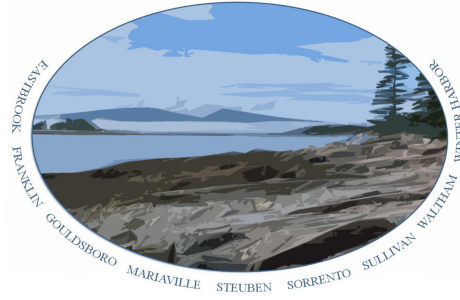


Regional School Unit 24



Regional School Unit 24 Board of Directors Meeting Monday - September 14, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Superintendent Michael Eastman

meastman@rsu24.org

A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Pursuant to subsection 403-A of 1 MRSA (Maine Revised Statutes Annotated), the Board Chair confirmed that each member of the RSU 24 School Board could both hear and be heard. All members present responded with yea. No audio difficulties were reported.

Board Members

Present					
Yes	No	TOWN	NAME	VOTES	% of Votes
x		Eastbrook	Jennifer Des Jardin	423	5.5%
x		Franklin	Roy Gott	1483	19.3%
x		Gouldsboro	Alison Johnson	1737	22.7%
x		Mariaville	Julia Sheehan	513	6.7%
x		Sorrento	Janet Wilpan	274	3.6%
x		Steuben	Keith Goldfarb	1131	14.8%
x		Sullivan	Andrea St. George Jones	1236	16.1%
x		Waltham	Mercy Hardison	353	4.6%
x		Winter Harbor	Jeffrey Alley	516	6.7%
				7,666	100.00%

The Board Chair confirmed that members of the public that were remotely attending the public proceeding were able to hear all members. The public was asked to report any audio difficulties via the Zoom chat feature. No audio difficulties were reported. The Chair recognized that the Board is conducting the meeting in this manner to help combat the spread of COVID-19, and asked the community and all members to proceed with patience and an understanding that the district staff and Board members are doing the best they can in an unprecedented time. The Chair noted in order to conduct an orderly meeting all Board members and community members must wait to be recognized by the Chair before speaking.

For All Votes

Pursuant to subsection 403-A of 1 MRSA, item D. – “All votes taken during the public proceeding are taken by roll call vote”. To the question before the Board, the Chair called the roll, those in favor of passage responded by saying yea, those opposed nay, members that wished to abstain did so by stating abstain.

B. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

C. Report from the Board Chair

Roy Gott, Board Chair, went over basic protocol for the meeting and noted that he wants to give all in attendance an equal opportunity to participate.

D. Report from the Superintendent

Superintendent Eastman reported that he met with union leadership earlier in the day and that the start-up for the school year has had a few issues but has mostly been successful. The district had a need for more computer monitors and 120 monitors were purchased at a discount for teacher use. Mr. Eastman thanked the Bud Connection and Stanley Subaru for recognizing all of the district staff with bouquets of flowers.

E. Business

1. Presentation of Maine Principals Association Guidelines Regarding Fall Athletics

Superintendent Eastman reported that since March, the district has spent a great deal of time preparing for students to come back to school in the fall, while following guidance from the MDOE and CDC. The Board had a conversation regarding fall sports at the August Board meeting. At the September 1st Board meeting there was a specific Board agenda item regarding fall athletics and the Board voted to suspend competitive interscholastic school athletics for the fall season and revisit in November for the winter sports season. There was a Board meeting scheduled and posted on the District website for September 8th. At this meeting there was a request to reconsider fall athletics and the Board voted to add a discussion to the agenda. After a lengthy discussion, a Board vote upheld the decision made at the previous meeting to suspend fall sports. On September 12th, the MPA released guidance regarding returning to competition. The meeting tonight was scheduled to reconsider moving forward with fall sports. Ty Thurlow and Rick Dube presented an overview of what fall curriculum will look like in our schools and what fall activities would look like given the guidance and restrictions.

The motion to reconsider this issue in light of the changes in state guidelines was made by Member Keith Goldfarb and seconded by Member Jennifer Desjardin.

A lengthy discussion followed and this motion was withdrawn and not voted on since the discussion had already taken place.

Many community members, parents and students shared their opinions in favor of allowing fall sports, the importance of sports in their students' lives and requested that the Board vote in favor of allowing fall sports for their students. A lengthy discussion was held. Board members noted that they had tasked school administration to come up with sports activities to offer during the afterschool program. A range of possibilities were discussed.

The motion to allow outdoor only fall sports with the limit of no spectators that adheres to MPA guidelines was made by Member Julia Sheehan and seconded by Member Jennifer Desjardin.

Votes in Favor: 2,067 (JD, JS, KG) Opposed: 5,599 (RG, AJ, JW, ASGJ, MH JA) Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

This motion fails.

The motion that within the capabilities of each building determined by the administrators that we offer afterschool skill based activities in the different sports within the cohorts and adhering to in school guidelines was made by Member Andrea St. George Jones and seconded by Member Julia Sheehan.

This motion was withdrawn.

The discussion regarding fall sports continued.

The motion to allow outdoor fall sports with no spectators within Hancock and Washington Counties was made by Member Julia Sheehan and seconded by Member Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 3,303 (JD, JS, KG, ASGJ) Opposed: 4,363 (RG, AJ, JW, MH, JA) Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

This motion fails.

Roy Gott thanked everyone who participated in the discussions and noted hearing no other motions at this point that interscholastic school athletics for the fall season are suspended.

2. Teacher Nomination

Superintendent Eastman nominated the following candidate for a vacant teacher position, read a short bio, and requested the Board's approval on his nomination.

- Deena Segel, MVS Special Education Teacher

The motion to approve the Superintendent's nomination as presented was made by Member Keith Goldfarb and seconded by Member Jennifer DesJardin.

Votes in Favor: 7,666 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

This motion passes.

F. Public Comment

- A student stated that she felt the student voice was not being heard.

G. Board Review of Meeting

- Board members thanked parents and students for participating in the meeting and noted that they do hear their voice. It was noted by Board members that it is frustrating because the Board is a strong advocate for students' voices being heard and they are sorry students are disappointed.
- Board members thanked district staff for all of their hard work.
- Board members also thanked the Bud Connections and Stanley Subaru for their generosity to our district and other area school districts.

H. Future Meetings

- September 15, 5:30 p.m., Facilities and Transportation, <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/87492477881>
- October 6, 6:30 p.m., Board Meeting, TBD

I. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn at 9:32 was made by Member Alison Johnson and seconded by Member Jennifer DesJardin.

Votes in Favor: 7,666 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

This motion passes.