

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 1 MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 20, 2010 AT 6:00 PM AT MORSE HIGH 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 **October 18, 2010 meeting).**

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

Others Present: Nancy Harriman, Seth Koenig, Rick Joyce, Laura Joyce, Rebecca Deschaine, Beth Whitney, Peter Kahl, Emily Thompson

CALL TO ORDER

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

RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM CHAIR

Chairperson Durfee thanked Morse High School for hosting this month's meeting. Mr. Durfee reminded the public that there are two RSU 1 school board openings included in the November election ballot. Today was the last day for submitting nomination papers and we have one candidate from District 1; however, no one has submitted papers for Francie Tolan's position in District 6. Mr. Durfee stated that the position would either be filled with a write-in candidate or the Board will have to appoint someone to fill the position.

Chairperson Durfee reminded the Board that the Annual MSMA Fall Conference takes place on October 21st and 22nd this year and those members interested in attending should contact Veda Ferris at the Superintendent's office.

Chairperson Durfee reported that the new teachers' contract was passed by the union in August and the Board passed it on August 31st.

APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2010 AND AUGUST 31, 2010

The minutes of August 16, 2010 were revised as follows:

- Page 2, 3rd paragraph, 4th sentence - Revise to read... "fourth year in a row that Morse is considered a failing school according to AYP and we need to look at things differently."
- Page 4, 1st bullet – Revise to read.... "The State of Maine just passed a piece of legislation that requires..."
- Page 2, 2nd paragraph, last sentence – Revise to read..."when a controversial issue as strong as this one is discussed parents need to be involved."
- Page 3, bottom of page – Remove the period and revise to read \$39, 068,000.

MOTION: Rice

SECOND: Garrison

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

TO: Approve the August 16, 2010 RSU 1 Board minutes as amended.

losing five staff members this year. Teachers like the continuity of seeing their students every day but have a feeling of being rushed.

Principal Kahl reported that he received one application for the student representative position on the RSU 1 Board. This application was given to Mrs. Madden and the SCLC is due to vote on this position during its next meeting.

Principal Kahl stated that they will continue to look at schedule issues as they come up and resolve them. More students are taking college classes outside of school and taking advantage of the Rosetta Stone labs.

Student Representative Shaw shared concerns from the students regarding the increased work load and increased class sizes. Principal Kahl responded that some changes have been made to address the class sizes; however, he was very pleased that the electives are so popular with the students.

Vice Chairperson Rice shared some of the comments and concerns she has heard such as lack of a break for students, fewer classes so they are more focused and a lot less athletes this fall than usual which is perhaps due to increased homework. Mrs. Rice would like to see more of a balance so students can keep active while keeping up with their academics. Principal Kahl responded that he has had this discussion with Athletic Director Scott Walker who reported that this trend is happening statewide and that student apathy is beginning to bleed into sports as well.

Vice Chairperson Rice shared comments she heard from some math and English teachers at the Open House concerning keeping the students geared up for the upcoming SATs.

Vice Chairperson Rice inquired as to whether there will be an ongoing internal review of the schedule with the staff. Principal Kahl responded that the Data Committee led by David Ingmundson will be reviewing all data/feedback as the year progresses. The number of failures after the first quarter will be crucial information to review as we move forward.

Board member Harkins thanked Principal Kahl for his assistance in putting the information together in order to respond to the concerns expressed by some parents during last month's meeting. Chairperson Durfee also acknowledged Mr. Harkins and Mr. Kahl for their work in following up with Ms. Dohner's questions. Board member Tolan asked Mr. Kahl if parents have contacted him with any continued concerns of the current schedule and was glad to hear that there have not been many.

Principal Kahl invited parents to attend the first SAG meeting of the year during the first week of October to offer their feedback. Mr. Kahl will also develop a student survey to get their feedback which will be distributed later this year. Board member Garrison suggested inviting a representative from Cony High School to come and meet with our staff to share their experiences and answer any questions/concerns about the 4 x 4 schedule, as we are only one year behind their implementation of the 4x4 schedule.

WOOLWICH BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that the construction is coming along very well. We have had ideal weather to do the site prep work and the old buildings have been demolished. Mr. Shuttleworth attended a meeting today in Augusta to work on finalizing what we might think is the final budget. The Woolwich staff visited the site last week and

Principal Tom Soule will be working on scheduling a field trip to the site for the students. Mr. Shuttleworth has had a conversation with BRCTC Director Joel Austin what an ideal opportunity it would be for his students and teachers to get involved with this project.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported on the following:

