

RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM CHAIR

Chairperson Harkins thanked the School Board and noted that he will have more comments prepared for next month's meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS

Vice Chairperson Rice stated that due to the weather the Board has had to reschedule the workshop with Maine School Management to discuss the superintendent search process twice. It is now scheduled for tomorrow evening at 5:00 PM at the Donald Small School. The Board will vote on the process following the workshop.

APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2010

MOTION: Garrison

SECOND: Rice

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

TO: Approve the minutes of December 20, 2010 as written.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

Superintendent Shuttleworth adjusted the agenda to postpone Item 13.1 Staff Report until next month and change Schedule B nomination of Jason Paquette to Treble/Mixed Choir Director.

PUBLIC SESSION

Bath resident David McDonald shared his concerns regarding the safety of the children at the bus stops particularly during the winter months with the high snow banks. Mr. Donald lives on Denny Road where there used to be three bus stops but after consolidation there are only two. Mr. McDonald stated that the children need to walk in the middle of the street to get to the bus stop and it is hard for drivers to see them due to the snow banks. Mr. McDonald has shared his concerns with the city manager and public works as well as the Bath Police Department. Mr. McDonald feels the bus stop on Denny Road should be moved to a safer location and that the city's bus stops need to be looked at during the winter months.

Superintendent Shuttleworth responded that the distance from Mr. McDonald's home to the bus stop is 220 steps. He did not feel it was unreasonable to have the bus stop at that location and is very sensitive to the safety of our children. RSU 1 had to cut down on the number of bus stops in order for our children to arrive on time to school. Superintendent Shuttleworth will look at the other bus stop Mr. McDonald questioned on Heath Lane.

Heidi Tucker and Rebecca Farnham addressed the Board representing ACCESS Health. They provided the Board with information on an upcoming event at the Frontier Café on February 15th. Communities Against Substance Abuse will be hosting the event with a movie *April's Hearts* followed by a panel discussion to engage in a dialogue about the struggles our teenagers are faced with. The movie is geared to middle and high school students. Please RSVP to be assured seating. Mrs. Tucker also informed the Board that ACCESS Health posts a monthly column in the Times Record on the last Friday of every

month. This month's topic discusses the fact that we all have a stake in keeping our kids safe.

Woolwich resident Beth Schultz thanked the Board for holding the public forum to talk about Standards Based Education and hoped that there will be more discussions in the future. Mrs. Schultz shared some findings with the Board on Standards Based Education as well as her concerns and recommendations.

West Bath parent Maria Renaud stated that the Board needs to do a better job at communicating with parents such as through Infinite Campus, emails or a Facebook page.

Chairperson Harkins stated that one of the Board's goals for 2011 is to improve communication with the community. The Board needs to find better ways to reach out to the community and this will improve over the course of the year. We are in the early part of the dialogue. Our mission is to create better standards in our schools which will result in improved student performance and ability.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Licensed CPA Hank Farrah from Runyon Kersteen Ouellette presented his findings from an annual audit of RSU 1. This is the second audit of RSU 1 since the consolidation. Mr. Farrah provided the Board with two reports; 1. Annual Financial Report, and 2. Reports Required by Government Auditing Standards and OMB Circular A-133. Five programs were tested this year which resulted in two findings. 1. Excess cash in Title I – The problem is that the district received one lump sum check and had excess cash balances on hand for excessive periods of time which does not comply with the requirements regarding cash management that are applicable to Title I. 2. RSU 1 did not comply with the requirements regarding level of effort that are applicable to its Special Education Cluster which means we spent more within the special revenue fund instead of the special education fund. Superintendent Shuttleworth wrote a response to this finding as he believes that it contradicts the law which states that the stimulus moneys was to be used to prevent programs from being dissolved and teachers losing their jobs. Another deficiency is that there is not enough segregation of duties in certain aspects such as having a third party to verify checks and deposits. This happens in a lot of the smaller districts that has a small central office staff. Mr. Farrah presented a graph that showed two years of comparatives which included liabilities, fund balance, expenditures and debt services.

Mr. Farrah acknowledged his appreciation to Debra Clark and Ruth Moore for their good work and he complemented them for always being very helpful and well prepared.

OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL HEALTH COORDINATOR

Superintendent Shuttleworth secured the skills of Jaki Ellis, former Program Manager for the state's Coordinated School Health Programs, to gather data and information to see if RSU 1 would benefit by having a school health coordinator. There are too many kids using drugs and alcohol and are overweight and unhealthy. We have our Wellness Council, the 5-2-1-0 program and a new health curriculum but we don't have someone to look at wellness and school health globally. In the past the tobacco settlement money always went to the same districts; however, a window of opportunity finally opened to apply for this money this year for first time. This is a 5 year grant and could be as much as \$400,000 for the district. Superintendent Shuttleworth is hopeful that the new governor will maintain that the tobacco money will continue to go to school health.

