

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 28, 2009
MINUTES

Chair Laura Tracy called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Technology Building on Heath Street in Oakland. Directors Lawrence Brown, Glen Davis, Donna Doucette, Lora Downing, Elwood Ellis, Kerri Oliver, Deanne Pizzo, Kelly Roderick, Rebecca Seel and Laura Tracy were present. A quorum was declared. Also present at all or parts of the meeting were Gwen Bacon, Irene Belanger, Lois Bowden, Daniel Bowers, Carol Browne, Robin Colby, Gail Estabrook, Monique Gilbert, Catherine Gordon, Karen Hall-Potvin, Kathy Harris-Smedberg, Mark Hatch, Sharon Jolicoeur, Linda Laughlin, Tara Maker, Jeff Mao, Richard McFarland, Jennifer McGee, Cheryl Mercier, Claire Moen, Jonathan Moody, Constance Packard, Nancy Reynolds and Doug Snow.

There were no delegations to be heard.

Davis/Roderick The minutes of the April 16, 2009 meeting be approved as printed.

A discussion ensued. Donna Doucette asked if the position of Technology Director for the Regional School Unit (RSU) had been eliminated, as that position was not listed as part of the administrative salaries that were approved at the April 16, 2009 Board meeting. Superintendent Morse noted that the position had not been eliminated. Mrs. Doucette then asked why the position was not listed as part of the approved administrative salaries. Superintendent Morse noted that the position had not been eliminated, but that the person who currently holds the position was not being nominated for continued employment. Mrs. Doucette then asked if the Board could enter into executive session.

Doucette/ The Board enter executive session to discuss the employment of an employee per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A).

There was no second to the motion.

Chair Tracy noted that the Board would take this issue under advisement and discuss it at a future Board meeting. Superintendent Morse noted that this issue would be added as an agenda item for the next Board meeting.

The original motion, made by Davis and seconded by Roderick, to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2009 meeting as printed carried unanimously.

Due to the number of business items on the agenda this evening, Dr. Morse deferred the Superintendent's Report this evening.

Linda Laughlin, Assistant Superintendent, provided a report of the progress of the Educational Programming Transition Subcommittee. The Subcommittee reviewed what is happening with educational programming and the transition to the Regional School Unit. There is a teacher advisory group that meets on a regular basis to discuss activities and procedures to

bridge the gap between the MSAD 47 and China staffs. On June 8, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. there will be a reception at Thomas College. RSU No. 18 staff and school board members from MSAD 47 and China are invited to stop in to meet with members from each of the school systems.

The Educational Programming Subcommittee also reviewed a list of frequently asked questions relating to the transition to the RSU. The list will be posted on the Web page and updated on a regular basis. The questions have been collected from a variety of staff members.

Planning has begun for the Pre-kindergarten program at China Primary School, including advertising and hiring a staff member for this program. Grant funding for this program has already been submitted. The first of three stimulus grants has also been submitted to the Maine Department of Education.

The Committee is working to design a plan for the Gifted and Talented Program that would serve all students in the RSU appropriately. The screening of applications for science, grade 4, and gifted and talented teaching positions in the RSU has begun. A recommendation has been made to implement the EveryDay Math Program at the 6th grade level at China Middle School. Training has also begun for China staff related to the PowerSchool conversion for the China schools.

Constance Packard, Business Manager, provided a report of the activities of the Finance and Facilities Transition Subcommittee. The Committee met this evening for the final time and completed the review of the finance and facilities related Board policies for the RSU. All of the tasks related to lending institutions are complete, and everything is ready to be transferred from MSAD #47 to RSU No. 18. All of the vehicle titles were transferred and have been received. Most of the remaining work that is being done is related to software conversion. One test payroll has been completed, and the budget has been rolled over.

Superintendent Morse provided a report of the progress of the Policy Transition Subcommittee. The Subcommittee met this evening to review policies from Section E, Support Services, and Section G, Personnel. Those policies will be brought to the Board for review at the June 11, 2009 Board meeting.

