

Regional School Unit 24



Regional School Unit 24 Board of Directors Meeting

December 7, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Sumner Memorial High School

ADA Notice

This school district will accommodate members of the public with special needs to participate fully in this meeting. Please contact Administrative Assistant Jennifer Fountaine (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

Board Members

Present					
Yes	No	TOWN	NAME	VOTES	% of Votes
x		Eastbrook	Jennifer Des Jardin	424	5.6%
x		Franklin	Roy Gott	1567	20.7%
x		Gouldsboro	Susan Dickson-Smith	1703	22.5%
x		Mariaville	Julia Sheehan	472	6.2%
x		Sorrento	Janet Wilpan	279	3.7%
x		Steuben	Keith Goldfarb	1129	14.9%
x		Sullivan	Andrea St. George Jones	1219	16.1%
x		Waltham	Mercy Hardison	332	4.4%
x		Winter Harbor	Jeffrey Alley	461	6.1%
				<hr/>	
				7,586	100.00%

A. Call to Order at 6:35p.m

B. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments.

C. Approval of the November 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes from the November 2, 2021 RSUB Meeting was made by Member Jeff Alley and seconded by Member Jennifer DesJardin.

Votes in Favor: 7586 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain :0

This motion passes

D. Report from the Board Chair

Mr. Gott made mention of the new voting percentages that are in place on the RSUB agenda. These percentages reflect the new numbers given by the U.S Census and show that our district is smaller by around 80 people. Mr. Gott also reported that he has been asked to serve as the Region IV (Hancock County) director position for the Maine School Boards Association (MSBA) and will be meeting with Steve Bailey, the Executive Director of the Maine School Management Association (MSMA), to discuss next steps.

E. Report from the Superintendent

Superintendent Eastman recognized Moira Sankey as the student Board representative. Moira took that time to introduce a fellow student, Eliza Schaad who had been elected as a student Board representative as well. Mr. Eastman moved on discussing strategic planning and that he had met with Carol Martin who specialized in that type of work. After reviewing the goings-on within the district such as the new building, it is the recommendation of Ms. Martin that the district hold off on any strategic planning at this time, and felt that it would be difficult to construct that planning within the next year as well. The leadership team is reviewing results and data from a recent survey that was put out in regards to strategic planning and is hoping that they will be able to make a decision on how to move forward at their next meeting.

Mr. Eastman mentioned that staffing letters had been sent out to all employees, with a handful of letters coming back with employees requesting time to speak with Mr. Eastman about the staffing assignment that they had been given; conversations with those employees started today.

F. Business

1. Cave Hill School Capital Improvement Plan Review

Janet Jordan welcomed Carla Haskell and Louis Schellhase from Design Group Collaborative. Janet went on to explain that they had done work for the district in the previous year at the Mountain View school and explained that they have been working with the district on multiple projects at the Cave Hill School. Carla and Lou presented their findings of the property and estimated that the proposed school improvements would take between 5-10 years at a cost of around 1.5 million dollars. Lou went on to explain a longer term plan (30-40 years out) and listed specific items that would be considered for replacement during that time which included the mechanical system as well as ADA renovations. Member Andrea St. George Jones asked about Cave Hill's current compliance with ADA standards and it was said that as the school sits now, the building doesn't meet standards however those renovations do not need to be completed at this time. Member Julia Sheehan questioned whether the playground equipment that stood on the property currently met insurance requirements. Janet Jordan mentioned that there had been a load of wood chips brought into the playground area this past fall and that she felt confident that the requirements were being met.

2. Solar Energy Proposals by Revision Energy

The Facilities & Transportation Committee have been working with Revision Energy to learn about the different options available to the RSU in regards to solar energy. Janet Jordan introduced Michael Bartner who is a Commercial Solar Consultant for Revision

Energy and was participating via Zoom. Mr. Bartner presented examples of Revision Energy's work and provided information about how their products could be beneficial to the new Charles M. Sumner Learning Campus and that it's possible to fit 967 solar panels on the roof of the new building. He went on to say that there would be no upfront costs for the district as solar works by federal tax incentive. The RSU wouldn't own the system for the first 5 years and would need to purchase power from a third party investor. With the new proposal (with updated figures) that was given to Revision Energy by the Facilities & Transportation committee, they estimated that in the first 5 years the district can save \$265,000 dollars. According to Mr. Bartner, the new building will need 990 thousand kilowatts of energy which leaves the possibility to enter into a second contract if the onsite and farm energy doesn't cover what the building is going to use.

A motion to approve the Offsite Solar Energy Proposals by Revision Energy as Presented was made by Member Jeff Alley and seconded by Member Susan Dickson-Smith.

Votes in Favor: 6367 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 1219

This motion passes

**Member Andrea St. George Jones lost video connection during the meeting resulting in her abstaining from the vote.*

3. Donation of Paintings to the Charles M. Sumner Learning Campus

A generous donation by artist Hugo Diaz was presented to the Board which showcased a series of portraits entitled "Community Makers." It features people from the area who have nurtured and sustained the vitality of the local community. The board thanked Mr. Hugo for his donation.

