Chairperson Harkins read the Board goal and felt it is a great goal that we hope we can continue to work on although it will be more difficult and challenging due to the budget situation.

Vice Chairperson Rice mentioned that listed strategy about building better partnerships with parents in their child's education occurred at Bath Middle School recently when Mrs. Curley held a spring training literacy evening where the kids made the meal and families joined in for discussion on reading strategies.

## **PERSONNEL ITEMS**

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported the following personnel items:

Retirement(s): Pat Payson, Ed Tech, Woolwich Central School  
Brenda Yarlott, Grade 2 teacher, Dike-Newell School  
Resignation(s): Julia Plumb, Academy teacher, Morse High School

## **APPROVE 2011-12 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**MOTION:** Garrison                      **SECOND:** Buczkowski                      **VOTE:** Board (7-0)

**TO:** Approve the 2011-2012 RSU 1 School Calendar as presented.

## **FIELD TRIP REQUEST**

**MOTION:** Garrison                      **SECOND:** Rice                      **VOTE:** Board (7-0)

**TO:** Approve the field trip request for West Bath students to visit the Boston Museum of Science in June.

## **APPROVE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT AND SPECIAL EDUCATION JOB DESCRIPTION**

This item was tabled until the May Board meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Morse High School parent Sharon Dohner inquired as to whether there will be time for the public to speak during tomorrow's public hearing. Chairperson Harkins responded that the public will be invited and encouraged to speak during the hearing.

## **NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS**

- Reminder final public hearing tomorrow night at 6:00 PM in the BMS cafeteria to discuss impact of proposed budget
- Next RSU 1 Regular Board Meeting; Monday, May 23, 2011, Phippsburg Elementary School – 6:00 PM

Board member Garrison shared a recent experience as the morning news announcer at Fisher-Mitchell School and thanked Principal Nancy Harriman and her students for the invitation.

## **ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Garrison

**SECOND:** Rice

**VOTE:** Board (7-0)

**TO:** Adjourn at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Shuttleworth  
Secretary