

**Regional School Unit 78
Special School Board Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
ZOOM Link**

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Kathleen Catrini, Dallas Plt		Deborah Ladd, Rangeley	P
Brian deLutio-Chair, Dallas Plt	P	Amber Haley, Rangeley Plt	P
, Magalloway		Paul Reynolds, Rangeley Plt	P
Jessica Bottcher, Rangeley		Clare Webber, Sandy River Plt	P

Chris Farmer, Rangeley	P	Mary Richards, Sandy River Plt	Pz
Virginia Nuttall-V.Chair, Rangeley	P	Autumn-Skye Williams, Student Rep	P
Karen Seaman, Rangeley		Mya Laliberte, Student Rep	P

Quorum: 640/1003

1. Call to Order 6:01AM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Review of current educational plan

Georgia Campbell: the four days are working out nicely. Everyone is starting to settle into a routine and that feels good. Wednesdays allow everyone to take a breath and we'll talk more about it in a few minutes. Teachers appreciate that time to plan and meet with kids and more. I have not heard any discussion from the community, so it appears that everyone is settling in.

Seth Laliberte: There's been so much change so rapidly it feels good to settle in. Starting interventions. Wednesdays allow for intensive interventions that are needed. Teachers are reporting that it's up to 30% more prep time to teach in the current climate.

Chris Farmer: Since we had the meeting last, you've said you've received no comments or questions from the community?

Georgia Campbell: No. Not one.

Chris Farmer: Questions regarding homeschool

Chris Downing: 17 RSU 78 students. Comparison was 4. From DOE NEO report There are some folks who choose to homeschool without applying to the state.

Chris Farmer: total enrollment is?

Georgia Campbell: 197. Homeschool students do not count.

Chris Farmer: How many are remote?

Georgia Campbell: 14. 4 in elementary, 2 MS, 8 in HS. Currently 14 with one transitioning in to face to face in the coming weeks.

Chris Farmer: If all remote students transition back in to face to face, what is the impact to facilities?

[Pause while Georgia Campbell and Seth Laliberte move to new location to hopefully provide better audio]

It is noted that Chris Farmer has concerns about the audio

Seth Laliberte: Huge impact. Five rooms would be over capacity.

Motion to consider future of educational plan.

4. Action Items:

4.1 Consideration of the second quarter of educational plan

Motion Ginny Nuttall, Seconded Debora Ladd

Public comments:

Not in person in the meeting. None at this time in the Zoom room.

Chris Farmer: If we pass a resolution to go to 5 days per week, we would be able accommodate remote students returning?

Seth Laliberte: No. We would not be able to accommodate them and maintain the required distancing.

Georgia Campbell: The students who have currently opted to be remote had communicated that they will be remote through the end of the second quarter.

Chris Farmer: While I appreciate the staff likes the remote Wednesday, I feel we need to transition back to 5 days a week in person.

Georgia Campbell: Spending more time doing 1x1 interventions with students as well as prep/planning time for teachers

Seth Laliberte: In order to meet student needs, teachers aren't planning one lesson. They are planning 11 individual lessons to meet each student where they are. Without the Wednesday I don't know how it would get done.

Brian deLutio: Can you speak to the interventions on Wednesday and what's happening there?

Georgia Campbell: yes. We are trying to address the issues and regressions from the remote learning in the spring. There's much more than in prior years given the situation. This time of Wednesday allows our intervention staff and teachers to meet with students 1x1 to address the high need.

Brian deLutio: Students are coming to school?

Georgia Campbell: Student have the option to come into the building or to remote in.

Chris Farmer: What about the ed techs?

Georgia Campbell: They are working with their students every day. Whether it's special education or the Title I interventionists they are all busy working with their students on Wednesdays.

Chris Farmer: For families struggling with childcare on the remote Wednesdays, would it be possible for them to come into the building and work distanced?

Georgia Campbell: It's a good suggestion but I'm not prepared to speak to that today.

Chris Farmer: What's the timeline on that?

Georgia Campbell: I'd need to know how many students we are talking about.

Seth Laliberte: There's no one sitting around on their hands on Wednesdays, so I don't know who would be available.

Brian deLutio: I'd like to know about the elementary teachers, can you describe to me a day in the life of an elementary teacher?

Georgia Campbell: Yes. And then I'd like to ask Lily Webber and Brittany DiPompo to speak to it as they are in the trenches. Teachers are using Wednesday to regroup, plan, develop lessons, records lessons and upload to SeeSaw, attend team meeting, work with students 1x1, meet with parents. For the specials piece, Lily has taken on two extra classes with is a great deal more planning.

Ginny Nuttall: You said they are now differentiating for reading and math in the classrooms?

Georgia Campbell: To a much greater extent than they have in the past. Student can no longer work in small groups

Lily Webber: We prepared a short novel. (Reads written statement. Please see Appendix 1.)

Sonja Johnson shared her own experience with current learning environment.

Chris Farmer: How much time as you as staff members spending cleaning?

Sonja Johnson: Before and after school the janitors are on it! But during the school day, we have to step in.

Chris Farmer: Do we need more janitorial staff?

Sonja Johnson: I can't speak to that.

Chris Farmer: We're all working hard, we've all had to change how we work.

Sonja Johnson: You have entrusted with us with you most precious resource and I am not going to do anything to cross the CDC guidelines. I will keep your children safe.

Erin Smith via Zoom: I spend the 25 minutes I have between 8th grade and K/2, sanitizing and preparing materials. It's supposed to be my lunchtime. I eat at 3:00PM.

Brian deLutio: Can the student reps given any insight here?

