

**Regional School Unit 78
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
ZOOM Link**

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Quorum: 814/1003

1. Call to Order 6:03PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adjustments to the Agenda - none
4. Approval of Minutes of August 19, 2020 and August 27, 2020 (Special School Board Meeting)
Motion, Kathy Catrini; Seconded, Amber Haley
Unanimous vote; Motion carries

Motion, Kathy Catrini; Seconded Amber Haley
Unanimous vote; Motion carries

5. Public Comments

No public comments at this time

6. Chair, Superintendent, Principal and Student Representative Comments

Board Chair: Recognize the tremendous effort the staff have put into getting ready for the school year. Walked around the building the other day to see it in action. The reason things are going smoothly is due to the thought and attention given to the planning. Thank you for all the effort put into this. Thank you to Mary and Deb for taking the open spots in Sandy River and Rangeley.

Superintendent: Thank you to all the RSU78 school personnel. It's beyond expectations. Thank you to school community for the support. Thank you for allowing us to answer your questions. Stay tuned!

Principal: "How many years do we get TWO first days?!" – Mrs Savage. Staff are really looking for the positives and rolling with the unknown and willing to see what happens and what is needed. Kids have come in calm and excited to be back in school and they want to do the right things and follow the new rules. We are so happy to have them back.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Policy Committee: - K. Catrini

Meeting on September 2, 2020. A lot of policies to vote on today. Next meeting is November.

7.2 Finance Committee: B. deLutio

Not a whole lot to discuss except spending out the CRF funds. Other funds available but have a September 2021 deadline. One thing to vote on tonight is to expend \$75,000 for the behavior specialist. Money will also go towards a licensed therapist. Working to fill that spot right now. Assistant Business Manager will start October 5 with the plan that she will take over when Sheila Raymond retires this spring.

7.3 Facilities Committee - V. Nuttall

Facilities has been very busy in the building take care of things. Classrooms have all been prepped in advance of student arrival. Classrooms are being cleaned every time students leave the space. Transportation is going well. Down to two bus runs at this time. Seth's office is coming along, though it's missing a door and electricity. Seth has an open door policy. ☺ New glass window in the entry way between vestibule and main office. Tents donated from Saddleback and Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust. Being set up outside so that kids can still get outside even in inclement weather and for outdoor classes.

7.4 Team Leader Report - S. Laliberte

Teams have been working on getting into school and starting the year. Seeing the theory made live is impressive. Staff are working extremely hard. Lots of hard work. We're doing it.

7a. Appointments & Resignations

Appointment for Lynda Feins: Behavioral Specialist
Motion, Paul Reynolds: Seconded Karen Seaman
Unanimous vote; motion carries

8. Old Business:

8.1 School opening update from Administration

Update from Mrs Savage on the standard operating procedures for the new school year: On August 28 RLRS was sent standard operating procedures from the CDC. Also details what happens if a student or staff gets COVID.

Question from Paul Reynolds: Does this change our strategy for 6 vs 3 feet?

Answer from Lindsey Savage: Potentially, yes. With that being said, we do still ask that teachers remain at 6' distance when possible. Students who have face shields as opposed to masks MUST remain at 6' even if rest of class goes to 3'.

Answer from Georgia Campbell: Enrollment updates: 28 new enrollments. Total enrollment is at 193 (without PreK). If PreK was in the building, enrollment would be around 210.

[Referring to a specific handout for the board] Total occupancy numbers are based on 6' + total number of students. Grade 3 would be do-able, but Middle School science cannot fit the number of students in a given class. High school numbers are mostly manageable.

Classroom numbers do not include special education aides, which adds to the person count for each room.

Question from Amber Haley: What are the numbers for 100% remote and new homeschool students?

Answer from Georgia Campbell: 18-20 full remote students; and approximately 12 new homeschool students.

Georgia Campbell/Lindsey Savage: The numbers are not static. Remote students can elect to return to in-building instruction at the end of Q1, which is the first Friday in November.

Seth Laliberte: Each grade span had their own transition plan. The first two days there was no synchronous remote instruction. Tomorrow is the first day of synchronous learning. After tomorrow will have a good sense of what other issues may need troubleshooting. Will see how the local internet holds up. Tomorrow will be first big test.

Our whole plan hinges on quality internet and the stability of the various learning platforms. These are all out of our control, which makes it all special challenge.

Georgia Campbell: RLRS has been working with MLTI so our in-building bandwidth will be doubled. Michelle Laliberte is serving as a remote learning teacher. She's working directly with the remote learning students at the K-5 level and working with families to help support them and coordinate with them. She's doing an amazing job.

