

**Regional School Unit 78
School Board Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2020
at 6:00 p.m.**

ZOOM Link Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83273013760?pwd=akNGV3phMGhxcXBQUFFYOTg4ZHMhQT09>

Meeting ID: 832 7301 3760

Passcode: pjZeb5

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83273013760#,,,,,0#,,828023# US (New York)

+13017158592,,83273013760#,,,,,0#,,828023# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 832 7301 3760

Passcode: 828023

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcCSlhtb9q>

Kathleen Catrini, Dallas Plt	P-in person	Aaron Vryhof, Rangeley	Absent
Brian deLutio, Dallas Plt	P-in person	Amber Haley, Rangeley Plt	P-in person
Martha VanderWolk, Magalloway Plt		Paul Reynolds, Rangeley Plt	
Jessica Bottcher, Rangeley	P-in person	Clare Webber, Sandy River Plt	P-in person
Chris Farmer, Rangeley	P-in person	Sara Lacasse, Sandy River Plt	P-zoom
Virginia Nuttall, Rangeley	P-in person	Autumn-Skye Williams, Student Rep	Absent
Karen Seaman, Rangeley	P-in person		

Quorum: 850/1003

1. Call to Order 6:03PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Vote on Chair
Virginia Nuttall nominates Brian deLutio
Unanimous vote; motion carries

Vote on Vice Chair
Nominations for Virginia Nuttall
Unanimous vote; motion carries

Comments from Virginia Nutall thanking all the staff and teachers who have worked tirelessly this spring and summer to support kids and education.

[Applause from Board]

4. Adjustments to the Agenda Approval of Minutes of July 16, 2020
Motion Chris Farmer;
Seconded Paul Reynolds
Unanimous vote; motion carries
5. Chair, Superintendent, Principal and Student Representative Comments
Superintendent: Thank you to staff and administration
Principal: none at this time Student Rep: none at this time:
Chair: Committed to facilitate working together as a common team. Make the sum greater than the parts. Please reach out to him with any concerns at any time.
6. Presentation of Draft Re-Opening Superintendent:
“We must work together to secure safety for students, staff, and community.”

With the requirements from the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) and the Maine Centers for Disease Control (Maine CDC) provided a framework for reopening schools, along with 6 requirements.

RLRS established a Steering Committee to develop three plans for reopening scenarios. Steering Committee had representation from all aspects of the school and community: teachers, support staff, administration, school nurse, and parents.

The requirements, guidelines and recommendations from the MDOE and MCDC change frequently. Please be patient with teachers and administration. Safety is the top priority.

[Slide deck presentation]

Steering Committee is recommending a start in the Yellow model, and phase to Green after a set amount of time.

Questions/Comments from the School Board

Q from Chris Farmer: If concerned about safety, why not do a Mon/Tue, Weds remote so school can be cleaned, and Thurs/Fri schedule?

A from Georgia Campbell: plan was originally set that way, however, other Franklin Co districts are going with a remote Friday, also to line up with Foster Tech scheduling.

Follow up from Chris Farmer: in the short term, may be worth looking at the Wednesday remote day, and figuring out a work out with Foster Tech.

Follow up from Georgia Campbell: Committee will look at the feasibility of hybrid scheduling.

Q from Chris Farmer: What have you received for feedback thus far from staff members about returning to school?

A from Georgia Campbell: Without violating any confidentiality, RLRS has tried to be as open and transparent as possible in gathering feedback and addressing concerns from staff. Beginning in a hybrid model and a slow phase in to a return to in-building learning will help to address concerns.

Q from Paul Reynolds: Concerned about starting in a Yellow plan and then going to Green. Would like to have a date at which the plan shifts to Green, if all health markers and conditions are met.

A from Georgia Campbell: Enrollment numbers are driving the Yellow re-opening plan. Because class sizes are uncertain and at 6' distance requirement, we are limited to the number of students that can fit inside a classroom. Not sure at this point how many families will opt for remote learning, how many will choose homeschool, and how many will opt for in-building learning. Won't really be able to go Green in the capacity we want until the state begins to relax the requirements/restrictions.

Comment from Virginia Nuttall: a reminder to hold to the mission of RLRS "To inspire all learners to strive for success in a world yet to be fully imagined"

Comment from Chris Farmer: A Green date should be set, though date can be flexible.

Response from Georgia Campbell: In finalizing this plan, we also have to consider our community. We are a tourist town with a lot of out of state visitors. Want to wait to assess plan to later in September/October to make sure numbers stay low and allow the state to see how school reopening is going.

