

**RSU #12**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010 ~ 6:30 P.M.**  
**WHITEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM**  
**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 6:38 pm.**

Absent: William Stafford. Also present were Mr. Ralph Hilton, Alna Resident, Charlotte Boynton, Wiscasset News reporter and friend, John McGuire, Lincoln County News reporter, Nick Brackley, Kelley Brackley (& younger brother), Katie Foley, Amanda Hoag, RSU 12 Administrative Team members, Renee Seiders and other members of the communities.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Birmingham led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Superintendent Potter recommended the following adjustments to the agenda:

Moves:

11.3 Recognition of Outstanding School Citizen Award to 5.1

11.4 Approval of Whitefield 5 & 6<sup>th</sup> class day trips to 5.2

11.5 Project Reach presentation to 5.3

Additions:

11.1 Resignation: Alise Trees, Special Ed WPS (June)

11.8 Approval of former School Dept. Audits

No Discussion: Motion: *To accept the adjustments to the agenda as presented moving 11.3, 11.4 & 11.5 to 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 and to add 11.1 Resignation of Alise Trees and 11.8 Acceptance of FY2009 Audits.*

1<sup>st</sup> Hilary Holm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Blake Brown: Vote: 19-0-0 Motion Carried unanimously by all those in attendance and voting.

**4. Accept Minutes of February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (Regular) Meeting and February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Special Meeting.**

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Holm wished to strike in Item # 14 Executive Session, the second part of the motion, "FY 2011 salary at 2.5% increase"; Mr. Temple wished to add to Item # 8 Committee Reports, 8.3 Policy Committee, his question of Mr. Johnson if they had adopted any policies for *Finance*. Mr. Johnson explained the only one that they had adopted was DN Disposition of School Properties.

Motion: *To accept the Minutes of February 11, & February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 as amended.*

1<sup>st</sup> Blake Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry Nault; Vote: 17-0-2 Motion Carried. Albert Lawrence and Gary Emond Abstained.

## 5. Communications/Correspondence

5.1 (formerly 11.3) RSU 12 “Outstanding School Citizen” Recognition: Mr. Potter introduced Principal Linda Bleile, Wiscasset Middle School student, Nick Brackley (grade 8), his mother Kelly and his younger brother. Mrs. Bleile explained how Nick approached her after speaking to some students and asked what he could do to help the people in Haiti? He told her he wanted to raise money to help them since he couldn’t go there. He began a fundraiser by being on the intercom each morning speaking to the school; he invited newspaper reporters to come in to see what they were doing; he worked with the staff and he set up a money collection jug that was soon filled with donations from different parts of the community; he organized events in the school; pay \$ 1.00 and wear a hat all day; pay and wear sunglasses (he used a hand stamp for accuracy) and ran bake sales. The amount collected was \$ 1,500.00. From that idea, came a project called “Soles for Souls” where 300 pairs of shoes were collected and sent. The Red Cross will acknowledge his efforts on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 when they will present him with the State of Maine Philanthropy Award. Mr. Potter recognized Nick with an “Outstanding School Citizen” hanging neck medallion and a standing ovation from the Board of Directors and audience.

5.2 (formerly 11.4) To Approve the Whitefield 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Day Trips to Boston. Mr. Dennis Cullenberg, a teacher at Whitefield Elementary School, presented a brief itinerary for both classes; the 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be exploring the American Revolution attractions such as the Freedom Trail; the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be spending most of the day at the Science Museum and may try to see Fenway Park if enough money is raised; if not, they will take in another free item. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will travel on one of our school buses and the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will take a charter bus from Lewiston.

Motion: *To approve the Whitefield School 5<sup>th</sup> (May 21, 10) Grade trip to Boston.*

1<sup>st</sup> Shawn Carlson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lester Sheaffer; Mr. Temple noted that it would be nice if the students returned to a board meeting to report on what they learned. Vote: 19-0-0 Motion Carried: Unanimous by all those in attendance and voting.

Motion: *To approve the Whitefield School 6<sup>th</sup> (May 6, 10) Grade trip to Boston.*

1<sup>st</sup> Shawn Carlson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lester Sheaffer; Vote: 19-0-0 Motion Carried: Unanimous by all those in attendance and voting.