Seth Laliberte: As we move forward, what doesn't work, we will work to solve that. Some days things may not work, so we will work hard to find a solution.

Amber Haley: Was approached by 2 families who intend to speak directly to the town manager to see if the town can do anything about the internet.

Georgia Campbell: Internet is absolutely a concern. Made a much larger concern for families in areas without cell service.

Rowenna Hathaway: Even sitting here tonight, there are issues with Zoom freezing. As a parent, I had to pay over \$150 to double my line and it didn't increase connection speed at all.

Mary Richards: Have we identified where the connectivity issues are?

Georgia Campbell: yes. Often no internet and no cell service go hand in hand, which eliminates hot spots. We are working with those families to provide non-internet based options.

Mary Richards: I've heard some places installing hotspots on busses.

Georgia Campbell: Yes, we've installed hot spots for families where there's cell service. There's also a two month backlog for even ordering new hot spots.

Seth Laliberte: I am the part time kitchen staff right now. Lori is doing an outstanding job. Her husband Dennis in helping, too. Meals are made in the hallways and then handed out. New carts are coming to help with this process. Start food service for breakfast at 8:15, High school breaks at 9:25, and then it's non-stop food service until 12:30 or 1:00.

Georgia Cambell: Lack of man power is an ongoing issue.

Brian deLutio: Lindsey, have the guildelines changes about 6' and eating?

Lindsey Savage: No. Students must stay 6; apart when eating.

8.2 Fall sports update from Athletic Director

Chris Downing: MPA has been meeting with DHHS, DOE, MSA, and Maine Governors Office. Report came out at 3:40PM this afternoon. Key factors are that Maine sports must align with all health and safety protocols in the state. Detailed info can be found on MPA.cc

Local school districts, based upon their capacity to implement health and safety guidelines, will decide about participation in fall sports: soccer, cross country and golf. (Basically, School Boards have to make the decision.)

Special Board meeting in the gym on Tuesday to make a decision about fall sports. Consideration will be the approval of fall sports at RLRS or not.

It is frustrating. I've voiced it before and I'll say it again. There's not even a start date for fall sports. No start date, but we have to go to local boards for approval. I'll leave it there.

Brian deLutio: No later than tomorrow, I will email all board members the full document.

9. Action Items:

9.1 Authorization to expend the \$75,000 in the student/Staff Support Reserve Fund to employ a behavior specialist.

Motion, Deb Ladd; Seconded, Paul Reynold

Brian deLutio: touched on it a little bit in the earlier report. Behavior Specialist is already hired full time. In order to meet both of those salaries, we need to expend the money set aside for these positions.

In the case of remote learning, students can still see Behavior Specialist.

Mary Richard: Can someone share a bit of background on Lynda Feins?

Georgia Campbell: She comes with 30 years experience, served as special education director, devoted most of teaching career to students with behavioral needs. Very bright, bubbly personality. Has already, in a short time, got a good rapport with kids.

Jessica Bottcher: Will this new hire change the role of any current staff?

Georgia Campbell: No. Each person on the student services team serves a different role and Lynda will fit into that team.

Vote: 9 ayes, 1 abstention (Ginny Nuttall unable to vote, Zoom frozen); Motion carries

9.2 Motion for to rescind policies: IJNC, IJNC-F, IJNC-R, JKB, JKD

Motion, Amber Haley; Seconded Mary Richards

IJNC policies all dealt with MLTI. That contract is expiring.

JKB/JKD detention/suspension of students which is covered by Student Handbook which in itself is policy

Vote: 9 ayes, 1 abstention (Ginny Nuttall unable to vote, Zoom frozen); Motion carries

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

Motion, Amber Haley; Seconded, Mary Richards

Kathy: Four policies all have to do with student and staff harassment. Changes in the law necessitate the revision of the policies. MSMA recommends accepting policies verbatim. Any changes, go get a lawyer. (laugh)

Chris: Title 9 is the driving force behind these changes.

Vote: 9 ayes, 1 abstention (Ginny Nuttall unable to vote, Zoom frozen); Motion carries

9.4 Motion to revise and recode policy: IJNDB-E

Motion, Jessica Bottcher; Seconded, Amber Haley

Recoding E to R to be consistent with MSMA standards

Procedural policy about student computer rules/procedures.

Vote: 9 ayes, 1 abstention (Ginny Nuttall unable to vote, Zoom frozen); Motion carries

9.5 Motion to adopt policy: IJNDB-R

Motion, Mary Richards; Seconded, Amber Haley

Vote: Unanimous; Motion carries

Next meeting: October 8, 2020

10. Meeting End

Motion, Jessica Bottcher; Seconded, Deb Ladd

Unanimous vote; Meeting adjourned at 6:59PM

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.