

**Regional School Unit 78
School Board Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

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

Quorum: 814/1003

1. Call to Order 6:05AM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adjustments to the Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2021 and Special School Board Meeting of January 28, 2021
Motion Chris Farmer; Second Paul Reynolds

CF: Propose to remove Zoom link information on minutes
Unanimous. Motion carries.

5. Public Comments
No public comments at this time
6. Chair, Superintendent, Principal and Student Representative Comments

Chair: If the school is in person, the board meetings are in person with a remote option. Only if the school is fully remote are board meetings fully remote, too.

Superintendent: RSU 78 has been awarded \$182,500+ for next round of CRF. Using money towards staff and summer credit recovery. Also looking at cleaning supplies and teaching materials. Amount has been spent at this time.

In regards to vaccinations, the DOE has remained on the sidelines as the determination as to when 1b begins. DHHS, CDC and Governor's Office is in control of who/when/where gets access to the vaccine. Schools do not have any further information at this point.

Congrats from Mary Richards for getting the grant in on time and getting the money for the school.

Principal: Winter sports season in up and running. Live-streaming is working well.

Budget process is well under way. Lots of time meeting with teachers and teams and staff and working to bring the most accurate budget we can.

Mr. Downing just mentioned that we have applied for the Title I reallocation grant and SRF grant. This will pay for a large portion of summer programming. It will be a K-12 program as we

have a lot of gaps to close and credit recovery to accomplish. Hoping for a high attendance. Staff are ready to go and teach this summer.

Question from Mary Richard: What percentage are you working with for the budget? 2%? 3%?

Answer from Brian deLutio: administration was not given a percentage to work with and will further address in Finance committee report.

Student Representatives: Girls & Boys ski team has had three races. Very exciting to be at Saddleback. Girls have won 1 race out of three. Boys are doing well, too. Girls basketball team is also doing well.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Policy Committee: K. Catrini - Policy met on 2/3 very productive. A few action items to be addressed later. Asked last meeting to adopt Policy AC, should have been a REVISION, not an adoption. Next meeting is Wednesday, March 3.

7.2 Finance Committee: B. deLutio - Financial statement for prior month is on track. First draft of budget was presented. 7% increase for last year. A few big-ticket items caused increase. Loss of federal Gear Up grant (-\$25,000). For the past 7 years, Gear Up has paid for online classes, dual enrollment courses, and college visits. Addition of the fulltime behavioral specialist is \$120,000. That was taken from reserve funds for prior year. Rule with state of Maine that schools are not allowed to hold over more than 3% from year to year. Working to iron out some of the current overage going to various reserve funds and pay down next year's budget.

7.3 Facilities Committee: V. Nuttall – Air purifiers in classrooms and other spaces in the school. Beginning conversation about have a second egress for security purposes (busses only in an emergency).

Question from Mary Richards: Does this involve purchasing additional land?

Answer from Ginny Nuttall: The land is currently under contract so it is likely no longer available.

7.4 Team Leader Report: S. Laliberte – Emma Jacot-Descombes and Emily Eastlack received recognition from Fosters, Ella Shaffer Poetry Out loud, Emma Jacot-Descombes in Maine All State Honors music festival, Scholastic Art Honorable Mention: Lexie Bachelder, Addie Hemingway, Winnie Larochelle, Saren Moseley, Bristol Quimby, Ella Schaffer, Amelia Stokes. Scholastic Writing: Tori White – short story, Silver Key ASW critical essay 10 states, 500+ students. “Black Women and their Children Matter” NWEA wrapping up today. Will have full report next. Month. Initial data survey is showing that we are on track for Fall 2020 norms, which makes sense given all the remote stretches and ongoing pandemic.

Q from CF: Would it be at all possible to get some of the results ahead of the March board meeting?

SL: Yes.

8. Appointments, Resignations, and Nominations:
Nominations for:
Middle School Girls Basketball Coach: Kelly Grant
Middle School Boys Basketball Coach: Trevor Grey
Varsity Girls Assistant Coach: Jeff LaRochelle
Motion Chris Farmer; Second Karen Seaman
Chair cast one: Motion carries.

Appointment for: Special Education ed tech: Jacob Simonds

9. Update on MPA Sports – Chris Downing Explanation as to how decisions were made regarding winter sports season and who the decision makers are and how information is communicated out from the state via the governor’s office, DHHS, MPA, etc... National high school sports association has stated that they will no longer classify sports as low, medium or high risk. Will leave it up to local control.

Comment from Brian deLutio: Thank you administration for working through all the different guidelines and changes and balancing student physical health and mental health. There is a balance there and the administration is doing an outstanding job of balancing the risks.

Comment from Chris Farmer: I appreciate the administration took the time when additional information was presented to make a decision to make it work. Being at the race at Saddleback was huge. Working late nights and weekends to make this happen. A lot of smiles happened this week. And the community is behind it and the live stream is working extremely well and appreciates the hard work you went through to figure it all out. DOE is expected to come out with updated guidance on music, chorus, etc... soon.

Comment from Seth Laliberte: I was at the state of the ski race. I saw kids having fun. It was almost like normal. It was really nice to see.

