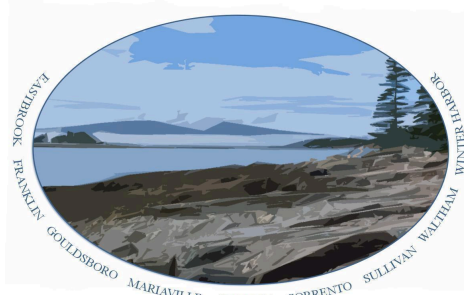


## Regional School Unit 24



### Regional School Unit 24 Board of Directors Meeting

March 7, 2023 6:30 p.m.

Mountain View School - Auditorium - 542 Bert Gray Road, Sullivan

#### **ADA Notice**

*This school district will accommodate members of the public with special needs to participate fully in this meeting. Please contact Administrative Assistant Linda Schnebeck (422-2017) if you have such needs.*

#### **Public Participation**

*The public is invited to comment on any agenda item as it is being considered by the Board. The chair may place time and other restrictions on such participation. The public is asked to contact Superintendent Michael Eastman (422-2017) for consideration of issues not on this agenda.*

## **Meeting Minutes**

Superintendent Michael Eastman

[meastman@rsu24.org](mailto:meastman@rsu24.org)

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#### **Board Members**

<b>Present</b>					
Yes	No	TOWN	NAME	VOTES	% of Votes
x		Eastbrook	Jennifer Des Jardin	430	5.5%
x		Franklin	Roy Gott	1594	20.5%
x		Gouldsboro	Susan Dickson-Smith	1744	22.5%
x		Mariaville	Julia Sheehan	486	6.3%
x		Sorrento	Janet Wilpan	282	3.6%
x		Steuben	Keith Goldfarb	1156	14.9%
x		Sullivan	Vern Campbell	1257	16.2%
x		Waltham	Mercy Hardison	338	4.4%
x		Winter Harbor	Jeffrey Alley	472	6.1%
				<hr/>	
				7,759	100.00%
x		Student Rep	Tori Webber		

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#### **A. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chair Roy Gott.

**B. Adjustments to the Agenda**

- Move Business Item 10. **Executive Session, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, Section 405 (6)(D), for the purpose of discussing the Beech Hill Tuition Agreement** to precede Item G renaming it to 10. **Beech Hill Tuition**
- Add new Item 11. **2022-2023 School Calendar Update** and move current Item 11. **Executive Session, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, Section 405 (6)(A), for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Issue** to Item 12.

**C. Approval of the February 7, 2023 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Meeting Minutes**

The motion to approve the 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. minutes from the February 7, 2023 RSUB meetings as written was made by member Jeff Alley and seconded by member Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 7273 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 486 (Julia Sheehan)

*This motion passes*

**D. Report from the Board Chair**

Chair Roy Gott read a description of how public comment will be accepted at the meeting.

**E. Report from the Superintendent**

Superintendent Eastman reported we have an agreement (not signed yet) on our cistern project for the sprinkler system. More information will follow when received.

**F. Business**

1. **Executive Session, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, Section 405 (6)(E), for the purpose of consultation between school unit and its attorney.**

The motion to enter into executive session, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, Section 405 (6)(E), for the purpose of consultation between the school unit and its attorney was made by member Jeff Alley and seconded by Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

*This motion passes*

*In Session: 6:38 p.m.*

*Out of Session: 7:31*

2. **Board Review of Material Challenge**

Each board member gave their review of the challenged books, *Gender Queer - A Memoir by Maia Kobabe* (2019) and *Queer - The Ultimate LGBTQ Guide for Teens* by Kathy Belge & Mark Bieschke (2019).

The meeting was then opened for general comment from community members with a three (3) minute limit.

*Chair Roy Gott called for a five (5) minute recess at 8:45 p.m.*

*The meeting was called back to order at 8:54 p.m.*

3. **Board Vote of the Material Challenge**

Chair Roy Gott stated there were four appeals before the board, two to remove the books from the library and two to return the books to the library.

**Motion was made to keep the books and create a library for the middle school and high school by member Jen Desjardin.**

Clarification was made to vote on the two books individually.

**Motion to retain *Gender Queer: A Memoir* and place it in the high school section of the library was made by member Jen DesJardin and seconded by member Susan Dickson-Smith.**

A discussion was then had on the motion.

**Votes in Favor: 5206 Opposed: 2553** (Vern Campbell, Jeff Alley, Mercy Hardison, Julia Sheehan) **Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

*This motion passes*

**Motion to retain *Queer - The Ultimate Guide for LTBQ Teens* for ages sixteen (16) and above or junior level in high school and above was made by member Julia Sheehan and seconded by member Jeff Alley.**

A discussion was then had on the motion and how to divide the library between middle and high school levels.

**A motion was made to amend the primary motion to have *Queer - The Ultimate Guide for LTBQ Teens* to be placed in the high school section of the library was made by member Jeff Alley and seconded by member Keith Goldfarb.**

A question was raised in regards to what will happen with the material until a process is in place to separate the library. It was stated that the SMHS administration would begin the process.

