

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD DECEMBER 20, 2010 AT 6:00 PM AT WOOLWICH CENTRAL 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 January 24, 2011 meeting).

Members Present: Charles Durfee, Chairperson; Julie Rice, Vice Chairperson; Chet Garrison, Timothy Harkins, Frances Tolan, Betsy Varian; Zack Shaw, Elizabeth Young, Student Representatives; William C. Shuttleworth, Superintendent of Schools

Members Absent: David Barber

Others Present: Sharon Drake, Merry Chapin, Eric Varney, Will West, Kim Emerson, Rick Joyce, Laura Joyce, Emily Thompson, Tom Soule, and members of the RSU 1 community

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Durfee called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

RECOGNITION AND COMMENT FROM CHAIR

Chairperson Durfee welcomed everyone to the Board meeting and thanked Woolwich for hosting the meeting. Mr. Durfee announced that a public forum/informational meeting regarding standards based curriculum has been scheduled to take place on January 24th before our next regular Board meeting. Two new members of the Board will be welcomed next month; Robin Buczkowski who will replace Charlie Durfee and Alan Walton will take over Francie Tolan's position on the Board.

Chairperson Durfee stated that he has been a Board member for 10 years. Mr. Durfee felt that natural turnover on a board is good and shared some thoughts on things he will miss and not miss as a member of the RSU 1 Board. Mr. Durfee thanked the members of the School Board and the Superintendent and wished them well.

The meeting was also Board member Tolan's final meeting as a Board representative and took the opportunity to thank the voters in Arrowsic and Bath for their support. Mrs. Tolan also acknowledged her fellow Board members and Superintendent Shuttleworth for his vision. Mrs. Tolan thanked the administrators, teachers and support staff in the district and wished Mr. Walton and Ms. Buczkowski all the best.

APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2010 AND DECEMBER 13, 2010

The minutes were amended as follows:

- Page 5 under the Superintendent's Report, 3rd bullet – strike "an addition" in the first sentence.

MOTION: Rice

SECOND: Garrison

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Approve the minutes of November 15, 2010 as amended.

MOTION: Rice

SECOND: Varian

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Approve the minutes of December 13, 2010 as written.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

Superintendent Shuttleworth adjusted the agenda to include Item 11.1 to approve a revolving fund loan to upgrade the fire alarm system at Phippsburg School and Item 11.2 to formally authorize the Superintendent to secure the Woolwich construction bond. Item 21 was tabled.

PUBLIC SESSION

Woolwich resident Ann Banger approached the Board to address Item 21; however, Ms. Banger was a few minutes late to the meeting and was unaware that the item had been tabled. Chairperson Durfee informed Ms. Banger that she was welcome to submit any questions or concerns to the Board in writing.

GIFTED AND TALENTED UPDATE

Gifted and Talented Coordinator Kim Emerson updated the Board on the RSU 1 Gifted and Talented Visual and Performing Arts program. The state law requires public school districts to implement a plan for gifted and talented students in grades K-12 in the visual and performing arts beginning 2009-2010. RSU 1's plan was developed by the district's visual and performing arts teachers. Mrs. Emerson reviewed the timeline for implementing the plan and showed a video of students participating in the grade 3-5 studio art program. Currently the district has 52 students identified in the arts program which includes one homeschooled student.

MAINE'S FIRST SHIP WINTER-SPRING PROJECT

Merry Chapin, Education Chair for Maine's First Ship, reported on the success of last summer's shallop project that involved 13 of our students and many members of the community. Ms. Chapin introduced members of the audience who are involved in the Maine's First Ship project including Sharon Drake, Eric Varney and Will West. Ms. Chapin reported that Maine's First Ship is now asking for permission to offer a shipbuilding course that will be supported entirely by Maine's First Ship, donations and grants. The course is projected to start during the 3rd week in January after the completion of the 1st semester. The BRCTC staff has made it possible to hold the class in their facility and have made space available for them to accommodate up to 20 students. There is a short video about the project on the Maine's First Ship website. Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that the class would be offered as a one-time pilot elective through Morse High School. Board member Garrison expressed his support for the program and encouraged people to watch their video which is also available at www.youtube.com.