A motion to accept the donation of the paintings to the Charles M. Sumner Learning Campus was made by Member Keith Goldfarb and seconded by Member Jeff Alley.

Votes in Favor: 6367 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 1219

This motion passes

4. COVID-19 Update

Mr Eastman let the Board know that since the executive order had been dropped, the local fire department has said that the tents that currently occupy space at Sumner will need to be taken care of. There's a thought that the tents may end up being sold, while keeping one up at Sumner and one at the Ella Lewis school. Mr Eastman spoke to the COVID numbers throughout the district stating that there have been 163 positive cases since the beginning of school (with the total of close contacts being 1062.) It was reported that 33% of the student body is fully vaccinated at this time with hopes that number will increase. Pool testing in the district started today, 89 staff and 260 students have signed up for this program currently.

Mr. Eastman discussed winter Athletics. It was decided that all concessions will be away from the gym to eliminate the chance that spectators will bring their snacks and drinks into the gym where masks will be removed to eat and drink. The high school gym has a 425 person capacity, with that being said it is being looked at that 180 fans plus officials and players will be allowed in the gym, bringing it close to 50% capacity. Currently, the high school administration is working on a process for the audience in regards to possible ticket sales; this will be figured out and decided soon. Discussion is still out

there on how to handle fans from visiting schools in regards to how many people will be allowed in. The provision is that 40 tickets can be allowed to be given to the opposing team for high school athletics, however a survey has gone out to other schools to see what their thoughts are.

5. New Teacher Nominations

Whytne Crabtree - Pathways Program Facilitator at Sumner Memorial High School

A motion to accept the new teacher nominations as presented was made by Member Keith Goldfarb and seconded by Member Janet Wilpan.

Votes in Favor: 6367 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 1219

This motion passes

**Member Andrea St. George Jones lost video connection during the meeting resulting in her abstaining from the vote.*

6. Personnel Committee Update

Mr. Alley gave an update of the Personnel Committee meeting that had occurred just before the Board meeting. In his update he discussed that there was a second proposal to include a full time principal, a full time assistant principal and a $\frac{3}{4}$ time athletic director and $\frac{1}{4}$ time health teacher. Member Janet Wilpan questioned how all these positions will work together so that it's a smooth operation as there will be many individuals that are in a management role. Sumner principal JT Green stated that he believes that it will be a collaborative team structure and that he envisions that the 4 positions work in partnership and unison. He also feels that it would be beneficial to have someone to be able to work with middle school kids as they are different in many ways compared to a high school student.

A motion to approve new administrator structure and a full time assistant principal was made by Member Jeff Alley and seconded by Member Jennifer DesJardin.

Votes in Favor: 6367 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 1219

This motion passes

**Member Andrea St. George Jones lost video connection during the meeting resulting in her abstaining from the vote.*

Hiring Policy: Superintendent Eastman has consulted with other Superintendents and all but one is the same screening/scoring rubric for interviews as RSU 24. There is one district who currently has no guidelines for their hiring structure. With the recommendation of the HR department and the Superintendent, the district would continue with the current process (rubric to score interviews). Work will be done to help develop a better rubric when the time comes but will not try to change the policy at this time.

A discussion about revising the food service job description and payscale was discussed based on the new structure of the schools. The level of supervision will increase as changes are made.

A motion to approve the revised food service job description and the change to the pay scale which reflects the changes in the job description and responsibilities

was made by Member Jeff Alley and seconded by Member Jennifer DesJardin.

Votes in Favor: 6367 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 1219

This motion passes

**Member Andrea St. George Jones lost video connection during the meeting resulting in her abstaining from the vote.*

Mr. Alley concluded with the hiring update which included what positions within the district were open at the different schools.

Member Andrea St. George Jones regained video connection at this time and was placed into executive session via Zoom.

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

A motion to enter executive session, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, Section 405 (6)(A), for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Issue at 7:59 p.m was made by Member Jeff Alley and seconded by Member Jen DesJardin.

Votes in Favor: 6367 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 1219

This motion passes

Entered Session at 7:59PM

Came out of session at 8:26pm

A motion to extend the Superintendent's contract by an additional year was made by Member Jeff Alley and seconded by Member Jen DesJardin.

Votes in Favor: 7586 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

G. Public Comment

Ginny Dennison spoke to the Board to let them know that she had just filled the open Tech position within her department. The new employee, Xavier Tracey who is a Sumner graduate. Ginny went on to say that things have gotten off to a great start and that she is very proud of him.

H. Board Review of Meeting

No comments made

I. Future Meetings

- January 11, 5:30 p.m, Educational Programming Committee
- January 18, 5:30 p.m, Facilities & Transportation Committee

J. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m was made by member Jeff Alley and seconded by Member Jennifer DesJardin.

Votes in Favor: 7586 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

This motion passes

