

Regional School Unit 78
School Board Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2014
Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.
RLRS – All Purpose Room

Eric Burgess	X	Colleen Koob	Arrived at 6:02 PM
Joanne Chapman	X	Nancy Hilliard Chair	X
Stephen Dudley	X	Virginia Nuttall	X
Pam Ellis, Vice Chair	Arrived at 6:45 PM	Paul Reynolds	Arrived at 6:02 PM
Jennifer Farmer	X	Tom Rideout	X
Rangeley?		Dallas Plantation?	
Jacob Farmer, Student	X	Rachael Weaver, Student	X

Quorum Present: 467/787

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance by Nancy Hilliard at 6:00 PM
2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting 10/14/14; Motion to approve: Jennifer Farmer
 Seconded: Joanne Chapman

Vote: Unanimous

Colleen Koob and Paul Reynolds arrived at 6:02 PM

Quorum: 645/787

3. Adjustments to the Agenda: Move Music Field Trip request to 8.15, remove 8.3 due to illness,
4. Public Comments: None
5. Chair, Superintendent, Principal and Student Representative Comments

Chairman Hilliard welcomed Rachel Weaver to the meeting, and welcomed the chorus members in the audience. She also reported that last week several Board Members attended training with MSMA at the MSBA Conference.

Superintendent Pratt asked the Board to think about the Calendar for 2015-16. She specifically asked about the start date question: August 31, Sept 1 might be possible and it looks like with Sept 7 being Labor Day, that might be too late. She pointed out the fact that the regional superintendents need to consider the alignment of calendar for the regional teach center. She also shared that this is a busy time in school with ending the first quarter.

She reported that she was recently elected the WMEC Vice President. Supt. Pratt explained that there is much going on with professional development with the changes to standards for Grade 9. RLRS is moving ahead with all this work and high school staff are feeling like we are collaboratively making decisions along this path. She reported that the elementary parent conferences are occurring this week and that at the high school level the staff will be doing parent conferences in the next couple of weeks and are working to accommodate parent requests. We are also going to do student-lead conferences with all the freshmen students so they can share progress on their standards mastery. The team felt it best to wait until early to mid December for these to happen to allow students more time to collect evidence to share during the student lead conferences.

Principal- None- Mr. Brown was not present

Student Representative: Jake Farmer reported that he is hopeful to have more to share next time and that more action at the high school will occur soon.

6. Committee Reports

6.1 Policy Committee: Nancy Hilliard reported that the group met on Oct 21 and will have two policy later in the agenda.

6.2 Facilities Committee:

Ad Hoc Building Committee : Ginny Nuttall reported that there is another meeting on November 3rd . She handed out a timeline from Oakpoint, the architect firm working with the RSU. An important date to put into the calendar is November 18, which is the date of the first public forum.

6.3 Finance Committee: Stephen Dudley reported that the group has not meet since the last meeting and will not meet in November because the Board has a meet and great prior to the next meeting when the committee would have met.

6.4 Technology: The committee met but no board rep was present to report because of the conference so they ask if Lynn Pollock would report to the Board next week.

Mrs. Nuttall reported that the committee coordinating the Superintendent's evaluation will meet on Thursday.

7. Appointments, Resignations, Nominations:

None- Will have coach assistants and the rest of the winter sports coaches next week

8. New Business

8.1 Presentation – Mrs Smith and the Chorus Students. The Chorus shared a song they are learning with the Board.

8.15 Six Flags Music Festival- Springfield MA on May 28-May 30, Mrs. Smith shared the details of the festival that includes singing in front of two judges for the competition. They are fund-raising for this trip. Motion to approve the trip: Jennifer Farmer Seconded: Eric Burgess
Vote: Unanimous

8.2 Sharing of information from the MSMA Conference:

Stephen Dudley reported that the conference is a valuable resource. He focused on school law sessions. A big topic in several sessions was the educator evaluator system. Key for this is the legal topic of how much student growth will be used in the system. There is a state model in place if the committees can not reach consensus. He attended the regional meeting for the Western Region, which was mostly a presentation of the overall agenda for the MSMA. One focus area is pre-K integration where it doesn't exist. Understanding the dance about negotiations was another session he attended and again teacher evaluation was the discussed as it relates to negotiations. New developments at the bargaining table was yet another session and talked about the "Cadillas Tax" on health insurance. Teacher evaluation as a bargaining topic was discussed in this session also as well as educational policy as being something that is not negotiable and the interpretaion that teacher eval is ed. policy. Special education and the laws around standards based learning for special education students. School finance was another session. Searches of student phones and the new FMLA changes and paperwork was shared. Research from the school boards and their effectiveness was a general session and very interesting. Joanne Chapman felt it was valuable also and encouraged Board Members to really consider attending next year as she felt there was so much offered in the two days. She attended five of seven session that were done by DWM with a focus on collective bargaining. Tough legal issues are transgender students, allergies, immunizations, and service dogs. Sometimes a board policy is needed and sometimes it is not. Student representatives on the school board was a session she attended and learned that some systems have one senior and one junior so they can have one who has experience each year with terms running from June 1 to May 31. She also noted for our student representatives that the students include any information from elementary to high school. Nancy Hilliard shared that the group attended many seminars and tried to not double up. She shared the resolutions from the Delegate assembly. These are the focus for the statewide association.

Pam Ellis arrived at 6:45 PM Quorum: 787/787

The Common Core was one resolution. Charter School funding was another and it was so no one district is penalized. Ginny Nuttall reported on evaluation and the new law and felt it will be a lot of work. She went to a session on the Special Ed law as it related to the awarding of some kind of a diploma for students receiving services. This may force some review by higher ed as the standards-based reporting occurs. We need to teach and measure the guiding principals and some folks are doing this using rubrics by Ken Kay called the Four C's. Final thing was project-based learning as a way to reach more students and key to that was helping teachers identify how to teach using this model? Mrs. Pratt shared her sessions but mostly she attended law sessions and several done by the Maine Cohort for Customized Learning. She did attend a session that was very helpful related to locally funded building projects.

8.3 Presentation on Digital Safety Awareness- Lynn Pollock-Postponed until next week.

8.3 Discussion and any action on letter from Lynn Pollock – Lincoln Plantation parent.

Following a review of the history of this request: Motion to approve allowing the student from Lincoln Plantation to attend RLRS on a yearly basis: Jennifer Farmer
Seconded: Joanne Chapman Vote: Unanimous
Motion to accept the student on a year to year basis given they agree to pay tuition at the same rate as other municipalities and encourage the plantation to active the joinder clause in the RSU plan: Ginny Nuttall Seconded: Tom Rideout
Vote: 645/142 (Colleen Koob)

9. Old Business

9.1- First reading of Policy GCGA- Substitute Teachers: review following the policy committees recommended changes based on Board input.

Motion to approve for first reading: Colleen Koob Seconded: Pam Ellis
Vote: Unanimous

9.2- First reading of BE-School Board Meetings: Looking at this because during slow times we may not need to have two: Motion to approve for first reading
Jennifer Farmer Seconded: Eric Burgess Vote: Unanimous

10. Adjournment at 7:40 PM