Comment from Chris Downing: Proposed new start date for school is September 8, 2020 to allow extra time to address safety needs in the building, prep time for teachers, and to have a some "dry runs" for students and the new schedule.

7. Public Comments

Brittany Boeglin: Why haven't you asked parents what their plans are for all.

Georgia Campbell: We have asked parents through a number of surveys. Some have provided a response with certainty. Others have not as they are waiting to see the plan.

Parent Question: What will remote learning looking like this fall?

Seth Laliberte: remote learning will look much different than the spring.

Zoom Question: Can siblings sit together on the bus

Chris Downing: Originally was yes. State changed their mind this week to No. MDOE is re-evaluating that as we speak. Further guidance to come. At this time we have to plan for 1 student per seat.

Zoom Question: How can we get to green in two weeks in class sizes can't fit.

Georgia Campbell: All based on square footage and state requirements

Zoom Question: Can we utilize outdoor classrooms for lunch or at all?

Georgia Campbell: Having children go outside to eat isn't as simple as it sounds. With COVID, additional steps necessary for food service make this not possible at this time.

Parent Question: If you reduced the distancing to 3' can we accommodate all the students under a Green model?

Georgia Campbell: Some classrooms could accommodate all students at 3'. But not all. The 3' presents a lot of issues. Unable to provide meals in classrooms or mask breaks at 3'. Also if there is a case at the school, huge ramifications with the 3' vs 6'.

Zoom Question: Are there specific grades that have low student enrollment that could accommodate all students attending in person?

Georgia Campbell: Can't say for certain right now.

Seth Laliberte: Could be possible at high school, Zoom Question: With outdoor classrooms, can tents be utilized?

Georgia Campbell: We are looking into outdoor tents for outdoor mask breaks, so long as students maintain the 6' distancing.

Zoom Question: When do you propose to get firm parent feedback to get certainty on the numbers.

Georgia Campbell: Asking to hear from ALL FAMILIES by August 26th. Hard deadline.

Zoom Question: If there is no PreK, are the PreK staff on furlough?

Georgia Campbell: No. They will be in house assisting remote learning and supporting in the classrooms. Anticipating a great need for intervention at all levels.

Follow up question: How will PreK staff be paid if they're not teaching PreK?

Georgia Campbell: PreK staff will be paid through specific federal grant money, not out of the regular budget.

Zoom Question: Can you speak more to the ventilation?

Jeff LaRochelle: Univents in older classrooms have all been serviced and are working properly. Newer classroom spaces all have new HVAC.

Zoom Question: Will student drivers park in the lot and walk to the loop? Or come in through the main entrance.

Seth Lalib: Currently asking student drivers to park in the lot, and then use the sidewalk to enter in the high school entrance

Zoom Question: Are mask breaks no longer allowed?

Lindsey Savage: The language around mask breaks has been removed. Partly because no one wanted to give a firm answer as to how long a mask break should be. If we create a culture where mask wearing is the norm, fewer breaks will be needed. Teachers may be able to designate an area of their room for breaks, if they have the space.

Zoom Question: Why do students have to wear a mask if they can keep 6' distance? Utilizing cafeteria and gym?

Seth Laliberte: Gym and cafeteria are being utilized as instruction spaces.

Lindsey Savage: masks are mandated by Governor Mills through an executive order.

Zoom Question: Rangeley has zero cases. Why all the restrictions?

Georgia Campbell: We are a public institution and must abide by the regulations set by the state.

8. Maine Principals Association discussion:

J. LaRochelle Guidelines are fluid at this time. First game is delayed September 18th. There is no more minimum games to play. If there's a final, it will be an open tournament. Jeff is asking ... in the event we are allowed to play fall sports, do we want to? Is it safe for the students and coaches?

Chris Farmer: Dover Foxcroft Academy started their pre-season and two of their athletes have tested positive. Are we setting ourselves up for a bigger risk by having sports?

Brian deLutio: It's a risk or reward exercise. If we are jumping through all these hoops to open school as safely as possible, do we do the same for sports? Is it worth the risk for the reward?

Lindsey Savage: in medical professional opinion, if we are putting all these measures in place to keep safe in school, falls sports is not worth it. And it's across the board. It's theatre and music and the arts.

Chris Downing: No action needs to be taken at this time. Speaking as superintendent its surprising that a school looking at opening in a Yellow plan would be considering sports and travelling for sports. The MPA needs to make a decision.

