

Regional School Unit 78
School Board Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
ZOOM Link

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RLRS School Board Zoom Meeting Norms:

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- If you have questions/comments during public comments, please private message them to the moderator. Depending on the number of attendees and the board conversation, it may take the moderator some time to speak to each person's comment. Please be patient.
- Be respectful at all times.
- The Zoom room may be shown on the screen in the in-person meeting room in real time. Please do not put anything in the chat that you do not wish for everyone to see. All meetings are recorded.
- Private chat is turned off for meetings. Participants may only send messages to the hosts/moderator. Chat logs are recorded.

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

Quorum: 978/1003

1. Call to Order 6:10PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adjustments to the Agenda
 - 11.1a: Consideration for Literacy Specialist K-5 for the remainder of the school year
 - 11.1b: Consideration for \$20k from capital reserve fund to purchase air purifiers for all rooms
4. Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2020
Motion Chris Farmer; Second Kathy Catrini
Unanimous vote; motion carries
5. Public Comments
Chris Farmer: Under parliamentary rules, board chair can propose "Chair Cast One" and unless someone opposes, the board chair can cast the one vote that will count for all. Will save time during Zoom meetings.
6. Chair, Superintendent, Principal and Student Representative Comments

Chair: Want to address the events of this past week and the fragile state of democracy, specifically as it relates to public education. The Maine state constitution has public education as one of the fundamental rights. Democracy doesn't work unless we have educated voters. Want to recognize everyone at the school: teachers support staff, office staff, admin, bus drives, custodians. Renewed recognition and appreciation for the work done in public schools.

Superintendent: Thank you for the support of yourself and the board members. The kids are our ultimate goal. New stimulus bill signed into CRRSA on 12/27/2020. Similar to earlier relief funds (ESSER #2) can be expended through 2023. MDOE is telling superintendents that this funding will be about 4x more than March/April 2020, which will allow us to do some larger projects. This additional funding will be used directly to make sure staff and students can take care of their needs. Number one need is for students to progress on to next grade. Our jobs and obligations are to ensure no student is left behind. More information to come in late January. CRF2 funding was scheduled to end 12/30/2020. Deadline is extended through 6/30/21. This will allow us to ensure all projects paid for under this package will continue. Vaccines are coming soon for education personnel. School nurses and health aides will be first. No confirmed dates at this time. Potentially March 2021. County color designations will come out tomorrow.

Superintendents are asking the department to go back to a weekly assessment as numbers continue to rise. Commissioner of Education said today that percentage of cases in schools is minimal compared to other locations. ED279 is still on track so we can plan our budget accordingly. Maine Gov's proposed budget will not decrease the education GPA, but districts will have to closely look at enrollment figures.

Principal: All staff are working hard. Budget preparations are underway. We anticipate the budget process will be a tough one. No student reps tonight

7. Committee Reports

- 7.1 Policy Committee - K. Catrini Meeting on 1/6/2021. Very productive. Many action items to vote on tonight. Next meeting is 2/3/21
- 7.2 Finance Committee - B. deLutio Reviewed latest monthly financial statement. New COVID funding will help as the year goes on. First drafts of budgets will be distributed to finance committee in February. Approved sending purchased of air purifiers to the full board.
- 7.3 Facilities Committee - V. Nuttall On target with facilities budget and started to plan for next year. Looked into a second egress and have asked for a report in term of using the school path or purchasing a piece of land. Question from Mary Richards: Has the price tag changed? Answer from Ginny Nuttall: Not significantly no. A proposal is forthcoming.
- 7.4 T Team Leader Report - S. Laliberte NWEAs will start next week. May be delayed some given the remote week. Term deadlines were extended to give students extra time to complete necessary work that needs to be done in person. Reports cards will go out final week of Jan. Students of Concerns: a lot of focus on students who need most help and identifying resources. Saddleback program still in the works. COVID protocols are making it really challenging.

Question from Chris Farmer: Going back to in person next week?

Seth Laliberte: yes

Chris Farmer: Do we have an update on which students will be staying remote?

Seth Laliberte: Not sure about those numbers. Still at about 30 with a lot planning to come back, but unsure of final numbers yet.

8. Appointments, Resignations, and Nominations: Martha Thompson – Resignation/Retirement

Karen Seaman: Want to thank Marty Thompson for her efforts and dedication to the school and she will be missed sorely.

Shawn Russell – Technology Technician Joining from UMF admissions officer and taking a computer technology master’s program. He is returning to RLRS and has worked here before in special education.

9. Old Business: Update on Winter Sports

Chris Downing: Under MPA guidelines girls’ basketball will enter Phase 3. We are not going to push for scheduling until we have a better idea of what’s happening with schools and the region where we’d play. The boys’ program due to low enrollment is at a point where they can no longer participate in games. Ski team will resume at Saddleback this week. Middle School basketball sign-ups will start next week. Will follow same MPA guidelines for MS and HS. Moving cautiously and putting safety as priority.

