

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MINUTES WILL NOT BE FINAL UNTIL THE BOARD HAS APPROVED THEM AT ITS NEXT MEETING.

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September 24, 2009

*The Board of Directors of Regional School Unit 75 held a **regular** meeting at **Bowdoinham Community School on Thursday, September 24, 2009.***

The following Directors were present: Joanne Reinhart, Chairman; Claudia Beckwith; Dorothy “Dee” Carrier; Dorothy Gardner; Robert W. Hill; David A. Johnson; Scott McKernan; Jane Meisenbach; Joanne M. Rogers; Jane Scease; Rebekah Stimpson; Kim Totten; Gwendolyn Thomas; and Roland Tufts.

Also present was Tyler Washburn, student representatives to the Board of Directors. Absent was Hayley LaPointe.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reinhart at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by those present.

3. To consider action relative to additions or adjustments to the agenda and to ask for comments from the audience

3.1 RECOGNITIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- ✓ **Welcome to Bowdoinham Community School from Principal Diane Stahl**
- ✓ **Welcome to Tyler Washburn** – Year of 2011 student representative to the Board of Directors
- ✓ **Alex Dolan** – Completion of his Eagle Scout project of a brick pathway from the high school exterior gym entrance to the sidewalk.
- ✓ **Hailey Bush (11th grade) and Carolyn Glaude (12th grade)** – Selected to participate in the 2010 All-Eastern Choir
- ✓ **Colin Roy** – named President of the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
- ✓ **Sheila Bohlin** – Appointed by Governor Baldacci to the Maine Professional Standards Board
- ✓ **Lisa Hogan** – Named ACTEM Leader of the Year

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4. To take action relative to accepting as printed the minutes of the August 17, 2009, August 27, 2009, and September 10, 2009, regular meetings of the Board of Directors

*It was moved by Mr. Hill, seconded by Ms. Stimpson, and **VOTED (798 yeas, 0 nays, 292 abstentions, and 0 absent)** to accept as printed the minutes of the **August 17, 2009**, regular meeting of the Board of Directors.*

Voting yea were Ms. Beckwith, Mrs. Carrier, Mrs. Gardner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Johnson, Mr. McKernan, Mrs. Reinhart, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Scease, Mrs. Totten, and Mr. Tufts.

There were no nay votes.

Abstaining were Mrs. Meisenbach, Ms. Stimpson and Ms. Thomas.

All Board members were present.

*It was moved by Mrs. Carrier, seconded by Mr. Tufts, and **VOTED (646 yeas, 0 nays, 354 abstentions, and 0 absent)** to accept as printed the minutes of the **August 27, 2009**, regular meeting of the Board of Directors.*

Voting yea were Mrs. Carrier, Mrs. Gardner, Mr. McKernan, Mrs. Reinhart, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Scease, Mrs. Totten, Ms. Thomas, and Mr. Tufts.

There were no nay votes.

Abstaining from voting were Ms. Beckwith, Mr. Hill, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Meisenbach, and Ms. Stimpson.

All Board members were present.

On the September 10th minutes, Mrs. Gardner requested to have the words “and Iraq” added to the second sentence on Item 8.10.

*It was moved by Mr. Hill, seconded by Ms. Scease, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to accept as amended the minutes of the **September 10, 2009**, regular meeting of the Board of Directors.*

5. OLD BUSINESS:

5.1 To approve and sign a letter to Maine DOT regarding the designation of the Transportation Strategic Corridors

A revised letter was submitted for Board members’ signatures.

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*It was moved by Mrs. Carrier, seconded by Mrs. Gardner, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to approve and sign a letter to Maine DOT regarding the designation of the Transportation Strategic Corridors.*

5.2 *To approve and sign a letter to Education Commissioner Gendron and legislators regarding the cost of new signage*

The Superintendent had prepared a letter for Board members' signature regarding the unwanted extra costs of re-lettering school buses (from M.S.A.D. No. 75 to RUSU 75).

Mrs. Rogers felt that the letter should be worded more strongly.

Mr. Hill emphasized that he doesn't want to spend a dollar if it's spent and not going toward education of students.

Ms. Thomas agreed with Mr. Hill's sentiments.

Superintendent Wilhelm offered to reframe the letter.

It was moved by Mrs. Rogers and seconded by Ms. Thomas to "do nothing," thereby not changing any lettering and not sending the letter to Commissioner Gendron.

Mrs. Carrier fully supports the comments made by Mrs. Rogers and Mr. Hill.