WOOLWICH BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman of the Woolwich Building Committee David Miller recognized Chairperson Charlie Durfee for his outstanding support and leadership for the schools in RSU 1. Mr. Miller reported that the project is going very well and crews will be working inside the enclosed area during the winter months. We should see substantial internal progress this winter. Superintendent Shuttleworth met with Standards and Poors in Boston last week

and should hear from them as to what our rate will be for the construction bond in January 2011.

BIG IDEAS COMMITTEE REPORT

Board member Garrison reported that money is tight and will be tighter next year and if things don't change the district could lose our state subsidy. We are getting strong numbers out of Augusta that we could lose \$1.6 million in subsidy for next year's budget. The district needs to prepare for that possibility. We will get some stimulus funds but they are limited. In order to get prepared as much as we can for these cuts, we established a cross section of people to come up with some good ideas to consider. The committee met on December 8th and came up with 5 areas to take a look at which included:

- Restructuring how high school education is delivered.
- Increase Revenues
- Reconfiguring/consolidating schools, grade configurations
- Four day school week and Year Round or Different Calendar Schedules:
- Savings to be made through regional bidding, streamlining services, etc.

The committee broke into five separate groups and will be meeting individually before the holidays and will meet 2 more times in January before presenting their ideas to the Board. Board member Harkins reported that his subcommittee had their first meeting and came up with 3 or 4 areas to pursue to find new sources of revenue to meet the potential \$1.6 million shortfall. The committee is looking at short and long term ideas and would welcome public input, ideas and suggestions.

At this time Chairperson Durfee recognized our newly elected Board members Robin Buczkowski and Alan Walton who were in attendance during the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported on the following:

- A workshop has been scheduled for January 24th at 5:00 PM in the MHS cafeteria for the Board and the public to address where we are with standards based grading. The principals will also present a report on Everyday Math during the January 24th Board meeting.
- The administrative team will be inviting the Board to a workshop to have a dialogue about the budget going forward.
- The financial report included in the Board packet shows that we are right on target. We are making a strong effort to keep this year's budget as tight as we can to have a balance going forward next year.
- Superintendent Shuttleworth reported on recent presentations at the high school including a visit from a holocaust survivor.
- The NEASC preliminary report came in today which gives the principal several days to respond to it. This report will be available to the public next month.
- The Christmas concerts have been absolutely beautiful featuring our talented students.

VOTED: (1) That in order to provide funds for the upgrade of the fire alarm system at Phippsburg Elementary School, the Superintendent and Chair of the Board of Directors of Regional School Unit No. 1: Lower Kennebec Region School Unit (the "Unit") are hereby authorized and empowered in the name and on behalf of the Unit to borrow up to \$32,365.00 through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank's School Revolving Renovation Fund, \$10,978.21 of which is to be forgiven pursuant to the terms of a Loan Agreement (the "Loan Agreement") with the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (the "Bank").

(2) That the Board of Directors hereby approves and authorizes the Loan Agreement and the issuance, sale and delivery to the Bank, as evidence of the aforesaid loan and against payment therefore, of a 2010 School Revolving Renovation Fund Bond (the "Bond") of the Unit in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$32,365.00, such Loan Agreement and Bond to be signed by the Superintendent and countersigned by the Chair of the Board of Directors and attested by its Assistant Superintendent; and to contain such terms and provisions as the officers executing the same may approve, their approval to be conclusively evidenced by their execution thereof.

(3) That the Bond shall be issued as a general obligation of the Unit payable from assessments levied on the towns within the Unit and for which payment the full faith and credit and the assessment power of the Unit are hereby pledged.

(4) That the Unit covenants and agrees that it will, at all times so long as the Bond is outstanding, make and collect assessments, upon the towns within the Unit, the amount of which, together with all other monies available to the Unit, will be fully sufficient to permit the performance of all the covenants and obligations of the Unit established herein and in the Loan Agreement and the Bond, including the prompt payment of principal of and interest on the Bond as and when due and payment of principal and interest on all other indebtedness of the Unit as and when due.

(5) The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Chair of the Board of Directors, and all other proper officials of the Unit, be, and hereby are, authorized and empowered in its name and on its behalf to do or cause to be done all such acts and things as may be deemed necessary or desirable in order to effect the borrowing authorized by this vote, including without limitation the execution and delivery of such further agreements, documents, certificates and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate in connection therewith.

