



The November 2, 2010 minutes were amended to strike the Board workshop part of the minutes and just include the executive session to discuss a personnel issue which began at 7:30 PM and adjourned at 8:35 PM.

**MOTION:** Rice

**SECOND:** Varian

**VOTE:** Board (5-0)  
Students (1-0)

**TO:** Approve the minutes of November 2, 2010 as amended.

## **ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

Superintendent Shuttleworth adjusted the agenda to include:

- Item 7.3 – Presentation by Maria Morris on JMG program
- Item 18.2 - Need to address scheduling 3 regular Board meetings that follow on a holiday in January, February and April. The Board may need to revisit the dates of our meetings and meet on 2nd Monday of the month for more continuity.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

Morse High School parent Sharon Dohner addressed the Board regarding the 4 x 4 schedule at the high school. Ms. Dohner participated in the NEASC review and stated that the panel endorsed Morse moving back to a more traditional schedule such as the A / B schedule as before. Ms. Dohner asked if we are going to transition back to traditional learning and encouraged the Board to involve parents in the process. Chairperson Durfee responded that the NEASC report will be available to the public in two months.

Woolwich resident Beth Schultz presented some suggestions to the Board including posting the agenda in a timely manner, publicizing meetings in the paper and a way to give parents an opportunity to request an agenda to be sent to them. Ms. Schultz stated that the public should be informed on all committees that are held and should be able to attend committee meetings. Ms. Schultz would like to know who is on the committees that are deciding the direction our school is going and committee reports and dates should be posted on the website. Rockland High School is moving back to a traditional schedule from the 4 x 4 schedule. Ms. Schultz reported that the principal cited various reasons for moving back which she would be willing to share if anyone was interested. The Portland Press Herald reported that the Maine Farm Enterprise School is proposed to open in the fall. This would be a charter school with private funding which different schools can opt into it. Ms. Schultz felt the public should be hearing more about it and that most people probably don't know it is even being proposed. Ms. Schultz felt it is important for the community to know what the vision of school district is and asked what the vision is for the next 5-10 years.

Chairperson Durfee responded that the agenda is set 6 days before the meeting in order for the agenda to be more specific. This could be put on the web or emailed upon request. The Board's committees include facilities, policy and negotiations. Any curriculum questions should be directed to the superintendent.

Ms. Dohner inquired as to who was driving the standards based committee and why parents aren't a part of the decision making. Ms. Dohner also wanted to know how much RSU funding is being used to support the Maine Farm Enterprise School. Superintendent Shuttleworth responded that no RSU 1 funds are being used to support the initiative.

Woolwich resident Sabrina Doak stated that she would like to know where to go to see the district's plan over the next few years. Ms. Doak felt that communication needs to be

improved between the Board and the community and asked how parents get in touch with the Board, i.e. email, mail or a suggestion box.

West Bath parent Maria Renaud asked if there is a time when parents can get together collaboratively with the school board to get answers to their questions. Ms. Renaud felt that the parents ask questions but there is no real feedback.

Board member Garrison suggested meeting with parents once a quarter in an informal setting.

Chairperson Durfee stated that the Student Advisory Groups (SAGs) are one vehicle we have as a way of getting feedback from the committee to the Board and encouraged parents to join one of the groups.

Beth Schultz stated that she served on a SAG last year that never came up with an agenda or minutes. Ms. Schultz felt that parents need to decide what the SAG mission is not the principals or administration. The group was not productive and only met three times.

Woolwich resident Christa Seaman suggested that some of these larger issues such as 4 x 4 schedule, vision and standards based grading should be discussed during a workshop outside of the regular Board meeting.

## **OVERVIEW OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

Business Manager Ruth Moore and Finance Specialist Debra Clark reported that the district has a new accounting system in place and have merged all the contracts/payroll. The beginning of the consolidation was at times stressful and overwhelming; however, we are starting our third year with everything on schedule and running smoothly. Ms. Moore stated that we were fortunate to have Elaine Cahill also working as our payroll specialist during the transition. The central office staff is an excellent staff and we work very well together.

## **ELEMENTARY REPORT CARD**

Fisher-Mitchell Principal Nancy Harriman updated the Board on the K-5 report card. During the spring of 2008 Dr. Harriman met with a team of K-5 teachers from U47 and Bath to develop a common elementary report card for the new regional district. The committee reviewed sample report cards from other districts, including a draft performance-based report card from School Union 47, and invited feedback from teachers at all the schools as the report was developed. The current report card is based on the skills to meet the Maine Learning Results, so could be described as "standards-referenced." Students' performance on social skills and work habits is evaluated separately from their performance on academic skills and concepts. The same 1-4 scale is used as for state testing, 3=Meets Expectations, 2= Partially Meets, 1=Does Not Meet. A "4=Exceeds Expectations" and is used when a student is performing significantly above what is expected for the grade level. Dr. Harriman explained the 1-4 scale and how it is different from a traditional averaged A, B, C system and that a "4" does not equal an "A." Dr. Harriman noted, that although there are less options in the scale, the scoring is done on more specific items on the report card.

Woolwich Principal Tom Soule, who served as the chair on the K-12 standards based committee last year, spoke about the positive aspects of a standards-based approach. The K-12 committee has studied different models and visited other schools over the past year and a half as part of their research. He reported that staff are in the process of revising and updating the district's standards in response to new math and language arts learning

standards that Maine is expected to adopt. The K-5 level is nearly complete and all teachers have had at least 3 opportunities to respond to the draft standards. They will be available on the district website later this school year. The K-12 Committee will reconvene next semester for looking at the next steps, including what the vision is for the district, how to assess the standards, and finally, the last step will be developing a reporting system. The model we are looking at for the high school level is not the RISC model. Teachers should have information to support what they put on report card and the report card should not be more than 2 pages long. The committee has talked about including parents and other members of the public during this multi-year process.

