

**Regional School Unit 78
School Board Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2024 5:30 p.m.
RLRS Multi-Purpose Room**

Time zone: America/New_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/mma-qsos-qbu>

Or dial: (US) +1 260-338-9983 PIN: 525 573 582#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/mma-qsos-qbu?pin=7000778000315>

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

Quorum: 830/997

1. Call to Order (Vice Chair - Joanna Farrar)

Time: 5:31

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

- Move 10.3 & 10.4 down to 10.5 & 10.6 and replace 10.3 to address March 15th as a student day & 10.4 Chris Farmer to share preliminary budget

4. Approval of Minutes for January 9, 2024

- Motion to approve: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Danielle Lemay
- Discussion: Correct 10.2 from "Passed Unanimously" to "Tabled" and move 10.3 discussion to 10.2 discussion. Changed 10.3 from "Tabled" to "Passed Unanimously"
- Passed Unanimously with corrections

5. Public Comments

- None

6. Presentations:

6.1 Delaney Arbore - Michael Mcglynn, eDynamic Learning Representative

- Michael Mcglynn shares an overview of eDynamic learning. Showed in a slideshow many aspects of the programming. (See video for detail)
- Delaney Arbore mentions items that are currently being piloted and then states that they would like to use this in the future for career planning and readiness.
- Seth Laliberte states this will be an excellent way to increase engagement with younger students prior to Foster tech junior and senior year.
- Heidi Deery - many students are interested in Work Experience. We have not had this program since before Covid. We would like to use this curriculum to parallel the work experience program as we bring it back.
- Angelica (Student Rep) states that this should be a great exposure for younger students
- Shawn Russell - He and Alison Loud used a game design course for middle school students. It was a huge time saver, easy to use and worked very well.
- Joanna Farrar: How will this translate into getting students out into the community?
 - Heidi - Work experience has always been an option. This will be a course for them to take along with the work experience next year so that all education is not left on the work place. This will reinforce everything employers will be trying to teach.
 - Delaney - Juniors and Seniors generally do work experience. Ideally students could do this course during their sophomore year as a part life skills.
- Chris Farmer: What training is being done for the rest of the staff in regards to enhancing the current curriculum teachers have in place? Is there a plan to do education around this as professional development?
 - Heidi - We are trying to do this one step at a time. Trying not to make decisions for teachers. The primary focus currently is on career exploration and life skills, and Shawn and Alison in programming. Teachers have been given the information and have the opportunity to dive in and look at options and curriculum.
 - Seth - We are trying new programs slowly. Pilot in small areas first, then expand.
- Chris Farmer - What is the licensing cost to us?
 - Delaney - it depends on the plan. There are different options. For the coming year, they have chosen the option to only purchase the specific courses they plan to implement, but as it grows may look at packages.
 - Heidi - We are just trying to take it slow and hope it will grow

7. Comments:

Chair - ~~Mary Richards~~ Joanna Farrar (Vice-Chair)

- Mary is out sick. Joanna has nothing to report currently and defers to Georgia.

Superintendent/PreK-5 Principal: Georgia Campbell

- Winter Kids
 - I am going to put my principals hat on for a second for a very special announcement. As you may or may not know, we were competitors again this year for Winter Kids winter games, against 3,300 other students competing and 16 other schools. Every year we have completed, we have placed. We placed second overall and were awarded \$3,000.00. The theme was the little things and how little things make a big impact. Thank you to Lindsay Richards for organizing all of the events and the staff for their very important role in this. It is a ton of work. Thank you Classic Provisions, Franklin Savings Bank, Rangeley Health and Wellness, Rangeley Adventure Company, Mt. Blue TV, our very own PTA and the Healthy Community Coalition for your support and Kyle Haley for providing the drone.
- Budget process is well underway.
- Meetings this month
 - On 1/19/24 & 2/9/24, I attended the Foster Tech Advisory Board meeting. Items on the agenda for discussion were communications, program updates and preliminary discussions on the budget.
 - On the 30th of January, Shawn, Ali Loud and I went down to FTC for a tour given by Chris Davis.
 - On 1/31/24 I attended the Regional Educational Collaborative of Northern Franklin County Committee. There is representation from Rangeley, Eustis, MSAD 58 and Carrabassett Valley on this committee. Items on the agenda for discussion were Community engagement, how to celebrate the great things we are doing, community outreach and education and collaboration within districts.
- Grants - Since our last board meeting there have been some new grant opportunities that have come our way.
 - The first one is a Literacy Grant funded by the state that will start once approved and will end September 30th, of this year. The amount that will be awarded to our district is \$11,793.96. It needs to be literacy focused and our plan is to have our K-5 teachers complete a 30 hour training over the summer at the Institute for Multi-sensory Education (IMSE). It is a Orton-Gillingham Plus virtual training that is based on evidence-based practice focused on the essential components of teaching reading, which

are alphabet knowledge, oral language, print knowledge, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, morphology, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing.