The meeting turned to a discussion regarding the 1:1 laptop initiative related to renewal of the program at the middle school level and expansion to the high school level. Superintendent Morse noted that the program at the Middle School has been very successful. The teachers' role has changed from book and talk to facilitating youngsters, moving through a curriculum. There are middle school students who have completed Algebra 2, Geometry, and High School Algebra. Technology is being used in a way that was not foreseen before. The entire program has been transformed by technology, and the dynamics have changed between teachers and learners. For example, Dr. Morse noted that the physical education teacher at Messalonskee Middle School uses filmstrips to analyze students' golf strokes. At the Middle School 100% of the students have the opportunity to have their programming enhanced by technology. At the High School,

the ratio of students to laptops is 2:1. Teachers who would like to use technology innovatively are striving for access.

Resources built into the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) Project include software, hardware and professional development, with a total estimated value of \$684,397.60. Superintendent Morse reviewed with the Board the 1:1 Laptop Initiative for Messalonskee High School and the K-8 solution for RSU No. 18. Dr. Morse noted that the District conducted a careful analysis of all vendor proposals. The recommendation is for RSU No. 18 to go forward with the laptop initiative and accept the proposal of Apple Computer, with the revenues and expenditures as outlined below.

Revenue Sources

Stabilization Carry Forward	\$195,000.00	
IDEA ARRA Year 1	\$180,000.00	
IDEA ARRA Year 2	\$180,000.00	
Title II D	\$7,427.00	
Dell Sale	\$32,000.00	
Subtotal	\$594,427.00	
Local Bond in Budget	\$314,373.00	
Total Revenue		\$908,800.00

Additional revenue may become available from Title I ARRA and Title II D, which could be used to lower Local Bond commitment.

Expenditures

Purchase 584 used Apple laptops for K-6 @ \$175 each. These machines are 3 years old and will be redistributed to grades K-5.	\$102,200.00	
Purchase 84 used Apple laptops for K-6 China staff and grade 6 @ \$390 each. These machines are 2 years old and allow us to go 1:1 in grade 6 and provide the China teaching staff the same machines as all other PK-5 staff in the RSU.	\$32,760.00	
Purchase 830 new Apple laptops for MHS students.		
Year 1: 650 @ \$928	\$603,200.00	
180 @ \$474	\$85,320.00	
Year 2: 180 @ \$474	\$85,320.00	
Total Expenditures		\$908,800.00

The State will provide NEW Apple laptops to all students in grades 7-8 and all teaching staff in grades 7-12.

The total value is over \$1.5 million.

A discussion ensued. Tara Maker, Jeff Mao and Doug Snow, representatives of Apple Computer, answered questions from the Board.

Roderick/Pizzo The Board accepts the proposal of Apple Computer for the 1:1 laptop initiative for Regional School Unit No. 18 as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Glen Davis asked if the Board could see the other proposals that were submitted for consideration. Dr. Morse indicated that he would have those available for the Board to review. Dr. Morse thanked the Board on behalf of the administration and the students for their consideration and approval of the proposal.

Downing/Doucette The nomination of the Superintendent be accepted, and Michael Peterson be elected to the position of band director at Messalonskee Middle School for the 2009-10 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a request from Jill Feeney, biology/chemistry teacher at Messalonskee High School, for a one-year leave of absence for the 2009-10 school year.

Roderick/Seel The request from Jill Feeney, biology/chemistry teacher at Messalonskee High School, for a one-year leave of absence for the 2009-10 school year, be approved as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed policies from Section K, School Community Relations, of the policy manual.

Roderick/Doucette The policies listed below from Section K, School Community Relations, of the policy manual be approved as presented, with the exception of Policy File, KE: Public Concerns and Complaints, to be approved as amended, which will include the notation "and/or" under Non-Personnel that "Parents, students, and/or other citizens with complaints or concerns regarding any aspect of Regional School Unit No. 18 shall be encouraged to seek a resolution at the lowest possible level."

- Policy File: KHB, Advertising in the Schools
- Policy File: KI, Visitors to the Schools
- Policy File: KLG, Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities
- Policy File: KLG-R, Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities Administrative Procedure

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Morse explained the need to have the Board endorse the filing of various federal and state grant applications throughout the year.

