

**Regional School Unit 78  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
October 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.  
ZOOM Link**

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

P Quorum: 799/1003

1. Call to Order 6:01PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adjustments to the Agenda New Business:  
9.4: consideration of the Boys Golf team to attend the state tournament  
Motion: Chris Farmer, Seconded: Amber Haley  
Unanimous vote.  
Motion carries
4. Approval of Minutes of September 10, 2020, September 15, 2020 (Special School Board Meeting and September 24, 2020 (Special School Board Meeting)  
Motion: Chris Farmer, Seconded: Mary Richard  
Unanimous.

Motion carries

Motion: Amber Haley, Seconded: Kathy Catrini

Unanimous.

Motion carries

Motion: Chris Farmer, Seconded: Mary Richard

Unanimous.

Motion carries

5. Public Comments Chair:

A reminder that, in accordance to School Board By Laws, community comments have to pertain to items on the agenda only.

Sean Danforth, HS Gold Coach: Won East/West conference championship. States is this Saturday. Was informed team cannot play. When School Board allowed the season and follow all MPA guidelines, and states will abide by all guidelines.

Brian deLutio: Teams have to follow MPA guidelines and administration guidelines. This was put in by administration in addition to the MPA guidelines. That's what the board approved that night. That why we're going to talk about this in more detail tonight.

Sean Danforth: In the future please be more thorough with decision-making.

Brian deLutio: Fair. It's a large amount of foresight but we will try our best.

Trevor Grey, MS basketball ball: Can you get any more socially distanced on 150 acres?

Kim Dolbier, parent: As a board asked to vote on important things and sometimes revisit decisions. It's an opportunity for these kids to compete at the top. It's not often this happens for our small school and these kids. We all want to keep the kids safe.

Arrowhead course, which is wear Class C will play, is roughly 5700sq feet. It's about as safe as you can get given all the guidelines. Give them a shot to continue what they've worked for.

Brian deLutio: Thank you for comments. They are appreciated.

6. Chair, Superintendent, Principal and Student Representative Comments

Superintendent: Policies IJJ and IJJ-E Chair: MSMA conference is coming up and virtual. Board members who are interested, please contact Brian deLutio.

Superintendent: First of all, update the board and attendees on CRF funding. Last week, the DOE informed the school systems that we will be getting a second round of CRF funding. It will match the first round: \$157,000. Have to get application in by next week and have all monies spent by 12/30/2020. Must be related to COVID-19. One purchasing idea is to get equipment to livestream basketball games.

Second is that, related again to COVID, there have been school systems that have had to close down for a period of time If you go on to the DOE website, information on SOP for

closing schools. We will have that here at RSU78. Hopefully we never have to use it. Supers paying attention to where hot spots are occurring.

Last thing, normally policies have their own separate section, but there are two policies in the board packet. Two that deal with ... IJJ: Curriculum Development and Challenge to the Curriculum and IJJ-E Citizens Challenge to Classroom and Library Materials. There is a process that is followed and we will follow it as a school system if it occurs. Please take a look at those. Right now we do have a citizen's challenge to a book. We will be looking at that and will be looking at November or December to bring the board further information.

Amber Haley: When a classroom teacher is deciding to present a controversial topic, how do they go about letting families know? What is the process? Board member has been approached about curriculum questions and directed them to the website, but the website is sparse on curriculum.

Chris Downing: we ask the instructor to provide it ahead of time. Sometimes it doesn't happen. It should be done ahead of time. Sometimes what ends of being controversial or challenged, a meeting is held.

Mary Richard: Were you able to expend all the first round of CRF funds?

Chris Downing: Yes. WE did make some adjustments and had to send in a revised budget on 9/30. All adjustments were approved. Now we have to send in a new budget next Thursday for this second round.

Mary Richard: Can we utilize this money?

Chris Downing: Yes. One example, a school system put in 10 new busses in CRF round 1, but can only get 2 by 12/30/2020.

Chris Farmer: Can you clarify one thing, we've been approved for the money to spend. We haven't actually spent the money yet. And have to expend everything by 12/30/2020.

Chris Downing: Correct. You can't bank the money.

Principal: Working hard on this next phase in process. MS and HS are in 4 days a week. Elementary starts next week. Added two more classrooms and two teachers: Ashley Ferrara, grade 4/5, Shelli Laliberte K/1.

Student Reps: Mya Laliberte: smooth transition so far. No issues with masks. Student council elections occurring soon.

Autumn-Skye Williams: Gold team is doing really well. Trevor got a score of 87, Tucker 89, Luke 90. XC had first run the other day in the rain and did a great job for a first time team.

## 7. Committee Reports

### 7.1 Policy Committee: - K. Catrini

Nothing this meeting. Next met Weds Nov 4 at 2pm

### 7.2 Finance Committee: B. deLutio

Discussed CRF. Looked over the financial statement for this month and it all looks good. Facilities shows a shortage, but it was expected. Approved the bids for propane and pellets.

