

**Regional School Unit 78
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2024 5:30 p.m.
RLRS Multi-Purpose Room**

Time zone: America/New_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/wnj-ekmk-fwr>

Or dial: (US) +1 302-481-5191 PIN: 282 713 596#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/wnj-ekmk-fwr?pin=8004887313962>

Kathleen Catrini, Dallas Plt	P	Joanne Dunlap, Rangeley Plt	Z
Joanna Farrar-V. Chair, Dallas Plt	P	Amber Haley, Rangeley Plt	Z
Ryan Wilbur, Rangeley	P	Mary Richards-Chair, Sandy River Plt	P
Karen Seaman, Rangeley	A	Robert Greene, Sandy River Plt	P
Chris Farmer, Rangeley	P	Angelica Chavaree- Woodward, Student Rep	A
Deborah Ladd, Rangeley	Z	Nichole Lemay, Student Rep	A
Danielle Lemay, Rangeley	P		

Quorum:866/997

1. Call to Order (By Mary Richards)

- TIME: 5:30

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mary welcomes Ryan Wilbur to the board

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

- Add: 10.1 - Consideration of Chorus Trip to Six Flags (Erin Smith), all others bump down

4. Approval of Minutes for February 13, 2024

- Motion to approve: Danielle Lemay
- 2nd: Chris Farmer
- Passed Unanimously (Minus Kathy Catrini and Amber Haley who joined meeting at 5:55)

5. Public Comments

- None

6. Presentations: Georgia Campbell-Budget

- Georgia reviews the mission statement and goals for the budget
- Highlights changes within articles
 - Most increases are in salaries and benefits, increased costs of supplies, and increased costs of outside services, dues & fees
 - In Article 6 - New law requires addition of Maine Family Paid Medical Leave act requires for budgeting 0.5% of gross salaries
 - Article 8 - New Bus lease
 - Article 9 - increase in energy costs, maintenance and repairs; Long term plan to replace furniture in classrooms
- Factors to consider:
 - ESSER 3 grant has offered some relief in the budget, but expires September 2024
 - Other grants and funding sources have not been applied to budget because amounts have not been allocated yet.
- Reviews enrollment, town allocations, Mil Rate
 - Town enrollments have shifted which will have impact on town budgets

7. Comments:

Chair (Mary Richards):

- Mary thanks Chris Farmer and the budget committee, administration and Roxanne for their hard work in keeping our budgets reasonable in the past few years.
- Chief French has retired. He had a tremendous positive impact on our building. The board should consider honoring his commitment to our school. Please send ideas to Mary or Georgia.

Superintendent/PreK-5 Principal (Georgia Campbell):

- Our Maine State Literacy Grant was approved for approximately \$11,800. This will cover the cost of a very intensive 30 hour, foundational literacy training for eight of our elementary teachers.
- We also applied for a McKinney-Vento grant through the state for \$750.00 and as it turns out our award was doubled. This funding is to help prevent homelessness.
 - Mary asks whether there is a current issue with homelessness in our community. Georgia says not currently, but this may be used to help families in need in other ways
- We are still awaiting approval for the Summer Programming grant through the state.

Student Representative Comments

- N/A

MS/HS Principal (Seth Laliberte)

- Dodgeball tournament, Talent show
- Maryam Emami and Darlene Woodman keep writing and winning grants for the greenhouse
 - Received 25,000 from the MOLY grant
- 3 students were selected to NTHS at Foster Tech
- Last ski Tuesday is next week
- Scholastic Art Awards
 - Seth read the letter from Sonja Johnson regarding our award winners
 - Awards ceremony is this weekend.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Policy Committee: - K. Catrini

- Bringing action items tonight
- Next meeting Monday April 1 at 3PM

8.2 Finance Committee: - C. Farmer

- Met today. Went over notes and comments on budget. Went over public version as presented by Georgia. Public Hearing June 4. Vote June 11. Warrant signing June 12.
 - June Board meeting will be Wednesday June 12. (Not Tuesday)

8.3 Facilities Committee – D. Lemay

- Fuel tank: looking to install April or June. Lines were inspected by Vortex - estimate for work to lines needed was \$50,000. Decision has been made to be proactive and flush the lines twice a year to put off this work as long as possible.
- Looking for a new dishwasher and oven for kitchen. Getting quotes currently. Hoping to install during April break.