A vote was then called on the amendment

**Votes in Favor: 7273 Opposed: 486** (Julia Sheehan) **Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

*This motion passes*

A vote was then called for the motion to retain *Queer - The Ultimate Guide for LTBQ Teens* in the high school section of the library.

**Votes in Favor: 7273 Opposed: 486**(Julia Sheehan) **Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

*This motion passes*

4. **New Building Update** - Michael Eastman

A signed agreement for the cistern and its completion date will be arriving in the next day or two. The completion date is very close to graduation so dual plans will be made accordingly.

The consideration of Interior Signage was tabled to be discussed at a later date.

5. **Budget Workshop Update** - Keith Goldfarb

Budget Committee Chair Keith Goldfarb reported the committee discussed individual school budgets.

6. **Facilities and Transportation Committee Report** - Roy Gott

Facilities and Transportation Committee Chair Roy Gott reported the committee reviewed bus proposals for one (1) new bus and improvement projects across the elementary schools.

**A motion was made to proceed with the bid from W.C. Cressey & Son for one (1) Thomas/Freightliner bus in the amount of \$124,637.00 was made by member Roy Gott and seconded by member Keith Goldfarb.**

**Votes in Favor: 7759 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

**7. Policy Committee Report - Roy Gott**

Policy Committee Chair, Roy Gott, reported the committee reviewed several policies that needed to be amended/revised.

Policies for Approval as amended:

- EBCA - Comprehensive Health and Safety Emergency and Management Plan.  
The steering committee was defined as an ad hoc entity as discussed at February's board meeting.

**Motion to approve EBCA - Comprehensive Health and Safety Emergency and Management Plan as amended was made by member Roy Gott and seconded by member Keith Goldfarb.**

**Votes in Favor: 7759 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

- IJJ - Instructional and Library Media Materials Selection  
Challenge process, guidelines for the challenge, and the process and timeline of the review were more clearly defined.

**Motion to approve IJJ - Instructional and Library media Materials Selection as amended was made by member Roy Gott and seconded by Keith Goldfarb.**

A discussion was had on the process of the challenge, clarification that classroom materials could be challenged and on the context of protected class.

**Motion to amend the policy to strike the lines under Challenge Procedure "The Superintendent and BA shall evaluate the merits of the challenge." from item B and in "If the challenge warrants further review." from item C was made by member Jeff Alley and seconded by member Janet Wilpan.**

**Votes in Favor: 7759 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

The Challenge Procedure was read in whole to reflect the process with the changes applied.

A discussion was then had on who the members of the Materials Review Committee (MRC) were and the cooldown period for challenging materials again.

Chair Roy Gott asked if changing the cooldown period to three (3) years and strike the requirement for a RSUB member from the list in item C under the Challenge Procedure.

**A motion was made to amend Item C to read "The Superintendent shall appoint a Material Review Committee (MRC) composed of at least the following persons to review the complaint: one BA at the appropriate grade level, one classroom teacher and/or the librarian, and the Director of Curriculum." And amending the final paragraph to read "Challenged materials for which either the MRC finds (and the superintendent accepts) that the challenge is not warranted and that the materials should remain in place, or the decision on which was appealed to the RSUB and the RSUB decides that the materials should remain in the curriculum or library collection, may not be challenged again on the same grounds for a period of three (3) years. Challenges based on other, unrelated grounds may be entertained." was made by member Jeff Alley and seconded by member Janet Wilpan.**

Chair Roy Gott then read item C and the last paragraph in their entirety to reflect the amendments.

Further discussion was had on a board member being on the MRC.

A vote was then called for the amendment.

**Votes in Favor: 7759 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

Further discussion was had on the cooldown timeline. The board then voted on Policy IJJ - Instructional and Library-Media Material Selection as amended with the changes incorporated above.

**Votes in Favor: 7759 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

- IJJ E - Challenge of Instructional Material Form -  
This policy was amended to reflect the changes made to policy IJJ.

**A motion was made to accept the IJJ-E - Challenge of Instructional Material Form as amended was made by member Roy Gott and seconded by member Jeff Alley.**

Discussion was then had on providing proof that challenged materials read and how they were acquired by the challenger.

**The motion was made to amend the motion on Item 5 to read “By signing this form I attest that I have read the materials in question in its entirety.” was made by Member Vern Campbell and seconded by Member Jeff Alley.**

Further discussion was had on proof of material being read.

A vote was called

**Votes in Favor: 6935 Opposed: 824(Julia Sheehan, Mercy Hardison) Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

The board then voted on Policy IJJ-E - Challenge of Instructional Material Form as amended with the change incorporated above..

**Votes in Favor: 7759 Opposed: Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

- DJ - Building/Purchasing Requirements  
Policy brought to us from the Finance & Budget Committee due to increase in prices. It made sense to increase the threshold at what we expect to go out and bid for services and purchases.