Doucette/Davis The Board authorizes the administration to file applications for various federal and state grant programs throughout the 2009-10 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

The update regarding projected enrollment for the 2009-10 school year was postponed until the June 11, 2009 meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Linda Laughlin reviewed with the Board the school calendar for the 2009-10 school year. The administration has proposed that the towns of Belgrade, Oakland, Rome and Sidney (formerly MSAD 47) and the China School Department each have separate calendars for the next school year, as there were workshops built into the calendars for initiatives that are currently underway. Also reviewed was the regional calendar for the Mid-Maine Technical Center and the number of days that each of the calendars of the participating districts conflict. There are a total of 10 days in conflict, with three days coming from RSU No. 18.

Doucette/Seel The Board adopts the calendar for Belgrade, Oakland, Rome and Sidney, and the Board adopts the calendar for China as presented.

A discussion ensued.

Doucette/Seel The Board adopt the calendar for China as presented, and the Board adopt the calendar for Belgrade, Oakland, Rome and Sidney, with authorization for the administration to review and change accordingly the dates for parent-teacher conferences at Messalonskee High School.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a resolution regarding the establishment of a scholarship account with Vanguard.

Ellis/Roderick RESOLVED, that Superintendent of Schools, James C. Morse, Sr., the Treasurer of the Regional School Unit No. 18, or Assistant Superintendent, Linda F. Laughlin, or the Business Manager, Constance Packard, or any one of such officers, are hereby fully authorized and empowered to open a brokerage account, transfer, endorse, sell, assign, set over and deliver any and all shares of stock, bonds, debentures, notes, evidences of indebtedness or other securities (including short sales) now or hereafter standing in the name of or owned by the Regional School Unit No. 18 to purchase stocks, bonds, debentures, notes, evidences of indebtedness and other securities (or margin or otherwise), and to make, execute, and deliver, under the corporate seal of the Regional School Unit No. 18 any and all written instruments necessary or proper to effectuate the authority hereby conferred in the establishment of the Scholarship Account with Vanguard.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Computation and Declaration of Votes related to the Regional School Unit No. 18 May 20, 2009 Budget Referendum.

Ellis/Oliver VOTED: That the Computation and Declaration of Votes dated and attached hereto be and it is hereby approved.

FURTHER VOTED: That the Computation and Declaration of Votes be entered upon the records of the Regional School Unit No. 18 (the "Regional School Unit").

FURTHER VOTED: That a certified copy of the Computation and Declaration of Votes be sent to each of the Municipal Clerks within the Regional School Unit.

Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Morse congratulated the Board on the passage of the 2009-10 school budget in all towns. The budget passed in the Town of China by a margin of 4 to 1, and Dr. Morse credited Elwood Ellis and Deanne Pizzo, Board members representing the Town of China, for their efforts in helping to obtain a positive vote in China. The overall passage of the budget in all towns was by a margin of 3 to 1.

The Board reviewed dates for July and August Board Meetings.

Davis/Doucette The Board meetings for July and August be scheduled for July 15, 2009, August 5, 2009 and August 19, 2009, with a start time of 7:00 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Downing/Pizzo The Board enters executive session to discuss the superintendency for Regional School Unit No. 18 per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A).

Motion carried unanimously.

Time: 9:05 p.m.

The Chair declared the Board out of executive session at 10:40 p.m.

Roderick/Brown The meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

Time: 10:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. James C. Morse, Sr.
Superintendent of Schools

MEETINGS

Thursday, June 11, 2009 – Policy Transition Subcommittee – 5:30 p.m. – Central Office - Oakland

Thursday, June 11, 2009 – RSU Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Special Education Building – Oakland

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Wednesday, June 24, 2009 – Educational Programming Transition Subcommittee – 5:30 p.m. – Central Office - Oakland

Thursday, June 25, 2009 - Policy Transition Subcommittee – 5:30 p.m. – Central Office – Oakland

Thursday, June 25, 2009 – RSU Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Special Education Building – Oakland

Wednesday, July 15, 2009 - Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Special Education Building – Oakland

Wednesday, August 5, 2009 - Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Special Education Building – Oakland

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 - Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Special Education Building – Oakland