



**Maine Regional School Unit 21**  
**The Schools of Arundel, Kennebunk, and Kennebunkport**

*"Preparing responsible, contributing citizens in a global society."*

Andrew R. Dolloff, Superintendent of Schools  
James W. Barnes, Business Administrator

Dr. Patrick M. Manuel, Assistant Superintendent  
Susan M. Mulsow, Director of Special Services

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**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**  
**AGENDA**

**MARCH 15, 2010**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**KENNEBUNKPORT NORTH STREET FIRE STATION**

The meeting will be broadcast on channel 16.

**THERE WILL BE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:00 P.M. for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel pursuant to 1 MRSA (406) (E).**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson, Maureen King; Vice Chairperson, Tim Hussey. Directors: Pam Richard-Wuerthner, Norm Archer, Bob Domine, Kevin Knight, Art Leblanc, Leia Lowery, Jack Reetz, John Sharood, James Smith, and Gayle Spofford. Student Representatives: John E. Price and Chloe Littell Simpson.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

**IV. PUBLIC INPUT**

Members of the public are invited to speak to any items not listed on this evening's agenda

**V. SPECIAL REPORT**

- A. Adult Education Budget
- B. Finance Committee – FY11 Budget Proposal/Discussion

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S)**

- A. Approval of March 1, 2010 School Board Minutes

**VII. AGENDA ADJUSTMENT(S)**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Facilities Committee
- B. Policy Committee
  - 1. Second Reading:
    - a. JFABD – Admission of Homeless Students
    - b. JHB Truancy
    - c. JIC Code of Conduct
- C. Strategic Planning Committee
- D. Technology Committee

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**X. UPDATE FROM SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR**



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**XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

- A. Thornton Academy Middle School Survey
- B. Resignations
- C. Model State Legislature

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

For the purpose of discussing labor contract negotiations between the Board of Education and the KAKEA (Kennebunk/Arundel/Kennebunkport Education Association) pursuant to 1 MRSA (405) (6) (D).

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**SCHOOL BOARD BACKUP  
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010  
7:00 P.M.  
KENNEBUNKPORT NORTH STREET FIRE STATION**

**REMINDER: THERE WILL BE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:00 P.M.  
BEFORE THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.**

**V. SPECIAL REPORT**

**A. *Adult Education Budget*** - In your backup you will find information regarding the Adult Education program. The PowerPoint presentation on this budget will be sent under separate cover.

**B. *Finance Committee – FY11 Budget Proposal/Discussion***

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

**A. *Approval of March 1, 2010 School Board Minutes***

**VII. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

None at this time

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. *Facilities Committee*** – There is no written report at this time. A podcast will be posted to the website soon.

**B. *Policy Committee*** – We ask that the following policies be approved for a second reading:

- a. JFABD – Admission of Homeless Students
- b. JHB Truancy
- c. JIC Code of Conduct

**C. *Strategic Planning Committee*** – This committee is meeting on Friday morning. There will be a verbal report Monday evening.

**D. *Technology Committee*** – In our backup you will find the minutes from the last meeting.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

none at this time

**X. UPDATE FROM SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR**

**XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

For the purpose of discussing labor contract negotiations between the Board of Education and the KAKEA (Kennebunk/Arundel/Kennebunkport Education Association) pursuant to 1 MRSA (405) (6) (D).

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**RSU21 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 1, 2010  
KENNEBUNK TOWN HALL**

**Attendance:** Chairperson, Maureen King; Vice Chairperson, Tim Hussey. Directors: Pam Richard-Wuerthner, Norm Archer, Bob Domine (arrived 7:15 p.m.), Kevin Knight, Art Leblanc (absent), Leia Lowery (arrived 7:45 p.m.), Jack Reetz, John Sharood, James Smith, and Gayle Spofford. Student Representatives: John E. Price and Chloe Littell Simpson.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments this evening

