

**Regional School Unit 78  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
August 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.  
ZOOM Link**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83273013760?pwd=akNGV3phMGhxcXBQUFFYOTg4ZHMtQT09>

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/83273013760?pwd=akNGV3phMGhxcXBQUFFYOTg4ZHMtQT09>

Kathleen Catrini, Dallas Plt	P	Aaron Vryhof, Rangeley	
Brian Delutio – Chair, Dallas Plt	P	Amber Haley, Rangeley Plt	P
, Magalloway		Paul Reynolds, Rangeley Plt	P
Jessica Bottcher, Rangeley	P	Clare Webber, Sandy River Plt	P
Chris Farmer, Rangeley	P	, Sandy River Plt	
Virginia Nuttall-V. Chair, Rangeley	Pz	Autumn-Skye Williams, Student Rep	
Karen Seaman, Rangeley	P		

Quorum: 814/1003

1. Call to Order 6:03PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of the 2020-2021 School Year Opening Plan Setting up Zoom norms. Norms will be reviewed at the beginning of each school board meeting that is conducted via Zoom or other video-conferencing platform.

Georgia Campbell: Steering Committee has spent a great deal of time since the last school board meeting and made revisions to the plan based on the school board feedback.

[PowerPoint presentation]

Steering Committee recommends opening in a Hybrid 2 model (previously named Yellow). Enrollment numbers are changing rapidly. Hybrid 2 factors in the six safety requirements from the Maine Department of Education (MDOE).

Changed remote learning day from Friday to Wednesday, and make remote Wednesday the early release day at 1:30PM. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will go until 2:30PM.

Foster Tech students will have individualized schedules to accommodate their participation in the FTC program.

Renamed plans Hybrid 1, Hybrid 2, and Remote, rather than Green Yellow and Red to clear up any confusion between the RLRS plans and the State's color-coding for risk.

Staff have gone through every classroom and bus and carefully measured for capacity at 6' distance.

Will re-assess along with the state; as the state reassess risk and makes safety guideline updates, so will RLRS. Next assessment date is September 25th.

Motion to consider Kathy Catrinij; Seconded Karen Seaman

Questions/Comments from the board:

Paul Reynolds: Supports the opening of Hybrid 2. Wants to set a firm date to move to Hybrid 1. How many kids would be at 3' distancing if the classroom was filled? Is it 10% of the kids? 50%? 90%? Last year a therapist was put in the budget because admin was concerned about the wellbeing of students. Not getting all students back into the building puts them at greater social-emotional risk than COVID.

Chris Farmer: Crisis times. Also requesting additional data points on distancing. Hasn't seen a lot in relation to staff being able to meet the needs of the students. Some things that need to be integrated into the plan that are missing: Is Hybrid 2 meeting the needs of all the families in this community? Concerns about working parents, internet access issues, etc... Wants to set a specific date of September 28, 2020 for a return to in-class instruction. If the staff/admin can bring back specific data to show that RLRS is not ready for that, then bump it back a week. Supports cancelling fall sports so that all students can return to in building instruction. Supports Foster Tech students going remote at RLRS to limit exposure. Plan is also missing a testing/quarantine restriction for any family that travels outside the state of Maine.

Brian deLutio: Administration's position is that they want to get all students back in school as soon as safely possible. No one is trying to keep kids out of school. The easiest answer would be to go 100% remote.

Michelle Laliberte: At the last meeting on Thursday, it sounded like a big concern was enrollment. As soon as we know who's coming, we'll know if we can start in a Hybrid 1 or Hybrid 2.

Seth Laliberte: Every time you walk by the main office, there's a new student picking up enrollment paperwork. Our enrollment numbers are way up from prior years. Didn't provide the data at 3' because we could fit everyone in. However, there are additional complications that arise at 3'.

Chris Downing: suggested two weeks because that's the timeline that MDOE and CDC is reviewing county risk data.

Paul Reynolds: What percentage of kids is stopping RLRS from opening in Hybrid 1?

Lindsey Savage: Clarifying two points: 1) In the Hybrid model, Foster Tech students would attend RLRS remotely. 2) Quarantine restrictions have come up a lot in school nurse meetings. It's not enforceable. Science is always rapidly changing, so at what point do we at RLRS go against the MDOE and CDC guidelines?

Brian deLutio: No one's going to go against CDC guidelines, but if it's a very small percentage putting us into a Hybrid 2, can we get creative to get everyone in the building.