8.4 Negotiations – B. Greene

- Contract has been ratified. Final review of various drafts for any style and grammatical issues.
- Urges board to have legislation currently in process on their radar. There may be salary impacts if legislation passes. Negotiations committee is going to run models to try to be ahead of potential impacts
 - Board discussion on potential impacts and the possibility of board members reaching out to their legislators

9. Appointments, Resignations, Nominations and Transfers

- Appointing Seth Laliberte as middle school baseball coach & BJ Kennett as middle school Softball coach. Adam Varney as Varsity Soccer Coach
- Nominate: Elizabeth Thompson as MS/HS Art teacher for 24/25
 - Motion to approve: Chris Farmer

- 2nd: Danielle Lemay
- Passed unanimously
- Resignation: Simone Martin - MS English is resigning. Seth reads her letter.

10. Action Items:

10.1 - Consideration of Chorus Trip to Six Flags (Erin Smith)

- Motion to approve: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Robert Greene
- Discussion: Chorus decided last minute that they would really like to compete again this year. Normally this will be an every other year trip. By moving to this year, it will alternate years with the Spanish trip on the other years. Need to raise roughly \$1000-\$1500 more. No changes from previous years
- Passed Unanimously

10.2 Approval of 2024-2025 RLRs Program of Studies

- Motion to approve as revised: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Danielle Lemay
- Discussion: Seth outlines changes
- Passed Unanimously

10.3 2024-2025 Calendar

- Motion to approve the RTA recommended calendar as presented: Robert Greene
- 2nd: Kathleen Catrini
- Discussion: Georgia outlines the two options (start before Labor Day or after). Aug 30th is dissimilar day from Foster Tech to support our town's needs. Foster Tech starts Aug 29th regardless of our start date.
 - Chris Farmer: Nicest week of the summer was the last week of August and he firmly believes we should start after.
 - Mary explains that we have had this conversation for years and we should rely on the recommendations of the staff
 - Seth states that on the RTA recommended calendar graduation should be June 7th.
 - Joanna asks for clarification on the dissimilar days.
 - Georgia says that we are allowed 5 days different from Foster tech. The
- Passed with 7 for, 2 against (Danielle Lemay, Chris Farmer)
 - Further discussion regarding graduation date. The passed calendar showed graduation as the 14th. Seth and Georgia will clarify and propose an amended calendar with Graduation on the 7th if further research warrants it

10.4 April 8 - Calendar change

- Motion to change April 8th, 2024 school day to a remote learning day and Tuesday April 9th, 2024 to a 2:30 release: Joanna Farrar
- 2nd: Chris Farmer
- Discussion: Meeting with Chief Bacon regarding potential impacts on the town by the eclipse. Due to timing of eclipse, Georgia is recommending changing April 8th to an 11AM early dismissal. She also would like to have the option to call this a remote learning day if needed.
 - Chris Farmer feels this will mostly be day trips. Stratton is actually 40 seconds longer than Rangeley. Chief Bacon is spending a lot of time on this. Most rentals are full. Chris is in full support of early dismissal. In the case of a weather event that creates any kind of snowfall, he would recommend calling it a snow day
 - Georgia outlines her plan for a Remote Learning Day. All students could have assignments and this is a great opportunity for students. We would have to offer lunch and special education services. She wants to be ready for whatever happens. Decision to go remote would hopefully be made before the weekend based on town conditions and weather.
 - Ryan Wilbur states that the board should approve the remote day tonight so that parents have advance notice.
 - Seth states that there will be learning opportunities, bagged lunches
 - Danielle clarifies that this will not be a full days' worth of assignments.
 - Bob outlines many aspects of the learning opportunities
 - Motion made
- Passed Unanimously