**V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**Finance Committee Presentation – Budget Discussion and Public Input** – The Finance Committee presented an overview of the FY11 budget. The Board had directed the Administrative Team to draft a budget for next year which reflected a \$2.6M reduction. The Finance Committee agreed to reinstate approximately \$800,000 to the original budget and that budget was presented this evening. There was a four year view of costs, with costs being reduced for two years. The second year must be focused on structural costs to avoid damage to educational priorities. The biggest revenue for the district is state aid and in two years there will be no state aid for Kennebunk and there will be continued pressure for Arundel's state aid. This would have happened whether Arundel consolidated or not. The state has decided to take away all Medicare revenues. Assessments were discussed, and Arundel had an incorrect reduction in school taxes of 9%, last year, based on a one-time carryover reserve fund from the Town of Arundel. The estimate was overstated by \$230,000 accidentally. To repay this amount there will be a one-time increase in Arundel taxes averaged over the next two years so there will be no net difference. There will be a 3% average annual increase in taxes over the next four years for Arundel, 3% for Kennebunk and -3% for Kennebunkport. The increase for Arundel next year, for that year only, will be \$353 for a \$200,000 home value for school taxes. Kennebunk will have an \$85 increase in school taxes for a \$250,000 home value. Kennebunkport will have a \$43 decrease on a \$400,000 home value. So, Arundel will have a 13% tax increase, Kennebunk 2.4%, and Kennebunkport a decrease of 1.7%. There will be a loss of \$3M in state aid over the next two years. The state had promised they would share the debt service for the Middle School of the Kennebunks and the Kennebunk Elementary School; they have broken that intention and will not pay the debt service. The Federal Stimulus funds will run out in 2011 and will not be replenished by the state.

Discussion: There was a discussion about the 3.3M in tuition money that goes to TAMS (Thornton Academy Middle School) and TA (Thornton Academy). The state legislature has established school choice only for Arundel in RSU21. The Arundel students will always have the ability to choose TAMS or the MSK. It is interpreted if a family sends a student to TAMS; RSU21 is obligated to pay tuition set by the state. There has been a 5.6% increase in tuition rates in the past 5 years. Recently the district was told there would be a 2% cut in tuition rates and that is what is being used in this budget. Since the state has not yet officially confirmed the 2% tuition rate, and if tuition goes up, the district will have to cut something from the budget to compensate for the increase. Arundel can pick any high school in the State of Maine, but the vast majority goes to Kennebunk High School or Thornton Academy High School, approximately 30 students go to other high schools.

A synopsis of the state bond issue and how to contact area legislators will be placed on [www.rsu21.net](http://www.rsu21.net). Community member, Michael Horgan has agreed to be the clearinghouse for people that want to contact their legislators – his contact information is – 503-686-8871 and email – horgan.m@gmail.com. The community has only three weeks to contact their legislators and try to change the debt service law.

Director Sharood explained that one interpretation of the TAMS contract is as long as Arundel has middle school choice, and the contract is in force, the RSU must send the middle school students to TAMS. This is the interpretation that Carl Stasio and the Board of Directors at Thornton Academy have decided to accept. The RSU21 Finance Committee has decided to not accept this interpretation. Director Sharood said he was not speaking for the School Board, just the Finance Committee. Superintendent Dolloff explained the School Board could vote on the TAMS contract and if their opinions differed from Thornton Academy then it would come down to a matter of negotiation.

Superintendent Dolloff gave details on the FY11 budget. The Administrative Team was given a difficult task of making significant reductions for the school budget for next year. The vast majority of proposals were not items the Administrative Team recommended, but are proposals that had to be made to meet the budget target. The Finance Committee made a change recently on the budget target from a 2.6M reduction to a 1.8M reduction. Superintendent Dolloff went through the reductions which totaled 23.5 positions district-wide.

Discussion: Director Spofford wondered if technology was looking at alternative options for a high school computer program. Director Spofford, looking at three years out, hopes the district can make this happen. Technology Director, Jason Saltmarsh said he is looking at alternatives, but thinks the best solution is the MLTI program. No decisions have been made at this time. Director Richard-Wuerthner asked about reducing nursing to bring it to parity, and student population. Assistant Superintendent Manuel said all schools were looked at and some have severe health needs, but the nurse's have a schedule that works and they cover each school. It is not an ideal situation because each school is unique. Ed Tech's have been trained, and the RSU uses EMT services. Director Richard-Wuerthner thanked the Administrative Team for putting the foreign language back in the budget. Chairperson Hussey would like the \$800,000 adjustment to the budget broken down into items and subtotaled for the next board meeting. Day One has also been restored to the budget. Superintendent Dolloff explained the cuts to the budget are significant, and not ideal. The Administrative Team was given a difficult task, and the board had a difficult task of attempting to keep taxes down and do what is best for kids. Superintendent Dolloff said the items on the cut list will hurt kids and will leave the educational system in worse shape than it was in September of this year. Director Reetz pointed out the set target for the Administrative Team was a 3% increase. He thought it was hard to gauge what is reasonable for taxpayers to pay, no one wants more taxes. He wondered if a 3.5% budget increase would be better. Superintendent Dolloff said he doesn't know if 3.5% is okay. He further explained this budget is further complicated by the impact on Arundel this year, and that played a role in the Administrative Team deliberations. He further explained there are people in Arundel that will have a tax bill that is out of reach for them. Director Domine would like to see the dollar amount of the cuts that would be made anyway if the situation was more ideal. Superintendent Dolloff worked with the Administrative Team to get to 1.2M reduction and thought probably closer to \$800,000 could maintain where the district is now. The Administrative Team felt they could push the envelope a little over 1M to 1.2M and still give kids an education. Director Sharood explained why the Administrative Team was able to lower the budget from 2.6M to 1.8M, which is good news for this year. The Department of Education (DOE), as they adjusted EPS, gave the RSU additional credit by stretching out the length of time (two years) over which the district absorbed the drop in student count over the last three years. Secondly, the state did not move the mil rate as much as the district was lead to believe, so the district was able to pick up additional money for the 2010-2011 school year. Fundamentally this good news gives the district time to look at more structural issues, major contracts, and do something about those. This can't be done in a single budget year but can be looked at over an 18 month period so all the facts can be analyzed and intelligent decisions can be made. Director Reetz does not feel the national economy will recover quickly nor the state economy, he believes for the district to succeed they have to do it themselves and that will mean property taxes. The burden is going to fall with Arundel this year with a 13% tax increase, if the budget is approved. There are two towns with a low amount of property value and a lot of students (Kennebunk, Arundel), and one town with a lot of property value and few students (Kennebunkport) and that is the way the state formula works.