Autumn-Skye Williams: I really like the Wednesday. Along with helping the teachers get their work done, I get to sleep in. I'm going 100 miles an hour and have a lot of work, so Wednesdays gives me one chance to have a break.

Mya Laliberte: A lot of my friends that I've talked to really like the Wednesday. We use Wednesday to have discussions because we can do it without masks on. A lot of students use it for their credit recovery. Wednesdays is essential to teachers and students.

Sonja Johnson: This won't be forever. And we're just starting to settle in. And cases are on the rise.

Brian deLutio: And that's the second half of this discussion. Whoever saw the governor's address yesterday, you know things are not good in Maine. There is community spread across the state now. We want to keep the caution light. To become more aggressive right now for return to school doesn't smell right.

Chris Farmer: I agree with you. I think we should table any further discussion to the November meeting. I think it's very clear from the staff and student input that things are working as they are right now. Maybe use some of the CARES funding for a couple half time janitorial staff? I think where we are at to table this for another time.

Ginny Nuttall: The kids who need the most support at this point are beginning to get it on this Wednesday. If nothing else, and we think of it as what our kids need, the Wednesday is important and will help us get back to normalcy.

Paul Reynolds: Thank you staff and administration for all you are doing. I think that we've only been 4 days for a month. It's working. I see no reason to change it for the coming year and maybe even into next year. Things are only going to get more tenuous as we head into winter. I think we should work on perfecting what we are already doing. The biggest issue that the town has with this is from working parents, who are in a difficult situation. Rather than force the school to address this issue and create an unsafe situation, I'd like to see the town address this need. If kids had a place to go where they could access the internet and do their studying, and maybe there's a parent or someone to chaperone. We have fiber optic at PTH and would be happy to provide out space for students who need to work. I don't know how we start this discussion, but I want to see a way for these kids to access an environment for them to access their remote learning and their parents to be able to work.

Lindsey Savage: At one point there was a learning hub when we were at 2 days a week. It has fallen off now that we're at 4 days a week. Kayla Alexander had organized it. It may be working starting with her to find out what worked.

Chris Farmer: The problem wasn't the pieces and logistics, the problem was with the state. The state came in to a similar learning hub in Farmington and Phillips and said it was an illegal daycare and broke it up. I'm not opposed to this and use available properties. The problem is the supervision piece and the compliance with DOE and DHHS. Currently licensing is 2-3 month out. I don't disagree with Paul that 4 days a week is good for the rest of the year. But we need to

figure something out for working families. Can we reach out to families and poll that and find out? Makes it more palatable for working parents.

Seth Laliberte: Shelli is messaging and believes that DHHS has set up rapid licensing. However, we have open position right now and no one is applying. We can't hire for the current open jobs we have.

Joh Lemay (Zoom): His kids don't like the Wednesdays. People won't have money to feed their families if kids aren't back in school full time.

Brian deLutio: This is an 80% solution. We are trying our best.

Chris Farmer: I suggest we table the discussion

Amber Haley: Community and kids have told me there was a survey. What are the results of that? The majority of kids I see at both my businesses say they like being home for various reasons. I have heard concerns about childcare, too.

Georgia Campbell: You are correct. A survey went out to students, staff and parents. The question was "Do you support keeping the remote Wednesday intact as is?" 91 said yes, 41 said no Why not: We don't get to see our friends, no in person specials, more distractions at home, tech issues, teachers can keep me on task, "I like school", parents cannot work Why: It's really nice to work in my own space and be able to move and not wear a mask, building gets cleaned, teachers have time to address workload, stay in touch with remote learning, stay in Hybrid 1, allow students to build independent and flexibility, helps address student/teacher fatigue We want to stay with four days. We need time to settle into something.

Sonja Johnson: We used to do ski Tuesdays. CASA, CIA, Ski Tuesdays, maybe that fills in a remote Wednesday. But it needs organization and leadership to do what's best for our kids.

Chris Downing: Speaking as superintendent at 78 and other districts. We've looked at the 4/5 and it's been successful. We've asked the board in both of those other districts to keep it intact and review at the end of each quarter. The 4/5 is working in schools. I would recommend that we continue to maintain that here in RSU 78.

Chris Farmer: I'd like to make a motion to stay with Hybrid 1 to January 5th but continue to work on what a five-day plan would look like. Make the commitment now through January 5th and at the November and December board meetings, get updates on how the plan is going and look at the ongoing situation statewide. It gets us a set pattern for the next two months and people can settle into it.

Ginny Nuttall: Seconded

Any comments from administration? Are you comfortable with that?

Georgia Campbell: Yes. That would be our recommendation that we stay with the Hybrid 1.

Brian deLutio: I will say this, you want to give time for the administration time to address the concerns about working parenting, that's not for administration to solve.

Chris Farmer: I wasn't speaking clearly. I want to remove the uncertainty and anxiety, and give everyone time to help solve this.

Mary Richards (Zoom): Sounds like we have a motion before the board to allow us to remain in the model we are in until the end of Q2. I'd add to the discussion that if there's some energy in the community to seek alternatives for the kids on Wednesday, that we form a focus group to see what supports and resources we can provide for these families. I agree the model we are in needs to be established and sustained for a period of time.

Brian deLutio: I think it makes sense to do it by quarter which lines up with remote learning integration/choice.

Chris Farmer: I accept the friendly

Brian deLutio: All in favor of continuing the Hybrid 1 model through the end of Quarter 2 (January 15, 2021)?

Unanimous vote, motion passes

5. Adjourn Motion Chris Farmer, Second Ginny Nuttall

Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM

Next meeting: November 12, 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.