- The second grant is also funded by the state which is part of the American Rescue Plan funding and will support summer learning for grades PreK-12. This project, if awarded, would cover the cost of our Extended Year Program. We are asking for \$14,466.88 to cover the cost of four teachers and some supplies. These funds run from May 3, through September 13th, 2024.
- RUSS Grant - Multidistrict grant
 - Shawn spoke to this collaborative grant at a prior meeting. Shawn requested items such as 6 Promethian Displays, a projector, macbooks & other. There is some red tape and other districts in the collaboration may have higher/larger needs
- Workforce Ready Initiative - Shawn Russell
- Shawn Russell and Alison Loud have been involved with this initiative for 3 years. For rural schools to integrate technology and computer science into the classrooms. This initiative holds Shawn and Alison accountable for implementing programs. They are going to expand the focus from k-8 to k-12 and include more teachers. One focus will be professional learning.
- AI Workshop today - Shawn Russell
 - Shawn - 2 people from MLTI came today to do a presentation on using AI as opposed to learning about AI. The focus was on things teachers can use to save time and tools that are available to educators. There are also policy considerations as far as the use of these tools.

Principal: Seth Laliberte:

- Basketball seasons are officially over. The Loon's Nest and the huge energy and support made a big difference. Building excitement and getting the word out was huge. No more pom poms! This is increasing student interest in playing sports in the future.
- Ski Team - MVC at Black - just missed first place. Bree Quimby was 2nd in Slalom. Nat Stokes was 6th in GS. Wednesday and Thursday are State Championships.
- BARR program Grant - State fully covered this in middle school last year. This year cost would be around \$15,000. They sent an email opting to do it ourselves unless it was fully covered again and they responded that they will fully fund the program. With the funding covered the program should be expanded to 7-12th grades

Student Representatives:

Angelica Chavaree-Woodward:

- Math meet today. Next month math team will travel to UMF for league meet
- Eric White just returned from Carnegie Hall trip and thanks the board for their support. The trip was amazing
- MS/HS Chorus is holding a talent show in March
- Class of 2027 is hosting a dodgeball tournament
- Seniors have finished yearbook pages and have chosen Kelsey Orestis as their guest speaker. They have also begun scholarship applications

Nichole Lemay:

- HS had their Sweetheart Dance on Saturday
- School Spirit update: Loon's Nest has been very full during games. Attendance has been way up
- Student Council is holding a food drive
- The senior gown is in the trophy case down stairs which has been reorganized
- Floor Hockey & Volleyball are coming up for interested students
- Baseball signups are open
- Upcoming juniors and seniors are signing up for Foster Tech

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Policy Committee: - K. Catrini

- Met on February 5th
 - Will review the policy from last meeting next time due to confusion from errors corrected in minutes.

8.2 Finance Committee: - C. Farmer

- Met today. Reviewed budget. Will make a motion to approve budget and then table to accept in March. Any board members can come to finance committee with questions. If there are a lot of questions in advance, a workshopping meeting will be held. Largest challenge is cost of being in compliance with laws. Most districts are having high single or even double digit increases. We will come in lower than that. Board members please review the budget from your emails. Reach out to Georgia or Chris with any questions or concerns.
- Also discussed more on stipends. Kate and Kelsey outlined the recommendations from RTA for stipends in the future. Committee accepts their recommendations and will be working on implementation. Sports stipends will be reviewed next month.

8.3 Facilities Committee – D. Lemay

- Jeff was not present today, but gave an update. Walkway lights are fixed. Received update on COPs grant. Discussed fuel tank delivery. New bus will be in the budget for next year to replace bus 7.

8.4 Negotiations – B. Greene

- Will speak to this in executive session. Process of negotiating has been completed and sent on to budget committee.