5.3 (formally 11.5) Program Focus: JMG - Project Reach Presentation -Wiscasset Middle School Program. Ms. Katie Foley from Jobs for Maine’s Graduates showed a short film which followed students through many activities/curriculum and shared the effectiveness of the program using the student’s own words. JMG is a private, non-profit corporation that receives funding from public and private contributions. Traditionally, they ask school partners to pay 45% of the cost which can be grant money and does not face a yearly increase; it may be every 4 to 5 years before it is increased. Ms. Foley introduced, Amanda Hoag, who runs our program at the WMS. The students are identified by their academic

records and are interviewed by specialists to see if they really want to be there. Some of the characteristics of potential students include: Disconnection from school, home and community, poor attendance, low grades, low aspirations or no plans for the future, and more. The students are treated as part of the regular curriculum and take an actual JMG class two times a week and have full support from Ms. Hoag who is at the school every day. The students do a variety of activities, such as researching grants and to best use the money once it is awarded. There are 39 of our students in the program now and it continues year round, summers included. Currently there is no high school program; the middle school students often do not need any further support once they transition into the higher grades, but there is a 1 year follow-up period where the specialist stays in contact with them. Mr. Potter added that he does know one of the men in the film, has spoken with him and agreed that the graduation rate is very good. He supports that value of keeping kids connected with schools in a targeted fashion.

## 6. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Potter shared that Windsor Elementary School was awarded an \$ 8,000.00 grant from the Steven and Tabatha King Foundation as a result of this year's Annual Reading Challenge at the school. Students and Staff took part meeting reading targets (number of books & number of words read). Some of the money will fully fund a trip to the Portland Sea Dogs, buy specialty shirts and give one lucky student the opportunity to throw out the first pitch.

*Motion: To accept the Grant from the Stephen & Tabatha King Foundation for the Windsor Elementary School.*

1<sup>st</sup> Bob Temple, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry Nault; Mr. Brown wished to clarify in the motion that the grant is to be for the *Windsor Elementary School*.

Vote: 19-0-0 Motion Carried: 19-0-0 Unanimous by all those in attendance and voting.

Mr. Potter shared a PowerPoint Presentation on the FY 2011 Budget Progress. See attached handout. Topics covered were: State Funding/Preliminary ED 279 including Contributing Factors; Budget Timeline/Process & Finance Committee Meetings; Initial Spending Target Figure; Major Staff and/or Program Changes; Potential effect to RSU # 12 Towns. The Superintendent's Initial spending target for FY 2011 is \$ 24,900,000.00 which is \$ 1,202,946.00 less than FY 2010.

Discussion Ensued.

\*Mrs. Hallett asked for an explanation about the proposal to cut Out of District high school transportation; she felt if it was cut, then transportation to Wiscasset High School should be cut as well.

\*Mr. Ralph Hilton, Alna resident, voiced his concerns about cutting any high school transportation. He feels that the dropout rate will be higher if there is no transportation and that it affects all of us; he didn't think paying 2 bus drivers was a big issue.

\*Mr. Potter replied that the dropout rate is actually pretty low in school choice districts.

\*Mr. Brown also responded that 99% of Palermo students never had bussing and they go to Erskine Academy. They ride the bus to school in the morning, but afterschool they might have an activity so not the same number are riding in the afternoon. If you run a bus to one place, you need to run it to another and you may only have one student on it.

\*Mr. Hilton wondered if Alna or Westport Island students would not be able to ride a bus to Wiscasset High School.

\*Mr. Potter replied no, it was just for high schools out of our district.

## 7. Board Chair's Report

Mr. DeVries passed out a handout of information Mr. Johnson found on the internet about building a better teacher. He offered it as required reading for the Board as it holds a lot of good information and it is their responsibility to spend tax payer's money to help students learn better.

Mr. Johnson clarified that it is meant not to slight our teachers, but to be used as an inspiration, because teacher's doing inspirational things that will provide tools for other teachers.

Mr. Birmingham reported that he and Mr. Potter have been invited to breakfast meeting by the RSU # 1 Coalition for Support of Education. They will be meeting Friday, March 19, 2010 in Bath. He also reported that he and Mr. Brown had attended former Erskine Academy Headmaster James Nelson's funeral. Recent newspaper articles had been positive. He was pleased to say he has signed two high school diplomas so far this year.