Discussion by audience: Most of the discussion revolved around not cutting the drama program from the budget. Matt Fadiman of Kennebunk found the budget unacceptable. He explained that RSU21 test results currently place students in the top percentiles. He states, more importantly, the district has prepared children to be the civic, artistic and corporate leaders of our global society. That has not come by accident, but rather has come from a dedication and commitment to funding in education. The current budget proposal decimates that potential. He thought some cuts were necessary but felt the current proposed budget would be destructive to the community. He also understands that for every taxpayer who has a child in the district, there are three others who do not. He understands that but believes this proposed budget is no more acceptable to them. They rely on the stable property values that a top school system delivers. He proposes restoring \$600,000 of the proposed budget cuts. He thought this would add up to approximately \$8.00 a month for taxpayers. Many audience members wanted to pay to keep the quality education in RSU21. Some audience members did not want to see the library cuts. Tom Battles, Kennebunk taxpayer, felt eliminating the late bus would devastate the after school program. He explained that many parents are unable to get their children after school and count on the late bus. Physical education was stated as important especially if the RSU is looking to expand IB to the elementary level. Another audience member asked why cut drama and not high school sports. John Costin, Kennebunk resident, asked about the administrative salaries, Superintendent Dolloff said they were frozen. Superintendent Dolloff explained when the budget had a 2.6M cut they took out freshmen

sports, and out of fairness, if there are cuts they should be shared with the sports program. Chris Stevens explained that the Education Foundation has given \$250,000 to the schools, in the past years, and has funded over 50 grants, and the requests for grants have dropped because of moral in the schools. He was frustrated that only 400 people voted on the school budget last vote, and only 200 showed up to the town meeting. He asked the audience members to get active and get people to vote. He suggested calling and writing legislators and to also start dealing with the district's Federal congress people as well. Jennifer Raymond, Kennebunkport resident, suggested increasing revenues by adding activity fees, even art and drama fees. David Pepin would like to keep drama and eliminate the Day One Program. Amy Johnson suggested adding activity fees, sticker fees for cars at the high school, smaller bus sizes when purchasing new buses, increase hot lunch prices, purchase agreements with other schools around the counties and state, local custodians also could do some maintenance work when needed, furlough days for teachers, and furlough days for administrators during the summer. Dan Bleva, Arundel, asked to volunteer on board sub-committees. Director Sharood explained there are five board committees, and he made a pitch for the Finance Committee because they only have two community members at this time.

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO INSTRUCT THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM TO, IN THEORY, RESTORE \$600,000 TO THE BUDGET FOR THE 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR SO BY THE TIME THE BOARD ARRIVES AT THE NEXT MEETING THEY CAN CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE BUDGET THAT WAS PRESENTED THIS EVENING (BOB DOMINE), SECONDED: (NORM ARCHER).**

Board discussion: Whatever different types of analysis the board would like the Finance Committee to do they will. Director Reetz would like to look at a half-way point between the two numbers. Vice Chair Hussey does not know if \$600,00 is the right number and assumed, at the next board meeting, there would be a full and rigorous debate on what was heard this evening instead of coming up with artificial numbers. Chairperson King agreed. Director Spofford disagrees with the motion she would prefer to speak in terms of what items should be put back in and how to pull things out to substitute. She is always opposed to throwing money back in. Director Domine said the rationale for the motion would be to not reconvene after having witnessed the outpouring of public support only to continue to discuss the cuts just presented without the benefit of being specifically instructed to consider lesser cuts. This may not be the right number but he would like to see alternatives at the next meeting to support what the board just heard from the audience. Director Knight supports the motion and would like to see a budget with no impact on education. **MOTION MOVED: 10-1 (DIRECTOR SPOFFORD OPPOSED), THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Director Hussey would like to see the new analysis also include the tax impact. Director Sharood asked how deep into budget detail does the board want.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S)**