Ms. Stimpson felt that the Board still needs to send a letter.

Mrs. Carrier stated that after the November referendum (on recalling the school consolidation law) the Board will still have time to object to re-lettering buses.

Mrs. Rogers agreed that the District can call itself "RSU 75" but that she doesn't want to spend the money re-lettering buses.

Superintendent Wilhelm suggested that a motion may not be necessary, in that he has heard the sentiments expressed by Board members.

Mrs. Scease and Mr. Hill felt that the Board should still send a letter.

It was moved by Mrs. Scease and seconded by Mr. Hill to amend the original motion to send the letter.

Mr. Hill lamented the fact that the Board can talk at length as to why we can't put fire suppression equipment in the high school kitchen and stated that he doesn't want to spend money on re-lettering buses.

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Mrs. Rogers wants the language in the letter to be stronger. Mrs. Carrier would like it to be “substantially” stronger.

Dr. Wilhelm suggested tabling the item. Mrs. Scease and Mr. Hill withdrew the motion and its second (to amend the original motion).

Dr. Wilhelm will re-do the letter, and Board members will see it before the next meeting.

*The original motion made by Mrs. Rogers and seconded by Ms. Thomas to “do nothing,” thereby not changing any letter and not sending the letter to Commission Gendron was **VOTED (unanimously)**.*

5.3 *To hear an update on the laptop deployment at the high school*

Kerry Gallivan and Lisa Hogan presented this report.

Ms. Beckwith commented that her high school son “hates” the laptops and feels that he is at a disadvantage, preferring a well-organized notebook.

5.4 *Board committees – A draft listing was distributed, and Board members were invited to contact Becky Brilliant of any changes to be made on it.*

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 *To approve a letter to the Town of Topsham requesting that all of Canam Drive be a public way*

Superintendent Wilhelm suggested deferring this item to later in the evening.

6.2 *To acknowledge the intended retirement of **Alison Chapman**, elementary music teacher, as of November 1, 2009*

*The Board of Directors **DULY ACKNOWLEDGED** the intended retirement of **Alison Chapman**, elementary music teacher, as of November 1, 2009.*

6.2a *To appoint **Rosemarie DeAngelis** to the position of .3 FTE Speech & Language at Woodside Elementary School, at Master’s+15, Step 30, prorated to .3 FTE, retroactive to September 21, 2009*

*It was moved by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Gardner, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to appoint **Rosemarie DeAngelis** to the position of .3 FTE Speech & Language at Woodside Elementary School, at Master’s+15, Step 30, prorated to .3 FTE, retroactive to September 21, 2009.*

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- 6.2b** To appoint **Cynthia “Cindy” Brown Smith** to the position of .5 FTE Transition Specialist District-wide, at Bachelor’s, Step 8, prorated to .5 FTE, effective September 28, 2009

*It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Scease, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to appoint **Cynthia “Cindy” Brown Smith** to the position of .5 FTE Transition Specialist District-wide, at Bachelor’s, Step 8, prorated to .5 FTE, effective September 28, 2009.*

- 6.3** To consider and approve a request to use Dr. Irwin Brodsky’s time study tool for obesity as part of Ryan Holmes’ before-school fitness program Mary Booth was present to address this item. She distributed a summary sheet outlining the purpose of the survey, what participants are being asked to do, and how they are protected.

*It was moved by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Gardner, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to approve a request to use Dr. Irwin Brodsky’s time study tool for obesity as part of Ryan Holmes’ before-school fitness program.*

In response to questions regarding storage of the consent forms and whether they might be able to be stored at the school, Mrs. Booth will find out and let Board members know what she discovers.

- 6.4** To undertake a first reading of a policy regarding the exclusion of adults from school for health reasons

The Policy Committee has reviewed this and made no changes. This would allow the District to be able to send an ill teacher home if circumstances warrant. Superintendent Wilhelm indicated that the District’s bargaining units are aware of the proposed policy.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

7.1 Policy Committee

Mrs. Carrier reported that the Policy Committee reviewed proposed changes to the current transportation policy, as well as proposed policy relative to student conduct on District-provided transportation. Some minor changes will be made to these, and the Board will be asked to consider a first reading at the next meeting.

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7.2 CSPC

Mr. McKernan reported that the CSPS met on September 23, 2009. He presented a written report which would direct the High School Block Schedule Committee to develop a schedule model meeting certain criteria, such as compatibility with MVR 10 and the middle school, giving students access to courses at Brunswick High School and vice versa.