Comment from Michelle Laliberte (via Zoom): Other school’s participating were also respectful and everyone wearing masks

10. Update on air filters – Jeff LaRochelle Came in yesterday. Got most of them running today. A few more to get online and installed. Teachers seem to be happy with them.

11. Action Items:

11.1 Consideration of scheduling the week after April break as remote.

Georgia Campbell: April break is traditionally a time when a lot of families travel. This potentially may happen as well this year despite the travel restrictions in place. It makes sense to consider it in light of the protocol our district has in place. If families travel outside NH or VT, they must quarantine for 10 days or test 3-5 days after their return to the state and quarantine until they can test and until results are in. Surveyed staff and families how many anticipate traveling and currently have about 40 families who are

considering traveling out of state for April. Wanted to have this discussion in advance. No firm numbers on staff as many are waiting for further information on vaccinations, numbers, and updated travel restrictions.

Brian deLutio: Can we get better numbers by the March meeting?

Georgia Campbell: I think so. I wanted to have a sooner conversation about this rather than later.

Seth Laliberte: Instructionally speaking, what's the biggest benefit educationally for our students? If you're trying to piece together all this with remote kids, in person kids, and substitutes for staff who travel, it makes sense to know this ahead of time. Also need to be very clear that this is NOT an additional week of vacation. This is in place so students can be fully in person.

Chris Farmer: I struggle with this. Penalizes the haves and the have nots. Families are already struggling with the 4 days and 5 days. Arranging childcare now for two weeks rather than just one is a large burden. Some additional aid that was available is starting to dry up. Concerned being remote for another whole week after April break. Can't stipulate that folks test, but can encourage families to test and follow school guidelines. Could the students who did not travel come into the building and do Zoom school so that parents can continue to work?

Brian deLutio: Tough pill to swallow for those who don't travel. Between now and March meeting, maybe some options between everyone in school and everyone remote.

Chris Farmer: Contractually, what are the implications for staff?

Georgia Campbell: We don't have an answer for that right now. Lindsey may have some insight?

Brian deLutio: We will revisit this in March

Chris Farmer: Thank you for bringing this up early.

11.2 Motion to rescind policy JIAA-R, Senior Privilege Contract

Kathy Catrini: Covered in student handbook.

Motion Chris Farmer; Second Karen Seaman
Chair cast one: motion carries

11.3 Motion to adopt policy JLF-R, Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Procedure

KC: Procedure for JLF to aid anyone making a report, came from MSA with revisions by RSU20 after they lost a child due to abuse. Mr Downing recommending adoption so that it forces state to follow up.

- 11.4 Motion to revise policy JLF, Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Motion to adopt JLF-R and revise JLF
Motion Chris Farmer; Second Paul Reynolds
Chair cast one: motion carries

Chris Farmer: Will staff be trained in this?

Chris Downing: It will be covered in an upcoming staff meeting

- 11.5 Motion to revise policy BBBH, Student Representation to the Board
Motion Chris Farmer; Second Paul Reynolds
Chair cast one: motion carries

- 11.6 Motion to revise policy BBA-R, School Board By-Laws

- 11.7 Motion to revise policy BEDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings It is now a requirement to have public participation
Motion Mary Richards, Second Karen Seaman

CF: Question for BBA-R 2c, the vacancy piece. Do we determine this?

Bd: If you want more revisions, we can tackle it later Chair cast one: motion carries.

- 11.8 Consideration of position title – Literacy Specialist renamed to Math & Literacy Interventionist

Georgia Campbell: At the last meeting we talked about adding a literacy specialist, and the need is for someone who can intervene cross content. This position could serve K-8. Would like to propose name change to “K-8 Academic Interventionist”. This job would require additional training in literacy and math interventions. Ideally would have a bachelors in education and additional training.

Chris Downing: An interventionist is intended to work with gen ed kids and not special education students. What’s happening is that we are finding that gen ed students are falling behind in their basic literacy and math skills and they need that targeted intervention to close the achievement gap. Seeing this in the middle school as well and could use this support as well.

Chris Farmer: This makes sense. Is this going to be a support staff position or a teaching position? Is this a permanent, long term position.

Paul Reynolds: We’ve already approved this position. This is just a title change.
Motion Chris Farmer; Second Kathy Catrini
Chair cast one: motion carries

- 11.9 Consideration of position title – Technology Technician renamed to Technology Coordinator

Georgia Campbell: Technician is not a true reflection about this position and the work that's required.

Motion Chris Farmer; Second Ginny Nuttall

Chair cast one: motion carries

11.10 Motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to M.R.S.A 1 § 405 (6) (A) employment of employee

Motion to enter executive session Motion Chris Farmer; Second Karen Seaman

Chair cast one: motion carries

Action to follow Motion to accept the resignation of the superintendent as of 6/30/2021

Motion Brian deLutio; Second Paul Reynolds

Unanimous; motion carries.

12. Adjourn at 7:52PM

Motion Chris Farmer; Second Karen Seaman

Chair cast one. Motion carries

Next meeting: March 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.