**Motion to approve policy DJ - Building/Purchasing Requirements as amended was made by member Roy Gott and seconded by member Keith Goldfarb.**

A discussion was had on the increase of limits.

**Votes in Favor: 7559 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

**Policies for First Read**

- **GBN - Family and Medical Leave**  
This policy will replace the policies GBN-R1 And GBN-R2. This policy is being brought forward now due to changes in law. The policy is based on a MSMA template and has been customized with our language and fiscal year.

**A motion to approve policy GBN - Family and Medical Leave for first read was made by member Roy Gott and seconded by member Keith Goldfarb.**

Discussion was had to make sure all of our contracts reflect this language.

**Votes in Favor: 7759 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

- **IMGA - Service Animals in Schools**  
This is a new policy brought to us by Sue Leighton on the recommendation of Eric Herland with Drummond-Woodsum and describes the rights and procedures regarding students in need of a service animal in school..

**A motion to approve policy IMGA - Service Animals in Schools for first read was made by member Roy Gott and seconded by member Keith Goldfarb.**

A discussion was had

**Votes in Favor: 7759 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

### **Policies to be Eliminated**

- [GBN-R1](#) - Federal Family and Medical Leave Act Administrative Procedure
- [GBN-R2](#) - Maine Family Medical Leave Act Administrative Procedure

A motion was made to eliminate Policies GBN-R1 Federal Family and Medical Leave Act Administrative Procedure and GBN-R2 Maine Family Medical Leave Act Administrative Procedure was made by member Roy Gott but was withdrawn as policy GBN was only approved for first read and requires adoption at a later meeting.

#### **8. ESL Principal Nomination - Michael Eastman**

Superintendent Eastman nominated Hayley Fenton for the Ella Lewis School Principal position, read a short bio, and requested the board's approval on the nomination.

**A motion to accept the Superintendent's nomination of Hayley Fenton for the Ella Lewis School Principal position was made by member Keith Goldfarb and seconded by member Janet Wilpan.**

**Votes in Favor: 7759 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

#### **9. Personnel Committee Report - Jeff Alley**

Personnel Committee Chair, Jeff Alley stated the committee met that day and discussed the Administrator and DSF personnel contract extensions and salaries for next year and reviewed current job openings.

*Business Item 10. Executive Session, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, Section 405 (6)(D), for the purpose of discussing the Beech Hill Tuition Agreement was moved up in the agenda to precede Item G and renaming it to 10. Beech Hill Tuition*

#### **10. Beech Hill Tuition Agreement**

This agreement was reviewed by the RSU Board in February and the Otis board has agreed to move forward with a two year agreement. There is a possibility that they may want a representative from the RSUB to meet with them. Superintendent Eastman requested the approval of this agreement.

**A motion was made to approve the two year Beech Hill Tuition Agreement by member Jeff Alley and seconded by member Jen DesJardin.**

A discussion was had to clarify agreement.

**Votes in Favor: 7559 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

*New Item 11. 2022-2023 School Calendar Update and old Item 11. Executive Session, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, Section 405 (6)(A), for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Issue was moved to Item 12.*

#### **11. 2022-2023 School Calendar Update**

Superintendent Eastman reported that the Maine Department of Education approved the waiver of seven (7) school days for our senior students and four (4) days for 6th-11th grade students. He proposed the new last student day for PreK-5 be June 16th and staff only days June 20 & 21 (modified for the three (3) snow days) and proposed the last student and staff day at the Middle/High School building be June 21st.

**A motion was made to amend the school calendars as presented was made by member Keith Goldfarb and seconded by member Jen DesJardin.**

**Votes in Favor: 7559 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0**

***This motion passes***

#### **G. Student Representative Report**

Student representative, Tori Webber, stated the staff is doing a good job dealing with the challenges of middle school students. Kudos to them.

#### **H. Public Comment**

The public reminded everyone that these students lost socialization during COVID and asked to sanction the individuals causing the problems and the ones glorifying it. Additional comments were made on the decision of the challenged books, conduct of audience behavior, and compliments to the staff and board were given.

#### **I. Board Review of Meeting**

The board thanked the public for coming and participating in the meeting no matter what side of the argument they were on and thanked Superintendent Eastman for all his hard work in getting the building up and running.

#### ***Business Continued***

#### **12. Executive Session, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, Section 405 (6)(A), for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Issue**

Due to the lateness of the evening this item was tabled for April's RSUB meeting.

#### **J. Future Meetings**



March 14, 5:30 p.m. - Educational Programming Committee @ DSF  
March 14, 6:30 p.m. - Budget Workshop  
March 21, 5:30 p.m. - Facilities and Transportation Committee @ DSF  
March 21, 6:30 p.m. - Building Committee @DSF  
March 28, 5:30 p.m. - Policy Committee @ DSF  
March 28, 6:30 p.m. - Budget Workshop  
April 4, 5:30 p.m. - Personnel Committee  
April 4, 6:30 p.m. - RSU 24 Board Committee

**K. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by member Jeff Alley and seconded by member Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 7559 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

*This motion passes*