9. Appointments, Resignations, Nominations and Transfers

- NONE

10. Action Items:

10.1 Approval of Senior Class trip to Boston, MA

- Motion to approve: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Robert Greene
- Discussion: Lily Shaffer presents details on the trip they have planned to Boston. Currently have \$10,000 in class account. Have set aside \$2000 for class day and graduation. Budget for trip is \$6,000, which leaves a cushion of \$2,000. May be two or three nights since it is a holiday weekend.
- Passed Unanimously

10.2 Revision of the following policies:

EBCD-School Cancellation/Postponement/Early Dismissal

- Motion to approve revisions: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Danielle Lemay
- Discussion: Revised due to reflect different technologies being used currently.
 - Chris Farmer: Is there no place on our system now for a call in feature in case of snow?
 - Shawn Russell - That is an option but we had not been using it.
 - Seth says there has been no need. No one has asked for other options
 - Robert and Chris suggest to change wording to “Parents and Students will be notified of any cancellations, postponements and early dismissals. Delivery method of such information shall be at the discretion of the school administration.” and leave out the part about delivery system.
 - Remove #6
 - Deb Ladd- under #5 should be changed from K-5 to PreK-5
- Passed Unanimously with changes as indicated above.

ED-School Equipment Use

- Motion to approve revisions: Chris Farmer motions to accept as revised
- 2nd: Danielle Lemay

- Discussion: Wording change to broaden equipment description
 - Chris recommends change item 1 to start: Equipment may be loaned... (redact from “Items...technology”)
- Passed Unanimously

EHB-Records Management

- Motion to approve revisions: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Danielle Lemay
- Discussion: Amended wording regarding “records” and redactions.
 - Shawn recommends ending the second sentence in paragraph two at “...in multiple formats.” and redact the (..) parenthetical.
 - Question regarding whether the highlighted portion should be added or redacted
 - Georgia clarifies that is an addition as highlighted
- Passed Unanimously with revision/redaction outlined above

JJIF-Management of Concussion and Other Head Injuries JJIF-E-Concussion Information and Protocol

- Motion to approve together as proposed: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Danielle Lemay
- Discussion: Lindsey Savage sent a request to the board with an explanation for removal. Protocols have changed.
- Passed Unanimously

SIDE DISCUSSION re: Conflict of interest form policy issue from last meeting:

- Robert Greene has more reasonable wording for form to compare to the proposed item last meeting that was tabled - Joanna requests this to be sent to the full board. Chris mentions the concerns that were outlined in last month’s minutes due to Kathleen missing that discussion.
- Kathleen will revisit this to bring back to the board in March.
- Chris Farmer and Robert Greene state the whole point is to add a form to the policy with the ability to allow the conflict after disclosure in good faith.

10.3: Consider changing March 15th to a student day rather than a teacher workshop day

- Discussion: Due to days already missed, and the workshop was used for the Lewiston Shooting, admin would like to swap the student day to March 15th. Other districts around are doing a
- Motion to change March 15th from a teacher workshop to a student day: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Danielle Lemay
- Passed Unanimously

10.4: Chris Farmer to present proposed budget for 2024/2025

- Reviewed initial draft with finance committee this afternoon. Chris would like to accept the motion to accept the budget, then table the motion in order to
 - Chris makes a motion to approve the budget as proposed
 - 2nd Danielle Lemay
 - Chris moves to table
 - 2nd Danielle Lemay
 - Tabled unanimously

~~10.4~~10.5 Executive Session: Personnel Matter 20-A M.R.S.A. § 6101 MDEO Rule Chapter 25

- Motion to enter into executive session Personnel Matter 20-A M.R.S.A. § 6101 MDEO Rule Chapter 25: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Danielle Lemay
- Passed Unanimously
- Meeting resumed at 7:11
- Motion to approve code for sabbatical for matter outlined above for a 1-year sabbatical for Kelsey Orestis
- 2nd: Robert Greene
- Passed Unanimously by board members present in person

~~10.3~~10.6 Executive Session: Labor Contract 1M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(D)

- Motion to enter into executive session for Labor Contract 1M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(D) at 7:13: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Robert Greene
- Passed Unanimously
- Meeting resumed at 7:37
- Motion by Robert Greene that The Board for Rangeley Lakes Regional School/RSU78 accepts the contract as ratified by the support staff effective September 1, 2024
- 2nd: Karen Seaman
- Passed Unanimously by board members present in person

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn at 7:39 PM: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Danielle Lemay
- Passed Unanimously

Next meeting: March 12, 2024

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.