Seth Laliberte: Please consider, when you are looking at the capacity numbers in classrooms, that you have to factor in the teacher and any 1x1

Joanna Farrar, Dallas Plantation: What support will the school give to full time working parents who can't take time off to manage remote learning or homeschool?

Georgia Campbell: Unfortunately, not a question that can be answered fully at this time. Still waiting to see enrollment numbers. Are working with the state to coordinate child care options and looking for a remote learning coordinator. This is not a perfect decision or a perfect plan. We want all kids back. Not just a school issue. It's a community issue. Need to work together to support everyone in the community.

Joanna Farrar: What is the remote learning day? What does the remote learning day look like?

Seth Laliberte: There is a communication ready to go out to families if the board approves the plan. Also, will be pushing out videos by Friday to specific grade spans to explain how it will look. The remote learning day will look very differently than it did in the spring.

Joanna Farrar: Seth, you have three kids in school and both you work. What are you going to do?

Seth: I don't know. We have three kids at every grade level. We also do not know. We are in this boat with you.

At this time no further questions from Zoom meeting (6:47PM)

Bruce Truland, Magalloway: can anyone provide an update on transportation?

Jeff LaRochelle: bus service will continue to Magalloway. Most of the kids who live there need transportation, so we will continue to transport those students.

Paul Reynolds: Having a date vs not having a date. Having a date sends a positive message to the community. Sets the goal and if it isn't possible, it's clear why it's not possible. Wants to send the positive message to the community, kids, and teachers.

Georgia Campbell: Steering Committee is in the same place. We want to phase in slowly. Make sure we are all safe and do what's best for our students and our staff. And if that means we get creative, we get creative.

Rowenna Hathaway: state is set to reassess risk on 9.25.2020. If parents plan for a date and then things change, it could cause major disruption.

Brian deLutio: Would make sense to get that data from the state before making a transition plan.

Georgia Campbell: Open to dates from the Board. Will be reassessing along with state guidelines and state risk assessment.

Paul Reynolds: Other benefit for having a date is that you can plan for it. Be ready to go with the state requirement and then everyone is ready to transition. If we can't safely go to Hybrid 1, then nothing changes. And that's okay.

Seth Laliberte: Good to consider a week transition. If the state gives a green light on Friday, really hard to fully transition on the following Monday. Use the following week to transition to a Hybrid 1, rather than a hard start.

Brian deLutio: additions to the plan thus far are: date to transition to Hybrid 1 with a specific transition time of 1 week. UNLESS there is evidence to do otherwise. Also add specific paragraph to address quarantine rules from the Maine CDC.

Chris Farmer: proposes setting a board meeting for September 10th special board meeting on Thursday, September 24 in addition to the regular school board meeting for admin to present data looking towards a Hybrid 1 transition.

Ginny Nuttall (via Zoom): Concern is that there's a lot of work to plan and adjust to the Hybrid 2, and then again within the first month of school to Hybrid 1. Added burden to all ready over- burdened teachers. Need to listen very carefully to staff needs.

Michelle Laliberte: Looking at updated school calendar there are teacher workshops already built in to the calendar could help with the transition from Hybrid 2 to Hybrid 1.

KC accepts the friendly amendment;

KS seconds.

Vote: Aye 8; Nay 1

Motion passes.

Amendments:

- RLRS will reopen in the Hybrid 2 model on 9/8/2020.
- Regular Board meeting scheduled for 9/10/2020 with agenda item to discuss progress towards Hybrid 1.
- Special Board meeting scheduled for 9/24/2020 with single agenda item to approve moving to Hybrid 1 model IF all state safety requirements can be met.
- MDOE and CDC will roll out risk assessment on 9/25/2020
- IF all is clear, RLRS will transition to Hybrid 1 model beginning 9/28/2020
- Language from executive order regarding quarantine and testing be put into the Handbook.

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

Motion Chris F; Seconded AH

Enter exec session at 7:14PM

Exec session 7:31PM

5. Possible Vote upon exit of Executive Session

Motion to approve Labor contract negotiation 1 M.R.S.A §405 (6)(D) Kathy Catrini;

Seconded Karen Seaman

Unanimous vote: motion carries

6. Adjourn at 7:33PM

Motion Chris Farmer; Seconded Jessica Bottcher

Unanimous vote; motion carries

Next meeting: September 10, 2020

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.