## 8. Committee Reports

8.1 Finance Committee: Mr. Nault provided a detailed written report; please see attached. He also shared that he and Mr. Potter had a meeting at DOE with Mr. Jim Rier, where they asked several questions of him; specifically about a penalty for not having an approved budget. Mr. Rier's reply was that since the board voted on a budget amount, that is our operating budget and would be the number that would be used for reporting purposes. The April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting that is presently scheduled for Central Office may be moved to another location.

8.2 Personnel Committee: Mr. Albert thanked Mrs. Morin for leading the committee in his absence and to the rest of the committee for their solid and good work. Mrs. Morin shared that the scheduled Tuesday meeting did not happen. At the next meeting they would be looking at job descriptions and will meet with the Policy Committee to discuss the Superintendent's policy for evaluation.

8.3 Policy Committee: Mr. Johnson provided a written report; please see attached. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 6:30 pm at the Whitefield School.

\*Mr. Temple noted that the Board had adopted over 200 policies but none were adopted for Finance and he found it atrocious that they may be doing things not by the law; ie) accepting grants without a board vote.

\*Mr. Johnson replied that there we no "required" policies adopted pertaining to finance.

\*Mr. Brown explained that we use policies that are already in place as MSMA directs them.

\*Mr. Johnson replied that the board doesn't have a policy for every law; some policies are samples, some are recommended and anyone can bring a policy to the committee to go over.

\*Mr. Nault explained that it is not necessary for a finance policy.

8.4 Public Communications Committee: Mrs. Holm shared that the committee had met that evening prior to the board meeting and they discussed setting a timeline for the next issue of

the Sheepscot Valley Current. They wish to receive submissions by early April and publish by early May. They also hope to start submitting weekly articles to the local papers about RSU events such as the Education Celebration happening at 3 of the schools; the Education Showcase at Palermo Consolidated School; Mrs. Baldacci's visit to Somerville Elementary School; an article on EveryDay Math in schools; how to access the website and more. They are also working on ideas to develop a way for the board to get feedback from our communities about how the RSU is going and to express any concerns. This may involve speaking to staff members or attending Town Selectmen meetings. Discussion ensued pertaining to other types of things that could be included: such as contact information for feedback, a statement from the Superintendent, or a budget presentation from Mr. Nault. Mrs. Holm wishes to strive for a balance of information; Mr. Johnson suggested it could be topics that are harder for the press to report on.

8.5 Negotiations Committee: Mrs. Holm shared that the committee had meet Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of that week to work on interim teacher's agreements and with Administration to work on initial contracts. They want to have an executive session with the Board in April to get input and ideas about those extended and merged contracts.

8.6 Chelsea Building Committee: Mr. Hallett shared the good news that at the March 10, 2010 State Board meeting the Chelsea project was approved. On March 8, 2010 the 100% design was discussed and changes were incorporated into the plan after suggestions by DOE; such as less glass in the front, more pavement, a tile ceiling instead of a wood ceiling. Between March and April 9<sup>th</sup> Bids will be accepted; recommendations by Percent for Art will start in September. \$47,000 has been budgeted and will need board approval. Ground breaking will be in May 2010.

8.7 Ad Hoc Strategic Planning/Vision Committee – Mr. Potter shared that he had met with Dr. Mike Kelly on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Central Office. He is a representative of Running Start Institute. Mr. Potter is going to schedule meetings for the Ad Hoc Committee to meet with Dr. Kelly and Mr. Jake Clockadile, a facilitator for DOE, who can answer questions about the "Future Search Process".

## 9. Public Comment

*\*Public comment is to be restricted to items on the agenda. Comments regarding individuals or personnel matters are not appropriate for public session.*

\*Mr. Ralph Hilton from Alna spoke. He expressed that the RSU needs to look at this like a business. He felt that we are paying the consequences of being the ones that no one wants and we are locked into it for 3 years. He felt that the amounts on the budget were voted down because they did not go by each town's percentage. He quoted a law that says it (the formula) needs to be looked at annually and the board has the power to change it with the Commissioner's permission.

\*Mr. Sheaffer asked Mr. Hilton if he knew the formula that he kept referring to. Then went on to explain the percentages and how they are arrived at.