9. Committee Reports

9.1 Policy Committee:

K. Catrini, Met in early August. Still working on cleaning up policies.

9.2 Finance Committee:

B. deLutio, Met today. Sheila R sent out a report on the work that Jeff and staff was able to do without ppl in the building. Put the facilities budget over by \$4700. Motion later to transfer funds. Discussed lunch prices and substitute wages. Also addressing the minimum wage increase to \$13/year as of January 1, 2021. Unemployment costs are skyrocketing. RLRS is leaning towards transitioning towards a new unemployment plan to help address this need. Chris Downing: Funding from federal/state. PPE funding from state for face masks, shields, gowns, and disinfectants. CARES funding based on title grants. RLRS received \$47,000. Administration is looking at how to best use those funds to address needs in school. CRF also provided \$152,000 to use for anything beyond the regular budget for needs caused by COVID 19. Must be spent by 12/31/2020.

9.3 Facilities Committee:

V. Nuttall, buses have been repainted and are being inspected now. Gym was repainted. Many other facilities improvements over the past few months. Air exchange systems have all been cleaned and serviced. New air exchange units put in staff room and vice-principal office. All water fountains are being converted to water bottle stations. Two new storage units coming to hold items removed from classrooms so we can meet social distancing requirements.

9.4 Team Leader Report:

S. Laliberte, Steering Committee has been hard at work all summer. Individual teams levels are diving into how do we make plans work inside the classrooms. Teams are really taking this on and thinking creatively about how to make this work best for students.

10. Appointments, Resignations, and Nominations:

Jamie Must, K-12 Physical Education: KC; AH
unanimous vote; motion carries

Shirley Schrader, part time gifted & talented ed tech: CF; AH
unanimous vote, motion carries

Abby Thompson, school librarian/data administration CF/KS
unanimous, motion carries

11. Action Items

11.1 Orientation of Board for 2020-2021 – Orientation is coming from MSAA but they are a bit overloaded at this time. Stay tuned new board members

11.2 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2020-2021 (done earlier in the meeting)

11.3 New Committee Assignments:

11.3.1 Finance: Karen Seaman

11.3.2 Policy: Kathy Catrini, Jessica Bottcher

11.3.3 Building/Facility: Chris Farmer, Ginny Nuttall

11.4 Future Board Meeting: August 19, 2020

11.5 Consideration of the following amendments to the 2019-2020 Adopted Budget as permitted in the Maine Education and School Statutes, Title 20-A, section §1485 (4): that permits the transfer of funds to not exceed 5% of the total appropriation. Motion – To transfer \$4,700.00 from the School Board Contingency Fund in Article 6: System Administration to Facilities Maintenance – Repairs and Maintenance

Motion Kathy Catrini; seconded Karen Seaman

11.6 School lunch prices for 2020-2021 K-8 \$0.10 increase, 9-12 \$0.15

Motion Chris Farmer; Clare Webber

unanimous vote; motion carries 1

11.7 Motion for adjustments to 2020-2021 school calendar

Motion Virginia Nuttall; Clare Webber

unanimous vote ; motion carries

11.8 Motion for adjustments to 2020-2021 school handbooks

unanimous vote; motion carries

11.9 Motion for Special School Board Meeting on August 19, 2020 at 6:00PM

Motion CW; KC

unanimous vote; motion carries

11.10 Motion for to rescind policies: IJNC, IJNC-F, IJNC-R

11.11 Motion to revise policies: ACAA, ACAA-R, ACAB, ACAB-R

11.12 Motion to revise and recode policy: IJNDB-E

11.13 Motion to adopt policy: IJNDB-E

Motion to table 11.10 – 11.13 to next regular board meeting

Motion Chris Farmer; Kathy Catrini seconded

unanimous vote; motion passes

11.14 Motion to adopt new substitute teacher salaries

Motion Clare Webber; seconded Jessica Bottcher

unanimous vote, motion carries

12. Executive Session: Labor contract negotiation 1 M.R.S.A §405 (6)(D)

Motion Kathy Catrini; seconded Amber Haley

unanimous vote; motion carries

Motion to approve an executive session on 8/19/2020

Motion Chris Farmer; seconded Clare Webber
unanimous vote; motion passes

13. Possible Vote upon exit of Executive Session - moved to meeting on August 19, 2020

14. Adjourn Motion Kathy Catrini; seconded Virginia Nuttall Meeting
adjourned at 8:51PM

Next meeting: September 10, 2020 upon approval of 11.4 Special board meeting:
August 19, 2020 at 6:00PM

MISSION - To inspire all learners to strive for success in a world yet to be fully imagined. VISION -
RSU 78 envisions a broad range of choices for learning that inspires student and staff
involvement in all aspects of academic life in a safe, fair, authentic, and personalized learning
environment.