10.5 2024-2025 RSU #78 Budget - \$5,718,140.80

- Motion to approve 2024/25 RSU78 Final Budget Proposal as presented dated March 12th 2024 to be voted on June 11th, 2024: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Danielle Lemay
- Discussion: none
- Passed Unanimously

10.6 Adult Education – Raise \$14,413.59

- Motion to Raise \$14,413.59 for adult education - Chris Farmer
- 2nd Joanna Farrar
- Discussion: none
- Passed Unanimously

10.7 School Nutrition Program – Raise \$ 20,000

- Motion to Raise \$20,000 for the School Nutrition Program: Chris Farmer
- 2nd Joanna
- Discussion: none
- Passed Unanimously

10.8 Capital Reserve – Raise and authorize to expend \$100,000 for unexpected or emergency maintenance or repairs to Region School Unit facilities and equipment.

- Motion to Raise and authorize to expend \$100,000 for unexpected or emergency maintenance or repairs to Region School Unit facilities and Equipment: Chris Farmer
- 2nd Joanna Farrar
- Discussion: Robert Greene - this was already outlined
 - Chris clarifies that these articles are separately raised
- Passed Unanimously

10.9 Open or Closed Budget Format – Previously voted for Open format. Recommended that ALL articles to be written in the Open format. Note: Open format allows for budget articles to be amended up or down at the budget hearing. Closed format only allows for budget articles to be amended down.

- Motion to hold budget hearing in open format: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Joanna Farrar
- Discussion: none
- Passed Unanimously

10.10 Consideration to approve policy BCB-E – Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

Motion to bring policy BCB back to the table for revision: Chris Farmer

- 2nd: Joanna Farrar
- Passed Unanimously
- Motion to revise BCB and adopt BCB-E: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Joanna Farrar
- Discussion: We did not have the form to go with the policy, so the policy revisions were tabled previously.
- Passed Unanimously

10.11 Consideration to rescind policy IJNDB-R – Student Computer and Internet

Rules

- Motion to rescind: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Robert Greene
- Discussion: redundant.
- Passed Unanimously

10.12 Consideration to revise the following policies:

GCGA – Substitute Teachers and Educational Specialists

- Motion to approve: Kathleen Catrini
- 2nd: Joanna Farrar
- Discussion: Georgia Campbell: make the rates fluid based on schedule A of support staff contract at the bottom of that scale. This is to ensure the rate stays in line with contract.
 - Chris: questions payment of insurance at 80% for long term assignments 60 days or more
 - It is discussed as being an incentive for long-term subbing over daily subbing.
 - Chris wants to be clear that under this timing a long term sub can then take insurance pay out for having outside insurance.
 - Roxanne states that Chris is correct.
 - Joanna asks how many in the past 5 years have fallen in this category
 - In the past 5 years, not a single long term sub has elected to use this benefit.
- Passed with 1 abstention(Chris Farmer)

IJNDB – Student Computer and Internet Use

IJNDB-E – Student Computer Lending & Usage Rules Contract

- Motion to approve together as amended per discussion below: Chris Farmer
- 2nd: Robert Greene
- Discussion: Minor revisions per Shawn
 - Error under cross reference on IJNDB - R should be IJNDB-E
- Passed Unanimously

Adjourn at 7:15PM:

Motion: Chris Farmer

2nd: Danielle Lemay

Passed unanimously

Next meeting: April 9, 2024

MISSION - To inspire all learners to strive for success in a world yet to be fully imagined. VISION - RSU 78 envisions a broad range of choices for learning that inspires student and staff involvement in all aspects of academic life in a safe, fair, authentic, and personalized learning environment.