\*Mr. Johnson asked to see a copy of the law that Mr. Hilton referenced.

## 10. Old Business - None

## 11. New Business

11.1 Resignations – To accept the resignation of:

- a. Ms. Alise Trees, Special Ed WPS (June)

Motion: *To accept the Resignation of Alise Trees with regrets.*

1<sup>st</sup> Blake Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry Nault; No discussion: Vote: 19-0-0 Motion Carried: Unanimous by all those in attendance and voting.

11.2 Appointments: None

11.3 RSU 12 Student Recognition moved to 5.1

11.4 Approval of Whitefield grades 5 & 6 trips to Boston, moved to 5.2

11.5 Project Reach Presentation, moved to 5.3

11.6 Approval of periodic use of RSU 12 facilities and “wireless” access to the internet in keeping with the Dept of Public Safety/Maine State Police “Safe Schools” Initiative. Mr. Potter explained the program. Some of the former Union 133 schools considered it. State Troopers stop by the schools, unannounced to “check-in”. It is done randomly to develop a presence in the schools which could deter intruders from entering the school to cause harm. We provide them with a space to access a wireless connection for a couple hours and in turn they get to know the set up of the schools, they help at school events, help with drills, visit with the students, are guests in the classrooms and use that opportunity to develop good relationships between the troopers, students and staff. Approval was strongly encouraged by Mr. Potter.

Motion: *To approve periodic use of RSU 12 facilities and “wireless” access to the internet in keeping with the Dept. of Public Safety/Maine State Police “Safe-Schools” Initiative.*

1<sup>st</sup> Blake Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry Nault; Discussion Ensued: Vote: 19-0-0 Motion Carried: Unanimous by all those in attendance and voting.

11.7 To consider a resolution seeking fair, equitable and transparent funding for public education in Maine. Mr. Potter distributed a handout of a resolution already voted on as a collaborative effort of school boards from Cape Elizabeth, South Portland, Portland, Falmouth, Scarborough and Yarmouth which supports the Government’s obligation to hold the State of Maine accountable for 55% of funding.

Motion: *To resolve the Resolution seeking fair equitable and transparent funding for Public Education in Maine and to authorize Thomas Birmingham to sign on behalf of the Board.*

1<sup>st</sup> Joan Morin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Blake Brown; Discussion Ensued: Vote: 19-0-0 Motion Carried: Unanimous by all those in attendance and voting.

11.8 To accept the FY 2009 (former) school department's audits.

Motion: *To accept the FY 2009 (former) school department's audits.*

1<sup>st</sup> Blake Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Michelle; No Discussion: Vote: 19-0-0 Motion Carried: Unanimous by all those in attendance and voting.

## 12. Policy Readings

12.1 To take action on the **Second Readings** of the following policies:

- a. IJNDB-R Student Computer and Internet Use Rules
- b. JFCK-R Rules For Student Use of Cellular Telephones and Other Electronic Devices
- c. GCSA Employee Computer and Internet Use

12.2 To take action on the **First Readings** of the following policies:

- a. IJND RSU #12 Web Site
- b. JL Student Wellness

Motion: *To accept the second readings of policies a-c as listed on 12.1 and first readings of policies a-b as written.*

1<sup>st</sup> Blake Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kim Andersson; Discussion ensued. Vote: 19-0-0 Motion Carried: Unanimous by all those in attendance and voting.

## 13. Calendar/Announcements

None

## 14. Executive Session

14.1 Executive Session under Title 20A, M.R.S.A. § 405 6 (A) for discussion of a personnel matter.

Motion: *To enter into Executive Session under Title 20A, M.R.S.A. § 405 6 (A) for discussion of a personnel matter at 9:41 pm.*

1<sup>st</sup> Hilary Holm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Allen Hallett; Vote: 19-0-0 Motion Carried: Unanimous by all those in attendance and voting.

Exit Executive Session at 10:19 pm

## **17. Adjournment**

Motion: *To adjourn at 10:20 pm.*

1<sup>st</sup> Jerry Nault, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hilary Holm; Vote: 19-0-0 Motion Carried: Unanimous by all those in attendance and voting.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gregory G. Potter, Superintendent of Schools*

*Approved April 08, 2010 by the RSU 12 Board of Directors*