### 7.3 Facilities Committee - V. Nuttall

A lot of work to get the school ready for all students back. Two rooms changed to classrooms. PreK has become K/1. Title 1 has become 4/5. Gym floor is being buffed this week. Janitorial staff still cleaning between classes. MS decided that rather than move kids, they'd move teachers which cuts down on the overload for janitorial staff. Will meet after board meeting to schedule next meeting.

### 7.4 Team Leader Report - S. Laliberte

MS and HS are back. It's going well. I'm glad the plan to ease back has been working. Behavior hasn't cropped up. Lunch staff is amazing. Elementary has been working hard this week to get ready for Tuesday. Drop off/pick up we'll see how it goes on Tuesday and will adjust as needed. This week, especially at HS and MS feels almost back to normal. Having meetings and not talking about COVID. Scheduling NWEA testing, discussing interventions, and starting to move forward with curriculum work. It's nice to feel like we're working in education again and not crisis management.

Chris Farmer: When do you anticipate the testing will be completed so the board can get an update on where we are Fall 2020 vs Fall 2019?

Georgia Campbell: First round of testing is close to finished with elementary. Thinking end of November to finish testing. Can be ready to present to the board in early November

Seth Laliberte: Last round of NWEA was Spring 2019. Can be December/January board meeting to have a solid snap shot of student growth.

Chris Farmer: Thanks for clarifying.

## 8. Appointments, Resignations, and Nominations:

Tina Lorusso – Licensed Counselor Motion:

Kathy Catrini, Second: Mary Richard

Georgia Campbell: comes to us from CT. Will start a week from Monday. She is a real go-getter. Has done a lot of work with youth. Very community involved. Lucky to have her and someone with her credentials. Licensed Counselor.

Mary Richard: Will she work with Joanne Dickson?

Georgia Campbell: She will serve on our Student Services Team, which is made up of Behavior Specialist, Social Worker, Guidance Counselor, School Nurse, and Joanne Dickson.

Unanimous.

Motion passes.

Ashley Ferrara – Grade 4/5 Teacher

Motion: Chris Farmer, Second: Kathy Catrini

Has been with the district, started in special education as Ed Tech III. Has degree in early childhood education. In the process of getting certified as K-8 educator. She has the credits and is working with the state to certify. Was PreK teacher with Shelli Laliberte last year.

Unanimous vote.

Motion carries.

Jackie Haley – Gen Ed Tech Motion:

Chris Farmer, Seconded: Kathy Catrini

Jackie also began in Special Education and is transferring into Gen Ed as an interventionist at the HS level. Will be working with students 1x1, in small groups, and supporting classrooms where needed.

Unanimous vote.

Motion carries.

9. New Business:

9.1 Discussion on 5 day in-person weekly schedule

Seth Laliberte: Still have some remote students. HS is going well. MS has one class with a lot of students. May need to explore a way to split that group for lunch. MS has to make the biggest adaptation to teaching from carts.

Georgia Campbell: Shout out to the MS team for making that happen so quickly. They worked hard. Thank you to the board for giving us the time to work through this whole process. There are a lot of dynamics at play. Thank you for supporting us in our decisions. The biggest piece for the elementary team is that their remote learning platform is very different from MS/HS. There's a large additional burden on elementary teachers to support the remote students, beyond MS/HS. I would recommend how elementary phases in and then re-evaluate at the end of the month

Amber Haley: How many are staying remote? How many are homeschool.

Georgia Campbell: About 50% of the original remote learners will stay remote. Some have opted to come back.

Amber Haley: What about homeschoolers?

Georgia Campbell: About 10.

Seth Laliberte: Decision to go to 4 days hasn't impacted homeschool numbers.

Amber Haley: For the two teachers taking on K/1 and 4/5 that's A LOT. I hope we all, and you all, support these teachers. It could be a big struggle.

Seth Laliberte: In the latest RTI meeting, we looked very closely at how support staff are in the classrooms

Amber Haley: In March we were told that many students had checked out. Where are you with that?

Seth Laliberte: No one failed. High school did have a significant check out rate at the end. We have a lot of credit recovery going on right now. Just this week, I'm getting emails that students are completing their work from the end of last year. New Gen Ed Tech will wrap up credit recovery and address students of concern.

Georgia Campbell: At the elementary level, these needs are also being met. K/1 and 4/5 will have an additional support in their classrooms. Teachers have long been teaching multiple grade curriculum in their classes. That's why we have so many aides for supports. Teachers are meeting kids where they are at right now.

Mary Richard: Given the current thinking, are you still comfortable with MS/HS being in the building 5 days a week?

Georgia Campbell: That's a good question. If we were to go 5 days/week it would be more seamless at MS/HS level. Elementary is a concern.

Mary Richard: will you get a lot of teacher input?

Georgia Campbell: Yes I have a lot of teacher input on the need for remote Wednesday.

Chris Farmer: Thank you for that update. Our next meeting is November 12, 2020. If there was a plan brought forward, it would be 5 weeks from now unless we have a special board meeting. Correct me if I'm wrong, on the Wednesday remote days, some of the staff is connecting with the remote students. It's not a free for all. Correct? And it's an inordinate amount of work for K-5 to support in building and remote learning. Does it make sense to have a discussion about a date to go 5 days, and at that point, we'll support, but in a more limited fashion those who stay remote, so that teachers can 100% focus on delivering traditional instruction? Does it make sense to schedule a special meeting to have a discussion about that? I'd really like to see the K-5 kids 5 days/week in school.