In response to questions, Dr. Harriman reported that K-5 staff received training on the technical aspects including how to enter grades online, and subsequently calibrated scoring on specific items during grade level meetings that were held 3 times a year for first 2 years.

## **JOBS FOR MAINE GRADUATES UPDATE**

JMG Coordinator Maria Morris reported that the Jobs for Maine Graduates program is in its third year at Morse High School. The program is steadily growing with 45 students enrolled this year and is now serving students in all four grade levels. Ms. Morris provided the Board with a JMG Program Overview and highlighted their successes at Morse. Ryan Talmadge, JMG graduate from Morse, was present to share his high school experience and his success in the JMG program. Mr. Talmadge felt the program is very helpful to students who are struggling and teaches students many useful skills he continues to use every day.

## **RSU 1 HELP A KID FOUNDATION UPDATE**

Temporary Chairperson of the RSU 1 Foundation Suzanne Weiss reported that a group of people have been working on the Education Foundation for RSU 1. Ms. Weiss read the foundation's Purpose and Mission Statement as follows:

RSU1 Help-a-Kid is organized as an independent non-profit corporation committed to providing and supporting educational innovation and excellence. It will partner with Regional School Unit # 1(RSU1) in building community-wide involvement and developing funding to enhance and create programs in support of student and teaching excellence and creating a world class school system.

Because the foundation is a non-profit organization, it has a little more flexibility regarding the funds we apply for and doesn't have some of the mandates from the state that the district has. The foundation decided to adopt the Help A Kid program by taking on some of the work as part of the responsibilities of the foundation. The foundation applied for an IRS tax exempt number and changed its name to RSU 1 Help A Kid Foundation with the state. The foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees that is made up of community members. Board member Garrison serves on the Board of Trustees along with Superintendent Shuttleworth although the superintendent has no voting power on the Board. The group has regular breakfast club meetings and is looking into posting all the information in one place such as on the RSU 1 website or blog. Community involvement, ideas, concerns, thoughts and people to serve on the committee are all welcome. For further information, Ms. Weiss can be reached at Roy Farmer Associates or through the Superintendent's office

Board member Garrison acknowledged and thanked Ms. Weiss for her outstanding work on this project.

## WOOLWICH BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that we are in the final stage of purchasing furniture for our new school. Mr. Shuttleworth will be traveling to Boston on December 15<sup>th</sup> to meet with a panel of financial experts at Standards and Poors to determine the district's bond rating. In the interim, we are borrowing money from our \$7 million bond anticipation note at a 1.37% interest rate. Ledgewood Construction Company is building a schedule of work to be done during the winter and most of the groundwork has been completed. The district is very lucky to have our owner's representative Sabrina Doak, our Construction Company and clerk of the works working together as a team.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Shuttleworth reporting on the following:

- Superintendent Shuttleworth thanked Maria Morris for her update on the Jobs for Maine Graduates program and BIW for being a co-sponsor of the project. The program is currently in its third year at Morse High School. Mr. Shuttleworth will be meeting with BIW officials to discuss the possibility of BIW continuing some level of support for the program after this year. Morse High School had the 3rd highest drop out rate in the state of Maine seven years ago. Since implementing programs that have made a difference the graduation rate at Morse has increased from 65% to 91%.
- In regard to standards based grading, we will need to educate people along the way, provide the history of the program and vision of the district as we move forward.
- The district was awarded \$50,000 from the Jessie B. Cox Foundation to support our pre-school efforts with \$25,000 next year if we can match it with additional foundation money. We also wrote a grant to support the Morse In Motion program which would fund a wellness/physical education program for 30 high school students.
- Morse High Principal Kahl is scheduled to present a full update on the 4 x 4 schedule in January after completion of the first semester.
- RSU 1 hosted a concert at Morse last Friday with Uncle Jim Mayer thanks to the support of our foundation. Uncle Jim's performance addressed bullying and gave a wonderful message to our kids.
- Maine Farm Enterprise School is a public charter school like a vocational school. Superintendent Shuttleworth has met with the Executive Director John D'Anieri to suggest looking into using the vocational funding formula. Mr. D'Anieri is actively pursuing grant money as well.
- The NEASC review went very well at Morse High School last week. The NEASC director commented that the student population was approachable and delightful to work with throughout the process. The principal will receive a report shortly and once Mr. Kahl sends in his response, a full report will be put together and sent to the district.
- Superintendent Shuttleworth complimented Debra Clark and Ruth Moore for their remarkable work and reported that the financial status is solid. There is no cushion or contingency fund; however, the budget is managed in a very careful, thoughtful way.
- Superintendent Shuttleworth acknowledged the many fundraising requests included in the Board packet.
- Superintendent Shuttleworth talked about the 4 phases of education as we make a conscious decision of what we want our kids to learn. What is it we want kids to know? How do we know when kids have learned it? What do we do when kids don't know? What do we do when students already know it?



## **NEXT MEETINGS AND LOCATIONS**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 20, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Woolwich (Huse) School gymnasium.

Other future meetings include:

- Tentatively scheduled executive session on December 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the superintendent's evaluation
- Regular Board meetings on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, February 28<sup>th</sup>, and April 25<sup>th</sup> which is a change from our regular dates due to holidays.

## **ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Garrison

**SECOND:** Durfee

**VOTE:** Board (5-0)  
Students (2-0)

**TO:** Adjourn at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Shuttleworth  
Secretary