- We have had a great start to the new school year despite the hot weather. Enrollment figures were provided in the Board packet along with a report of electrical use over the past two years which showed savings after the upgrades were completed.
- The district has a significant number of students in the elementary schools with special needs. Instead of hiring a mid-level administrator to replace Cindy Hutchins, we have decided to hire three additional ed techs to help support these students.
- District fundraising information was provided to the Board as requested by Board member Harkins. Superintendent Shuttleworth felt that the role of fundraising in the district would be a good discussion for the policy committee. The committee will review the policy that is currently in place and bring it back to the Board for their review.
- We have organized a Schedule B committee to work as a team to look at the different stipends in the district. The committee will submit a report to the Board at the end of this year or early January.
- Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that we are likely to see class sizes grow over the next few years as we continue to be concerned about our financial situation. It is not too early to begin looking at the structure for next year. Mr. Shuttleworth continues to meet regularly with Ruth Moore and Debra Clark to go over our finances.
- Superintendent Shuttleworth was delighted to report that our new vocational programs and MHS electives are very popular with our students.
- The first couple of days of school were hectic as far as our bussing schedule was concerned. Mr. Shuttleworth has met with the Bath Bus Service and developed a revised schedule which will have our students off campus by 3:08 PM.
- Twenty-one students were denied school choice in West Bath School due to the high enrollment. The Board requested that the superintendent provide data on how many students are involved in school choice this year at the next meeting.
- The RSU 1 swim program will be privately funded this year and next year by private donations. Some of the cost is being offset by the YMCA this year. Only our 3rd graders are participating in the program this year.
- The NEASC review is scheduled to begin on Sunday, October 31st. A meet and greet with the review committee will take place that afternoon and all Board members are asked to attend.

SECOND READING OF POLICY KBF, KBF-E1 AND KBF-E2 RSU 1 PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN TITLE I

MOTION: Tolan

SECOND: Rice

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

TO: Approve the second reading and adoption of Policy KBF, KBF-E1 and KBF-E2 RSU 1 Parent Involvement in Title I.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

MOTION: Durfee

SECOND: Garrison

VOTE: Board (7-0)

MOTION: Durfee

SECOND: Tolan

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

TO: Adopt the resolution to repeal PL2009, Chapter 448.

TEACHER FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN JOB DESCRIPTION

The job description was amended to read:

- Under Job Goal, first sentence – "...knowledge needed to provide a good foundation for further participation in school in accordance with each pupil's ability..."

MOTION: Garrison

SECOND: Varian

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

TO: Approve the Teacher for Pre-Kindergarten Job Description as revised.

2010-2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Superintendent Shuttleworth reviewed the changes to the calendar that relate directly to the teachers' contract. The changes include changing the school hours for our elementary schools, removing the report card prep time for West Bath teachers and removing the Bath only comp days for parent/teacher conferences. The October 22nd was also changed from blue font to black.

MOTION: Durfee

SECOND: Tolan

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

TO: Approve the revised 2010-11 school calendar.

FIRST READING OF POLICY EEAA STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Vice Chairperson Rice addressed the glitches in the transportation schedule this year and the proposed changes to the policy which will help alleviate these issues. Mrs. Rice reviewed the map and stated that Bath middle school and high school students need to live over a mile from school to be eligible for transportation. All students who reside in the other towns are eligible for bussing. The revised policy will be implemented following the second reading in order to allow parents ample time to be informed of any changes.

FIRST READING OF POLICY JRA STUDENT EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

Superintendent Shuttleworth reported that the language in red under the Notification of Rights Under FERPA is required by law to include in the notice sent to parents. The Board revised the first sentence of that paragraph to state that RSU 1 is required by the Commissioner to request and report student social security numbers and not to "collect" as previously written.

FIRST READING OF POLICY GBEB STAFF CONDUCT WITH STUDENTS

Superintendent Shuttleworth stated that RSU 1 has a policy currently in place that was written some years ago. It was decided to revisit this policy due to the interest and

concern nationwide to make sure the staff is well aware of their boundaries with children. Mr. Shuttleworth spoke to the SEA Presidents about this policy and they feel that staff conduct is very important to them as well and will be reviewing this policy. Chairperson Durfee requested that the term "mandated reporters" on page 2 was worded to make it clear for those who are unfamiliar with that term.

FIRST READING OF POLICY JICIA WEAPONS, VIOLENCE AND SCHOOL SAFETY

Superintendent Shuttleworth stated that this policy is the result of a school hostage situation that occurred last year. The template language was written by an attorney for the Maine School Board Association. Vice Chairperson Rice added that this also accommodates what kinds of events could be held in our school buildings, i.e., hunters' breakfasts.

FIRST READING OF POLICY EBCB EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS

Superintendent Shuttleworth stated that this used to be the district's fire drill policy. We felt we needed to update the policy to address any event that may happen to threaten the safety of our students and staff.

DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS PROCESS

Chairperson Durfee requested that after 18 months of negotiations that the Board has a discussion about the process, what we learned from this experience and what we could do better or avoid in the future. Mr. Durfee suggested that the Board form a subcommittee to delve further into this subject. Board member Harkins felt it would be helpful to have a dialogue with staff outside of contract negotiations in order to better understand the history of why certain language exists.

Superintendent Shuttleworth suggested having one or two Board members attend the monthly meet and consult meetings with the SEA Presidents. Board member Garrison supported this idea and felt it would help to avoid any misunderstanding and potential issues. The Board agreed with Superintendent Shuttleworth's suggestion and may revisit forming a subcommittee at a later date.

NEXT MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 18, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Phippsburg Elementary School Library.

Board member Harkins requested that the Board schedule a meeting to discuss their goals for this year. The Board agreed to include this item on next month's agenda.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Durfee

SECOND: Rice

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

TO: Adjourn at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Shuttleworth
Secretary