Georgia Campbell: What the state is challenging us with is that we do offer a remote option and that students are progressing. We are obligated to offer them the best educational experience we can.

Chris Farmer: Do you recommend we have a meeting between now and November 12th.

Georgia Campbell: I believe at the last meeting we had said we'd have a good idea by the end of the first quarter.

Brian deLutio: It's one thing to have a policy to say if you're remote it's a lesser option. I think that would be hard for staff to swallow. Knowing the staff here, they are going to want to support all their students to the best of their ability.

Mary Richard: Georgia, just a clarifying point: are any of the remote kids falling under the umbrella of homeschool?

Georgia Campbell: Homeschoolers who choose to participate in some classes have the option of coming into the building or attending remotely.

Seth Laliberte: If anyone is curious about why we developed the remote plan that we did, we designed our remote plan to meet the state requirements.

Ginny Nuttall: When you talk to other people outside this community, you hear that the students who are on the lower end are those with special needs or whose parents can't support them. It's the benefit of a small school that kids can't fall through the cracks.

Chris Farmer: I'd like to entertain a motion to schedule a special board meeting for October 29th at 6:00PM

Motion: Chris Farmer, Seconded: Kathy Catrini  
(No vote recorded.)

#### 9.2 MSBA Resolution Information

Brian deLutio: Please read through the first one here. This is when we select a delegate to approve or disapprove the resolution in front of the group.

Chris Farmer: Mr. Chair are you available to be the delegate

Brian deLutio: I am not

Mary Richard: Historically what has ever come of any resolutions for family involvement?

Chris Downing: I'll leave it at that. Read between the rails on that.

Brian deLutio: Everyone would agree with that, but how do you implement it?

Chris Farmer: Motion to approve all four resolutions Seconded: Clare Webber  
8 ayes; 1 Nay KC: I don't like the remote board meeting

Brian deLutio: Let's vote individually

Motion: Chris Farmer, Second: Mary Richard First resolution  
Unanimous vote. Motion carries

Motion: Chris Farmer, Second: Brian deLutio Second resolution

Unanimous vote.  
Motion carries

Motion: Chris Farmer, Second: Kathy Catrini  
Unanimous vote.  
Motion carries

Motion: Chris Farmer, Second: Brian deLutio  
Kathy Catrini: I don't think it sets a good precedent.

Brian deLutio: So I see the benefit of not having to get an emergency type approval. There's also a long standing thing of doing this in person. Any other discussion?

Chris Farmer: One caveat, it's up to the local school board to approve the practice. Okay to motion to go forward.

Brian deLutio: We'd still have to choose to adopt the policy locally.  
6 ayes, 2 nays.  
Motion carries

9.3 MSBA delegate selection Motion to approve Mary Richard as the RSU 78 delegate

Motion: Chris Farmer, Second: Kathy Catrini  
Unanimous vote.  
Motion carries

Motion to approve Deb Ladd as alternate delegate  
Motion: Brian deLutio, Second: Clare Webber  
Unanimous vote.  
Motion carries

9.4 Motion to consider the golf team to attend the state tournament and abide by the MPA rules

Motion: Chris Farmer, Second: Kathy Catrini

Mary Richard: Can we clarify the MPA guidelines and the administrations restrictions?

Brian deLutio: Admin added language that students would not mix with other schools.

Chris Farmer: Would students who participate be willing to be tested or isolate for 14 days?

Mary Richard: Are any other schools hesitating to participate?



Sean Danforth: No ma'am. I have not heard of any other schools who are hesitating to participate. Has anyone who made the decision, played golf since courses reopened? We've worked really hard to make this safe. Safety is the main concern for the MSGA. I've coached golf for 11 years. They aren't even communicating with each other. They are focused on the game. It's golf.

Mary Richard: Congratulations. I understand the game of golf. When we made these decisions, we erred on the side of caution.

Brian deLutio: This is getting adversarial and it's not appropriate.

Georgia Campbell: Admin understands that this is a low risk sport. We support the ids moving forward with the tournament. Ask that golf students wear masks when not actively in play. This is to keep ALL our students safe.

Sean Danforth: I've already spoken with the parents and they will agree to abide by all guidelines. This is a chance for Rangeley to represent at the state level.

Chris Downing: I ask the athletes that are here tonight, please wear your mask at all times. The state of Maine public education, we've seen it happen in other schools where someone comes in from a tech center or another school, and is a spreader.

Deb Ladd (via Zoom): Will the board/admin cover the cost of testing?

Brian deLutio: We're not saying they need to be testing.

Second: Mary Richard  
Unanimous vote.  
Motion carries.

10. Adjourn 7:21PM  
Motion: Ginny Nuttall; Second: Clare Webber  
Unanimous vote.  
Motion carries.

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.**