Mr. McKernan stated that if the Board is comfortable with it, the Committee can be tasked with the requests made by the CSPC.

Mr. Hill inquired as to the membership of the Block Scheduling Committee. High School Principal Craig King provided this.

Mr. Hill asked that if the Committee goes through this task, that if something is discovered which isn't on the list, that it be brought to the Board's attention. Mr. McKernan stated that such will indeed be brought to the CSPC, then to the full Board.

*It was moved by Mrs. Carrier, seconded by Ms, Stimpson, and **VOTED (unanimously)** to “pass the charge” of the CSPC to the Block Scheduling Committee, as outlined in the written report presented by the CSPC.*

7.3 Study Circles

Mrs. Scease presented the report of the Study Circles Ad Hoc Committee. She stated that in terms of the Circles' concept, while the Board has proscribed duties, discussion in Study Circles might be broader in nature. She sees this as similar to a continuation of last spring's “forums,” indicating that Study Circles would be directed more towards how the Board and communities can work together. The Ad Hoc Committee would like the Board's approval to form a steering committee.

Mrs. Scease related that as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee, Ms. LaPointe had been adamant that Study Circles consist of students and adults with various community participants.

She feels that the “pilot” discussion on the topic of technology will serve to strike a balance between technology and learning. A facilitator will need to be trained and a discussion held on how the Study Circles will function. Publicizing the Circles and recruitment of participants needs to be done.

Ms. Thomas is interested in participating and stated it would have been great to have had young people's participation in last spring's forums.

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*It was moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Hill, and **VOTED (933 yeas, 0 nays, 67 abstentions, and 0 absent)** to approve following the plan set forth by the Study Circles Ad Hoc Committee.*

Voting yea were Ms. Beckwith, Mrs. Carrier, Mrs. Gardner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Johnson, Mr. McKernan, Mrs. Meisenbach, Mrs. Reinhart, Mrs. Scease, Ms. Stimpson, Mrs. Totten, Ms. Thomas, and Mr. Tufts.

There were no nay votes.

Abstaining from voting was Mrs. Rogers.

All Board members were present.

Mrs. Carrier stated that critical to her being persuaded to look again at the concept of Study Circles was the fact that there will be student participation. She cautioned that, as a pilot, the first discussions will be highly scrutinized.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

8.1 *Financial report – Business Manager Steven Dyer presented this report.*

8.2 *Topsham Annex property update (combined with Item 6.1)*

Superintendent Wilhelm presented this update. He related conversations he has had with Captain Fitzgerald of BNAS and Matt Teare of the Highlands.

Town Manager Rick Roedner has indicated that the maintenance road to the Highlands can be opened, but that as a dirt road, it needs to be improved.

Captain Fitzgerald has indicated that Balfour Beatty (company which owns the Annex Housing) feels they may have domain over the road.

The District's application for 17 acres of Navy property is being "fast tracked." Fields have been designed. Dr. Wilhelm and the Navy have "walked" the property. Balfour Beatty feels that some of the housing property extends quite a bit onto the 17 acres. The Navy wants to do environmental work and process the legalities.

Mrs. Totten expressed fear that BIW traffic will use the maintenance road as a sort cut and cautioned that the Board would be putting traffic "smack dab" in the middle of the Mt. Ararat campus.

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Mrs. Scease feels that use of the Highlands' maintenance road will not be anyone's idea of a short cut.

Mr. Hill doesn't think BIW traffic will use it as a short cut.

Superintendent Wilhelm will hold off on sending a letter requesting that Canam Drive be made a public way.

8.3 *Board committees (previously addressed)*

8.4 *M.S.A.D. No. 75 participants on the Task Force will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 28th. All Board members are welcome. Dr. Wilhelm indicated that at the next Board meeting there should be a discussion about a date for a Joint Task Force meeting.*

8.5 *Audit - Mrs. Carrier asked for an update on the status of the audit. Dr. Wilhelm stated that the auditors are now putting the report into paper form. Mrs. Carrier asked the process of continuing work on closure of West Harpswell School, once the Board has figures on potential cost savings of closing the school.*

Dr. Wilhelm said that the document with rationale for closing the school will be submitted to the State and that the Commissioner will scrutinize it.

Harpswell will have ten days to review the information, and the Commissioner will have 20 days in which to approve the plan.

8.6 *The Transportation Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 1, to begin discussing information needed by the CSPC*

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:20 p.m.