

Regional School Unit 24



Regional School Unit 24 Board of Directors Meeting

December 1, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Superintendent Michael Eastman

meastman@rsu24.org

A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 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. Approval of the November 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The motion to approve the November 3, 2020 meeting minutes as written was made by Member Jeffrey Alley and seconded by Member Keith Goldfarb.

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

This motion passes.

D. Report from the Board Chair

There was no report from the Board Chair.

E. Report from the Superintendent

There was no report from the Superintendent.

F. Business

1. COVID Update

- Consideration of Winter Athletics

The MPA recently came out with recommendations regarding winter athletics. Rick Dube and Ty Thurlow provided an overview of the MPA guidelines and answered questions. The Board held a lengthy discussion. Some community members expressed frustration and felt they were not being heard. Board Members acknowledged that this is a hard decision and some may disagree with decisions made, but the Board is listening.

The motion to call the vote was made.

Votes in Favor: 6,019 Opposed: 1,647 (KG, JA) Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

This motion passes and the vote is called.

The motion to not have a winter sports season for the high school was made by Member Andrea St. George Jones and seconded by Member Alison Johnson.

Votes in Favor: 5,506 Opposed: 2,160 (JS, KG, JA) Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

This motion passes.

The discussion regarding winter sports continued.

The motion to not have sports at the middle school level by Member Alison Johnson and seconded by Jennifer Desjardin.

Votes in Favor: 5,506 Opposed: 2,160 (JS, KG, JA) Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

This motion passes.

2. Finance and Budget Committee Update

Keith Goldfarb reported that the Committee met on November 10 and voted Mr. Goldfarb as Chair and Mercy Hardison as Vice Chair. The budget calendar was reviewed. January 19 is the deadline for budget entry. Starting February 10, there will be a series of budget workshops to review the proposed budget. These biweekly meetings are a chance to ask questions. The final recommendation from the Committee is scheduled to take place in April. Budget approval and validation is scheduled to take place in May and June. The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the cost sharing formula. Views were heard from all sides. There was a strong consensus from the Committee to make no changes at this time. No action was taken on this and if the need arises the Committee is willing to revisit.

3. Building Committee Update

Superintendent Eastman provided the Board with an update on the construction project. There is new drone footage on the district website to view. The Fundraising Committee will be holding a brick fundraiser and in addition an appeal letter will be going out within the week.

G. Public Comment

- A community member typed questions in the Zoom chat. Roy Gott requested that Ty Thurlow reach out to the community member to respond to these questions.

H. Board Review of Meeting

- Board Members thanked everybody for coming to voice their opinion. Board Members acknowledged Erin Shanahan for her dress design project, and thanked the school nurses for keeping the district informed regarding best practices during the pandemic.

I. Future Meetings

- December 8, 5:30 p.m., Finance and Budget
- December 8, 6:30 p.m., Facilities and Transportation
- December 15, 5:30 p.m., Educational Programming
- December 22, 6:00 p.m., Building Committee
- January 5, 5:30 p.m., Personnel Committee Meeting
- January 5, 6:30 p.m., Board Meeting

J. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. was made by Member Jennifer DesJardin and seconded by Member Keith Goldfarb.

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

This motion passes.