

**Regional School Unit 78
School Board Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2023 5:30 p.m.
RLRS Multi-Purpose Room**

Time zone: America/New_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ebj-vvdj-qtj>

Or dial: (US) +1 225-323-8191 PIN: 703 148 357#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/ebj-vvdj-qtj?pin=6586298713588>

Kathleen Catrini, Dallas Plt	x	Joanne Dunlap, Rangeley Plt	x
Joanna Farrar-V. Chair, Dallas Plt	x	Amber Haley, Rangeley Plt	x
Kayla Alexander, Rangeley	A	Mary Richards-Chair, Sandy River Plt	x
Karen Seaman, Rangeley	x	Robert Greene, Sandy River Plt	x
Chris Farmer, Rangeley	x	Angelica Chavaree-Woodward, Student Rep	A
Deborah Ladd, Rangeley	x	Nichole Lemay, Student Rep	x
Danielle Lemay, Rangeley	A		

Quorum: /997

1. Call to Order
 - Time: 5:33 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adjustments to the Agenda
 - Amend 10.3 to Kate Van Etten update on Washington DC Leadership trip. This will happen prior to the presentations
 - current 10.3 is now 10.4 - Also to be presented prior to presentations
 - Add 10.5 Over night request for MYAN conference - Sarita Crandall
4. Approval of Minutes for September 12, 2023
 - Motion to approve: Kathy Catrini
 - 2nd: Joanna Farrar
 - Note: Be careful to use full names rather than initials to avoid confusion
 - Passes Unanimously
5. Public Comments
 - NONE
6. Presentations:

Pete St. John-High School English

 - Update on how High School English is going and how he has updated it. Also discussed recent professional development opportunities he has taken advantage of. He also updated the book collection through a collaboration with Abby Thompson & a book store owner in Farmington. They created a list of high-

interest books without cultural red flags. He is making boosting literacy a priority. Will be doing the Poetry Out Loud contest again this year. Next week - Theater at Monmouth is coming up for Henry the 4th

- Chris Farmer: Thank you. Pete has been a good fit for our school.
- Mary - Is there a book club going?
 - The juniors are starting one with The Great Gatsby. They will meet and discuss, record and report out.

Rowenna Hathaway-HS-Common Ground Fair

- Showed a slideshow about the high school field trip to the Common Ground Fair as well as two examples of student work.
 - Mary Richards: Are there plans to continue this field trip in the future?
 - Rowenna: Yes. It was done regularly in the past and the plan is to bring it back

7. Comments:

Chair: Mary Richards

- MSMA conference is October 26 & 27. It is not too late to sign up
- Shared thank you cards from students for the middle school science room expansion
- Interesting article about legal and procedural aspects of public comments at school board meetings. This is an important read and all board members should read it.

Superintendent: Georgia Campbell

- Open House is October 18th, 5-6 PM
- WMSA Meeting Sept 13th - report out on legislative updates and round table discussions
- September 20th - attended annual legislation update meeting with Debb Ladd. 80 updates which will lead to upcoming policy changes
- 1st Women's Superintendent's Institute Meeting held at Sugarloaf on September 22nd
 - Focus: The Five Dysfunctions of a Team & How to Overcome Them
- Oct 2nd - Attended Board meeting in Pittsfield at MSAD 53 with Debb Ladd
 - Very interesting experience sitting on the other side of the room as a superintendent. This district is facing some tough times ahead with several potential building projects looming
 - Board training 101: New members needed training
- Oct 4th - Drummond & Woodsum - Attended full day on Student Discipline with Lynda Feins
 - General standards for student discipline
 - Review of laws, policies, individual and systemic levels of response to discipline
- Oct 4th - Meeting at Mt. Blue with the superintendent of all sending schools
 - Reviewed cooperative agreement
 - Moving forward there will be additional representation at the table with the superintendent AND one board member from each school
 - Looking for a board member who wants to do these meetings with her
 - She will bring the agreement to the board in November to take action. This will go out next week for review
- Mary Richards - Anyone interested should go visit the Foster Tech Center and see the amazing programs they offer our students.
- Chris Farmer - would be interested in helping with Foster Tech meetings.

Principal: Seth Laliberte

- Middle School is going on their trip to Camp Kieve. Seth is going with them. He is very excited
- High School Team received 3 different grants for the greenhouse. Working on locations with Jeff. Trying to get foundation work done this fall.
- Please leave through the high school door and check out their hall.
- Middle school science renovation was such a huge impact to the learning space.
- 4 weeks left of Q1
- Workshop day - team level work.
 - PreK-5 did assessment inventory
 - MS went to a conference
 - HS worked on the green house project
 - Seth is working on our process for teacher evaluations. He is attending a workshop series about authentic observations.
- Chris Farmer - discussion of greenhouse plan. Suggested speaking to Fiddlehead Farm
- Debb Ladd - Thank you for video updates

Student Representative Comments: Nichole

- Fundraising for the Washington DC Trip is ongoing
- Student Council elections happened
 - They are planning homecoming at Furbish House
- Some condensed college classes are ending soon
- Common Ground Fair - no negatives, lots of positive feedback

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Policy Committee: - K. Catrini

- Met October 2nd - will bring 3 action items tonight. Finished the 2020 policy review and now trying to get ahead on the 2021 policy review.