WOOLWICH BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that the district received an A+ rating from Standards and Poors for a construction bond. The reason why the district did not get an A++ rating was because they felt we should have more cash reserve even though our cash reserve is the most the state allows for school districts. The \$16 million bond came in at a 4.781% interest rate. There is a great deal of internal work being done in the new school gymnasium and administrative offices. The project is on target and on schedule.

BIG IDEAS COMMITTEE REPORT

Board member Garrison reported that the committee has met four times and identified the following five sub-areas to look at:

- 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 has come up with both short term and long term ideas with the majority being long term ideas that we could work on for the next couple of years. Some of the immediate ideas include consolidation and purchasing services. Most of everything the committee is looking at is going to take some time. The committee is still waiting for data from some of the subgroups and will put together a summary and get to the board as soon as it is complete. The most immediate need is to determine and decide whether or not we should conduct a survey to ask for public input on the budget. An additional question to consider including would be to ask the public if they would be willing to incur a tax increase to maintain current programs. The committee would like to get the survey out as soon as possible using the survey monkey tool on the Internet. There is also a need to find a way to get it out to members of the community that do not have children in school. Vice Chairperson Rice suggested including a link to the survey on the town websites and including articles in our three local newspapers. Chairperson Harkins indicated that it was suggested to position people at Shaw's or other places in town to hand out the surveys. Vice Chairperson Rice expressed the need to make sure that only residents of the RSU 1 complete the survey, so the tax tolerance question can be more meaningful. Board member Buczkowski suggested placing them in the town offices to be sure that they are going to residents. Student Representative Shaw suggested adding "What your association is with RSU 1" to Question #1 in order to identify their residence.

Board member Garrison encouraged the community to participate in the process. The Board needs the community's feedback as part of the outreach effort with the community. The Board made the following recommendations to amend the survey:

1. On question #1, could you add another item "Not a resident of the RSU1 towns"
2. On question #4, eliminate "Pre-K Programs" and "Gifted and Talented services" and replace with "Tech-Ed" and "Home-Ec". Gifted & Talented services are a mandated offering, and Pre-K program is not a drain of funding.

3. For question #6 expand the language to read "Would you be willing to incur an increase in property taxes to maintain current programming and services in our schools?"

1. up to a 1-2% increase
2. up to a 3-4% increase
3. up to a 5-6% increase
4. I am willing to pay whatever it takes to maintain our current programs
5. I am unwilling to incur any tax increase to support our current programs and services"

Superintendent Shuttleworth also asked that the committee look at the question on the last page which refers to reducing the use of school buildings and he thought it may not be clear. Board member Garrison responded that he would bring it back to the committee to see if it needed to be rewritten.

MOTION: Garrison

SECOND: Walton

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

TO: Approve conducting the survey with amendments.

BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

RSU 1 Board members have been assigned to serve on the following committees:

- Policy Committee – Dave Barber, Julie Rice, Robin Buczkowski
- Facilities Committee – Alan Walton, Betsy Varian
- Affirmative Action Advisory Committee – Chet Garrison, Betsy Varian
- Patten Free Library – Julie Rice
- BRCTC Advisory Board – Tim Harkins
- School Community Liaison Council – Robin Buczkowski
- Wellness Committee – Betsy Varian
- Project 95 – David Barber, Alan Walton
- Education Foundation Board of Directors – Chet Garrison
- RSU 1 Board legislative Contact - Chet Garrison

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported on the following:

- Superintendent Shuttleworth recognized our swim program as being the best in the State of Maine.
- Although we had some snow last Tuesday, Superintendent Shuttleworth made the decision to keep our students in school all day. The weather reports were incorrect and it started earlier than expected. An early release would have sent the kids home during the time when the roads would have been dangerous. By keeping them in school all day they were going home after the roads had been treated and were in good condition.
- Maria Morris and Jobs for Maine Graduates will be featured during an upcoming TV Show '207' segment.
- Superintendent Shuttleworth acknowledged our math teams' success during the state-wide math competitions.
- Superintendent Shuttleworth also recognized Dike-Newell's literacy efforts over the winter break. A total of 492 books were sent home with 41 students to read during our break.

MOTION: Rice

SECOND: Garrison

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

TO: Adjourn at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Shuttleworth
Secretary