10. New Business: 3rd Quarter Schedule

Chris Downing: What we’ve done since the beginning of the school year, right before each quarter starts, administration come to the board with a recommendation for school schedule and learning plans. Administration’s recommendation is to continue the 4/5 schedule: Monday/Tuesday in person, Wednesday remote, Thursday/Friday in person. Because of the hard work of the teachers, support staff, admin, parents and kids, we have been very successful at staying in person.

Motion to continue with current learning model Motion Mary Richard;
Second Karen Seaman Chair cast one:
Motion carries

Mary Richard: applaud admin team and the decisions they are making. They have worked hard to keep the school on track and the kids have been in person more than not, all while being sensitive to community and protocols of the CDC.

Chris Downing: Thank you. Need to make sure to include Heidi, Jeff and especially Lindsey Savage. This is something that none of us were trained to do and it takes a team effort.

Chris Farmer: I agree with Mary’s comments whole-heartedly. I’m sure you all wish you could go back to that days when all you had to do was call a snow day. I applaud you for navigating it well. The communication is going well.

11. Action Items:

11.1a: Addition of Literacy Specialist to K-5 staff:

Georgia Campbell: before I stepped into principal role, I was an interventionist and the ladies who work in that department have been working so hard with expertise and professionalism. With Marty’s retirement and another staff member out on long term medical leave, we are down to one interventionist. I feel strongly that it should be filled as a teaching position to best meet kids needs and the need is

great. Position could also help with remote learners and G/T. Without having a teacher involved in the program, the program suffers.

Mary Richards: Literacy is a cornerstone for all learning, do you have someone you're recommending?

Georgia Campbell: Not at this time. This position will require someone with a great deal of literacy experience and intervention.

Motion to approve Motion Ginny Nuttall;
Second Kathy Catrini

Mary Richards: approving the position but not a person yet? You will be seeking a person?

Georgia Campbell: Correct.

Mary Richards: Thank you. Supportive 1000%.

Public comment from John Lemay: Will the extra help be available on remote date?

Georgia Campbell: Yes. This person will be able to coordinate help on remote days and coordination extra support on top of what they are already getting in the classroom.

Chris Farmer: Do we have an estimate of the fiscal note on this? Is there a job description available yet?

Georgia Campbell: As a teaching position, it will be on the teacher pay scale. College background will be important. There is some federal money left that could be used.

Brian deLutio: With the ed tech position that are unfilled, there's some funds available, and some of the new COVID funds could go to this as well.

Chris Farmer: Okay, so there may be a net positive depending on benefits package.

Ginny Nuttall: There's a lot we can learn here about how kids are learning and learning to read. I strongly support this.
Chair cast one; motion carries

11.1b: Use of \$20,000 from capital reserves for purchase of air purifiers for all rooms.

Brian deLutio: HVAC system already in place works great, but we can do better with these HEPA purifiers. Cost is approx. \$600/unit + labor of installing in each room.

Motion to approve Motion Chris Farmer;
Second Ginny Nuttall

Chris Farmer: I've seen these in action in several places and based on the research I 100% agree that this is a good way to get something safe in every classroom. This is important to get done as soon as possible. Hopefully can be implemented right away Chair cast one;
motion carries

- 11.1 Adopt: Policy AC – Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
Motion to approve Mary Richards;
Second Kathy Catrini

Mary Richards: can you highlight the changes and we can vote in a block?

Kathy Catrini: the first three are all very different, so I think we need to go through them one by one.
Chair cast one; motion carries

- 11.2 Adopt: Policy JFAA – Admission of Resident Students

Kathy Catrini: Policy to help decide who is a resident and can legally be admitted to the school.
Motion to approve KS CF
Second Chair cast one;
motion carries

- 11.3 Adopt: Policy BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics
Motion to adopt Ginny Nuttall;
Second Karen Seaman

Brian deLutio: this policy, in addition to being recommended during board training, helps to do a board self-assessment along with Board Responsibilities policy. Make us the best functioning board we can be.

Chris Farmer: verbatim from MSBA?

Brian deLutio: yes
Chair cast one; motion carries

- 11.4 Revise: Policy JLDBG – Reintegration of Students from Juvenile Correction Facilities

- 11.5 Rescind: Policy JLDBG-R – Reintegration of Students from Juvenile Correction Facilities Procedure

KC: Not really a procedure and addresses different things. They have been combined into one policy, JLDBG.

Motion Chris Farmer;

Second Karen Seaman Chair cast one;
motion carries

- 11.6 Rescind: Policy JKG – Physical Restraints

- 11.7 Rescind: Policy JKGA – Time Out and Therapeutic Restraint

- 11.8 Rescind: Policy JKGA-R – Time Out and Therapeutic Restraint Procedure

Kathy Catrini: Have been replaced JK, JKAA, and JKAA-R, which we already have.

Motion: Karen Seaman;

Second Chris Farmer Chair cast one;
motion carries

MR: Extend appreciation to Kathy for spending enormous hours going through policies to make sure we are current. Very appreciate of her hard work.

12. Adjourn

Motion Karen Seaman;

Second Mary Richards Chair cast one;
motion carries

Next meeting: February 11, 2021

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.