

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD AUGUST 16, 2010 AT 6:00 PM AT FISHER-MITCHELL 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 September 20, 2010 meeting).

Members Present: Charles Durfee, Chairperson; Julie Rice, Vice Chairperson; David Barber, Chet Garrison, Timothy Harkins, Frances Tolan; Zack Shaw, Student Representative; William C. Shuttleworth, Superintendent of Schools

Members Absent: Betsy Varian

Others Present: Sharon Brown, Seth Koenig, Rick Joyce, Laura Joyce, Maria Renaud, Sharon Dohner, Mary Theriault, Kim Doughty, Brad Walfield

CALL TO ORDER

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

RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM CHAIR

Chairperson Durfee welcomed everyone to the August Board meeting and thanked Fisher-Mitchell School for hosting the meeting. Mr. Durfee announced that today was the first day of preseason practice for fall sports. Teacher contract negotiations are still ongoing with the next negotiations session scheduled for Wednesday.

APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2010 AND AUGUST 5, 2010

The July 20, 2010 minutes were revised as follows:

- Under the Superintendent's Report regarding the Shallop Project, the Shallop Project Boatwright is Will West.
- Under Personnel Items – should read "At Superintendent Shuttleworth's request...."

MOTION: Rice **SECOND:** Barber **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

TO: Approve the minutes of the July 20, 2010 Board meeting as revised.

MOTION: Barber **SECOND:** Harkins **VOTE:** Board (6-0)

TO: Approve the minutes of the August 5, 2010 Board meeting as written.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

Superintendent Shuttleworth adjusted the agenda to include Item 11.2 Nomination of Joe Rizza, Computer Technologies Teacher at BRCTC.

PUBLIC SESSION

Morse High School parent Sharon Dohner stated that parents feel left out of the scheduling issues at Morse. Ms. Dohner has a petition including approximately 100 signatures from parents who disagree with the schedule change. Communication has been an issue and parents don't feel as though they are being listened to. Ms. Dohner expressed her frustration with not getting their questions answered about the 4 x 4 schedule and asked the Board to set aside their vote and hold a public meeting to discuss this issue.

MHS parent Maria Renaud stated that she felt the vote for the 4 x 4 schedule was done in a deceptive manner. Mrs. Renaud had been working with Board member Garrison to get their voice heard but Mr. Garrison was not present at the Board meeting. Mrs. Renaud stated parents need to be informed and communication with the parents needs to improve. The Board needs to keep in mind that when a controversial issue as strong as this one is discussed parents need to be involved.

Chairperson Durfee thanked the parents for their input and stated that the Board is always open to communicate with parents. Superintendent Shuttleworth stated that Principal Kahl had a great informational session at Morse and a presentation to the Board in June about the 4 x 4 schedule. As of today every student enrolled at Morse has a schedule with 98% of the students enrolled in the classes they signed up for. Grades, attendance and student feedback will be tracked extensively this year. This change was recommended due to the fact that this is the fourth year in a row that Morse is considered a failing school according to AYP and we need to look at things differently. The 4 x 4 schedule is an excellent way of instructing for our faculty as they can focus on teaching the same courses every day. A Deering High School teacher submitted an editorial to the *Times Record* that commented on the value of the program. We hired Mr. Kahl to make a change at Morse High School and improve the quality of education at Morse. Mr. Kahl strongly recommends this change to move Morse High School forward.

Chairperson Durfee stated that 2 months ago the Board had a long discussion about the 4 x 4 schedule and didn't take a vote during that meeting. This was a way of saying it is approved by the Board. Last month Board member Harkins felt that the Board should have a formal vote on the item which was approved unanimously.

Board member Harkins stated that he had nothing deceptive in mind by bringing this to the table during July's Board meeting and personally felt the need to take action on it. Mr. Harkins spoke with parents and staff and their overall response about the change was positive. One person requested that we receive reports early and often as to how it is working out. Mr. Harkins stated that by no means did he intentionally make a motion to vote on the 4 x 4 schedule because Mr. Garrison wasn't present. Mr. Harkins felt that no action was inaction. Mr. Harkins felt that Ms. Dohner's letter in the *Times Record* did raise some good questions and he will try to get answers back to Ms. Dohner in writing as soon as possible.

Board member Garrison stated that he was not in attendance during the July meeting as he had a prior family commitment. The Board did not take advantage of his absence by taking a vote on the 4 x 4 schedule during that meeting.

Morse parent Mary Theriault stated that parents have no idea what the 4 x 4 schedule is all about and expressed her concerns about the change. Ms. Theriault read that studies have shown that math and science scores go down in schools that follow the 4 x 4

schedule and that students following the traditional schedule do better on tests. Ms. Theriault stated that this change should have been planned and discussed with parents long before now.