(6) That the Unit covenants and certifies that no part of the proceeds of the issue and sale of the Bond authorized to be issued by this vote shall be used, directly or indirectly, to acquire any securities and obligations, the acquisition of which would cause such Bond to be "arbitrage bonds" within the meaning of Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

WOOLWICH CONSTRUCTION BOND

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that the proposed construction bond would be in the amount of \$16,063,151. We would go out to bid during the second week of January and bids will be opened at the end of January. We are expected to hear from Standards and Poors around January 7th.

MOTION: Durfee

SECOND: Garrison

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (2-0)

VOTED by the Board of Directors for Regional School Unit No. 1: Lower Kennebec Region School Unit, as follows:

VOTED: (1) That in order to provide funds for renovations and new construction at the Woolwich Central School, along with all expenses reasonably related thereto, including furnishings and equipment, engineering and design costs and transaction costs, the Superintendent and the Chair of the Board of Directors of Regional School Unit No. 1: Lower Kennebec Region School Unit (the "Unit") are hereby authorized and empowered in the name and on behalf of the Unit to borrow up to \$16,063,151, and to issue general obligation securities in the name and on behalf of the Unit for said amount (the "Bonds");

(2) That the Superintendent and Chair are hereby authorized and empowered, in the name and on behalf of the Unit, to execute and deliver, such agreements, documents and other instruments as the Superintendent or Chair may deem necessary or appropriate in order to effect such borrowing, such agreements and documents and other instruments to contain such terms and provisions, not contrary to the general tenor hereof, as the Superintendent and Chair of the Board of Directors may approve, their approval to be conclusively evidenced by their execution thereof;

(3) That the Bonds shall be issued as a general obligation of the Unit payable from assessments levied on the towns within the Unit and for which payment the full faith and credit and the assessment power of the Unit are hereby pledged;

(4) That the Unit covenants and agrees that it will, at all times so long as the Bonds are outstanding, make and collect assessments, upon the towns within the Unit, the amount of which, together with all other monies available to the Unit, will be fully sufficient to permit the performance of all the covenants and obligations of the Unit established herein and in the Bonds and related documents to be issued hereunder, including the prompt payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds as and when due, and payment of principal and interest on all other indebtedness of the Unit as and when due;

(5) That the Unit covenants and certifies that no portion of the proceeds of the issue and sale of the Bonds authorized to be issued by this vote shall be used, directly or indirectly, to acquire any securities or obligations, the acquisition of which would cause such Bonds to be "arbitrage bonds" within the meaning of Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code");

(6) That the Bonds are to be issued during the 2011 calendar year and are designated bank-qualified tax-exempt obligations of the Unit pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and, further, that it is reasonably anticipated that the aggregate face amount of all securities issued during the 2011 calendar year will not exceed \$30,000,000.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

- Engage students in locally available programs to enhance their education
- Provide adequate budget to offer these strategies

MOTION: Durfee

SECOND: Rice

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Approve the RSU 1 2010 – 2011 Board Goals as revised.

FIRST READING OF POLICY JKAA THERAPEUTIC RESTRAINT AND JKAA-R PROCEDURES ON THERAPEUTIC RESTRAINT

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that the district had a policy in place but it was revised due to the significant issues in other districts. Our Special Education Director Sharon Brown worked with the Department of Education and other MADSEC directors to create the most current policy recommended by the state.

FIRST READING OF POLICY GBEB STAFF CONDUCT WITH STUDENTS

Superintendent Shuttleworth stated that he and the policy committee worked collaboratively on this policy with the SEA Teachers’ Union to get the wording correct. #9 was revised to read “Inviting students into staff home unaccompanied.”

APPROVE TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

The Board revised the job description to include the following:

11. Research and implement best practices to continuously improve the delivery of technology services to RSU 1.

MOTION: Durfee

SECOND: Tolan

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Approve the Technology Director job description with revision.

FINALIZE SUPERINTENDENT’S CONTRACT AND COMPENSATION PACKAGE

Chairperson Durfee tabled this item due to the Superintendent’s retirement announcement.

NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

- Next RSU 1 Board meeting; Monday, January 24, 2011 at BRCTC at 6:00 PM
- Standards Based Education Public Forum, Monday, January 24, 2011 at BRCTC at 5:00 PM
- February’s Board meeting will be held at Dike-Newell School on February 28, 2011

ADJOURN

MOTION: Garrison

SECOND: Varian

VOTE: Board (6-0)
Students (2-0)

TO: Adjourn at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Shuttleworth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end.

William C. Shuttleworth
Secretary