8.2 Finance Committee: - C. Farmer

- Met before this meeting. Reviewed monthly financials. Reviewed heat & fuel bills & bids for review to full board tonight.
- Audit is in the final stretch. Hope to review in November. Action items to come for December or January.

8.3 Facilities Committee – ~~D. Lemay~~

- Chris Farmer: discussed more on the oil tank replacement issue. Reviewed the heat & fuel bids. Discussed walkway lights. There seems to be a bigger issue than just bulbs. Poles have power, but trying to solve the issue of no lights.
 - Mary: public thank you to Jeff LaRoche. He has put in a great deal of time and effort around the work involved with the fuel tank issue

8.4 Negotiations – B. Greene (Mary Richards, Debb Ladd)

- Begun process of support staff contract negotiations. Two meetings so far. Have received the first proposal. So far it is going well.

9. Appointments, Resignations, Nominations and Transfers - Georgia Campbell

- Kayla Haines - New Food Service Worker
- Ivalyce Stevens - Special Education Ed Tech 1
- Olivia Gerand - Special Education Ed Tech 3

10. Action Items:

10.1 Consideration to revise the following policies:

Revision of EEAA-A – Overnight or Out of State Trip Contract

- There is a new paragraph added surrounding the need for medical care which requires parental signature. Removed the wording “Senior Class” so that this covers all trips
- Motion to approve: Debb Ladd
- 2nd: Joanna
 - Discussion: Chris & Debb outline several grammar edits
- Motion to approve as amended with approved edits to grammar: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Kathy Catrini
- Passes Unanimously

Revision: EEB – Special Use of District Transportation Vehicles

- Motion to approve: Robert Greene
- 2nd: Debb ladd
 - Discussion: Approve with typos corrected
- Robert amends his motion to include recommended corrections
- 2nd: Debb
- Passes Unanimously
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REVISION: EEAA-R – Request for Overnight or Out-of-State Travel

- This is to ensure all communications that need to happen after board approval are being done.
 - Discussion:
 - Should add an exception to the timing requirement in the wording. After the requirement for 4 weeks notice add: “unless approved by the superintendent or designee”
 - Remove “once done”
 - Mary Richards - Table this motion for edits

10.2 Approval of heating fuel and wood pellet bids.

WOOD BID: Recommend bid from Maine Woods Pellet Company (Our current vendor).
\$200 per ton, \$600 delivery fee.

- Motion to accept: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Debb Ladd
 - Discussion: What were other bids? \$235 per ton, no delivery cost.
- Passes Unanimously

FUEL BID: Recommendation is: S&K Quality Fuels for #2 oil, Dead River for K1 & Propane. S&K was slightly higher but local & more flexible on potential concerns

- Motion to accept: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Kathy Catrini
- Passes Unanimously

10.3 Kate Van Etten update on Washington DC Leadership trip.

- Needs permission to return on Monday instead of Sunday which means students will miss one more school day. This is due to financial considerations of airline ticket costs
- Motion to approve extra day: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Robert Greene
- Passed Unanimously

~~10.3~~-10.4: Approval of Overnight/Out-of-State Travel to Carnegie Hall

- Motion to approve trip with the proposed mileage cost: Kathy Catrini
- 2nd: Robert Greene
 - Discussion: Erin Smith explains how Eric White was nominated and the process of his acceptance into the honors music festival in February at Carnegie Hall. She presents her plan for the trip
 - Mary Richards: Cost? Any source for funds?
 - Erin: \$5800. Planning several fundraising events, but no current source of funding.
 - Robert Greene: Will RFA help? Erin - Possibly.
 - Joanne Dunlap - Concerned about the music program putting too much of music budget into too few students.
 - Robert Greene - This is a rare opportunity for our student. Someone working at Eric's level should be an inspiration for other students. It is also good publicity for our school. This may very well be the type of thing that will never happen again.
 - Chris Farmer - Agrees with Bob. \$475 is very minimal cost for such an opportunity
 - Kathy Catrini - We have to consider what a small school we are. Having 1 student with this opportunity is the same ratio that a large school might have. 1 student is a great percentage for us!
- Passes Unanimously

10.5: Approval of Overnight/Out-of-State Travel to the MYAN youth conference Nov 13th & 14th in Augusta (middle school) - Sarita Crandall, Rohan Doherty, Delaney Arbore

- Costs will be covered by the healthy community coalition and the RHW.

- These three employees would be chaperones. Students have driven this request and requested to go. There will be more advanced prep for the workshops this year.
- Motion to approve: Kathy Catrini
- 2nd: Debb Ladd
 - Discussion:
 - Debb Ladd - how are students selected?
 - Sarita - first 20 students to apply. Then there will be a wait list. Students must be eligible and have no missing work
 - Mary Richards - concern about students left behind.
 - Agreement to utilize wait list to fill maximum number of spots
 - Please bring student rep back to share to the board after
 - Chris Farmer - Is there a bus? Who is driving the bus? Is this a district cost?
 - Jeff LaRochelle - It will be offered to a driver and they will take a yellow bus
 - Sarita Crandall - Last year RHW paid for the bus & driver. Will update board if any issues
- Passed Unanimously

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn at 7:08 PM: Robert Greene
- 2nd: Joanne Dunlap
- Passes Unanimously

Next meeting: November 14, 2023 at 5:30pm

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.