Board member Garrison stated that one of the biggest concerns that he has heard is that they may have to hire a tutor to teach their children something that may not be covered with this schedule. Superintendent Shuttleworth responded that this is a well researched process. Teachers will have an 80 minute block every day for planning and meeting with students who need additional support.

MHS parent Kim Doughty stated that it would be helpful if parents could hear how the staff is being prepared for this change in order to have a successful and seamless transition. Superintendent Shuttleworth responded that MHS Principal Kahl is responsible for staff development and will be working with our staff during available times such as late start Wednesdays.

Morse parent Brad Walfield stated that he attended the meeting in the auditorium to discuss the 4 x 4 schedule and he found the meeting to be very informative. He was surprised to hear of the change in schedule and would like the Board's assurance that this has been thoroughly evaluated by talking to other educators. As a parent of a sophomore Mr. Walfield expressed his concern about the possibility of this not working and students having to transition in another schedule next year.

STAFF REPORT

None

WOOLWICH BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that the Woolwich School project is off and running and you can check out the up to the minute progress and watch the school being constructed by looking at the website: <http://rsu1.viewnetcam.com/CgiStart?page=Single&Language=0> . We had some unexpected asbestos removal to do but we are pleased with the progress through the first two weeks of the project.

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that a video was made of the Nequasset Road before the construction began to show the wear and tear of the road before a single truck traveled that road to the construction site. Ledgewood will be very sensitive to keep the road as undamaged as possible.

Ledgewood has designed and distributed a newsletter to keep the neighbor's up-to-date on the status of the project. This newsletter will be posted on our website.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported on the following:

- Superintendent Shuttleworth reported on the various staff development offerings that have been going on in the district throughout the summer.
- Congress passed legislation, the Education Jobs Fund that will send \$39,068,000 to the State of Maine to restore lost teaching jobs.
- Morse Guidance Counselor Mark Carignan coordinated a summer graduation for 8 students who needed a credit or two to graduate. The program was a huge

success and the graduation to celebrate the success of these students was very well attended.

- The State of Maine just passed a piece of legislature that requires school districts to collect and report individual student social security numbers in Infinite Campus as part of a national movement to monitor students over a long period of time. Superintendent Shuttleworth expressed his concern about reporting this information as we cannot guarantee that our network is secure. Mr. Shuttleworth encouraged parents to be cautious about releasing this information and stated that parents will have an opportunity to opt out if they wish. Mr. Shuttleworth believes that the state already has this information and that this is an unfunded mandate that is unnecessary.
- Some of the goals the A-Team will be working on this year include initiating services for kids as soon as they have difficulties, identifying a mentor for each student at the high school, and implementing walk-throughs that will encourage a collaborative dialogue regarding best practices and strategies used in a classroom.
- We are looking at ways to make the parent/teacher conferences more meaningful, particularly at the high school level, so teachers can connect with more parents.
- Assistant Superintendent Bob Young submitted applications for new school construction this summer; two elementary school applications and one high school (Morse). We have been selected for a site visit which means a representative from the Department of Education will come and conduct a review of the site.
- The first teacher day is scheduled for Monday, August 30th with 2 professional days (8/30-8/31). The new staff orientation day is scheduled for Wednesday, August 25th.
- Superintendent Shuttleworth acknowledged the Benchmark crew for a great job in getting our school ready for faculty and students.
- Swim Program update: Mary McCauley has been the chief liaison in coordinating the plans to implement our swim program and has been working with the YMCA and Beth Harrington to develop the program. The YMCA has been extremely cooperative and we are currently working out transportation schedules. Mr. Shuttleworth will be meeting with Mary to get the final details before school starts.
- Superintendent Shuttleworth and Rosalie Perkins went to Boston to meet with a representative from the Jesse B. Cox Foundation in regards to a grant that we have submitted asking for \$100,000 for two years to continue our implementation of Pre-K. RSU 1 is included in the top 5 finalist for this grant. We should hear if we were awarded this grant sometime in October of this year.
- Superintendent Shuttleworth thanked the Davenport Trust for a \$6,400 grant that will allow all staff to use Ruth's Reusable Resources in Portland.
- The bus contract with Bath Bus Service runs through this school year. Negotiations will begin in October or November of this year to renew this contract.

SECOND READING OF POLICY IKE AND IKE-R - RETENTION OF STUDENTS

Policy IKE-R was revised as follows:

- Guidelines for Elementary Retention – A. Revise to read “The teacher brings his/her concerns to the principal about the possible....”

MOTION: Durfee

SECOND: Rice

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (1-0)

TO: Approve the second reading and adoption of Policy IKE and IKE-R – Retention of Students as revised.

TO: Enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(D) to discuss labor contract discussions (7:30 PM).

RETURN TO GENERAL SESSION

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Shuttleworth
Secretary