**A. Approval of February 22, 2010 School Board Minutes – A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES (GAYLE SPOFFORD), SECONDED: (TIM HUSSEY). VOTED: 11-0.**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Update on Thornton Academy Contract Analysis** – Superintendent Dolloff distributed the survey that will go to K-12 Arundel parents. There were a few changes suggested to the survey. The survey will be mailed, and will be online for a couple of weeks. The results of the survey will be reported at the April 5, 2010 School Board Meeting. Digital Resources is doing the project and data collection at no cost to the district, owner Director Domine and employee, Director Knight are not involved in the project. Audience member, Matt Sylvanus asked about the board's stand on the Thornton Academy Contract. Director Sharood said in his opinion, and the Finance Committee's opinion, Arundel has choice to come to the MSK (Middle School of the Kennebunks). He pointed out the board has not weighed-in on this and will before a decision is made on the contract. The survey was approved by the board.

**B. Curriculum/Design Committee** – Assistant Superintendent Manuel reported on the last meeting. There was a presentation and discussion of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and Technology Innovations PowerPoint.

**C. Communication Committee** – The committee discussed the confusion around the TAMS contract. This committee would like to welcome Arundel students who want to attend MSK. They would like to begin including Mildred L. Day School in events at the MSK and KHS (Kennebunk High School). Director Knight is drafting a template; upon the completion of the budget this document will be distributed using the AlertNow system, RSU21 website and other media. This document will simplify the previous budget annual report. The committee recommends that the district retain the help of a PR firm to better manage the dissemination of facts and regular updates regarding: 2010/11 budget; TAMS; MSK building concerns; district facilities review, and Strategic Plan.

**A MOTION WAS MADE THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM PREPARE AN RFP FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICE TO ASSIST THE RSU WITH THE MANY COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES THEY HAVE AT THIS TIME (BOB DOMINE), DIRECTOR SHAROOD ASKED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO TRY AND GET THIS SERVICE PRO BONO, SECONDED: (LEIA LOWERY).**

Discussion: Director Spofford wondered where the money would come from if it was not pro bono. Superintendent Dolloff said he would look at the contracted services line to see if there were funds available. Vice Chairperson Hussey thought in this time of cutting academic programs he could not support this motion. Chairperson King reminded the board that all contracts have to be approved by the board. **VOTED: 11-0.**

**E. Facilities Committee** – Director Smith reported on the last meeting. He reminded everyone that these meetings are podcast on the district website ([www.rsu21.net](http://www.rsu21.net)). Director Smith reviewed the Planning Decisions report and stated they predict the enrollment, in all three towns, declining in the next 20 years. He wondered how accurate have they been and will take a look at that. The report will be posted on the district website. Dan Cecil, Harriman Associations, expects to have more facilities data available for the committee to discuss and review by the end of the month. The next meeting will be regular Facilities Meeting on March 11 at 7:00 a.m. at the Kennebunk Elementary School in room B135.

**F. Policy Committee**

**a. JFABD – Admission of Homeless Students**

**b. JHB Truancy**

**c. JIC Code of Conduct**

**d. JICB Care of School Property** – no changes

**e. JICD Academic Honesty Policy** – no changes

**f. JICD-E Academic Honesty Agreement** – no changes

**g. JCA Assignment of Students K-8** – This policy was passed on Sept. 21, 2009. There seems to be a lot of misinformation circulating about this policy. The committee recommends a public reading at this meeting to clarify any questions.

Chairperson King read the policy. The Policy Committee doesn't recommend any changes. **A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE ABOVE POLICIES, THAT HAD CHANGES (TIM HUSSEY), SECONDED: (JACK REETZ). VOTED: 11-0.**

Discussion: Director Archer said it has caused concern that some parents are not aware they have to re-apply each year when their child goes to a school in another town. He would like to see principals hold parents accountable for this on an annual basis. Director Richard-Wuerthner noted earlier there was the mention of a wait list at MSK. Superintendent Dolloff explained some parents who have students at Thornton Academy have contacted his office to attend MSK next year. Superintendent Dolloff's response to the parents is yes by the School Board policy. However, in the midst of this contract discussion he wanted to make sure the board is clear on what those options are and what the responsibility of the board would be if they allowed students from Arundel grades 6-8 to attend MSK. Superintendent Dolloff's conversations with Thornton Academy's, Carl Stasio, indicate the academy's position is that all students from Arundel would attend TAMS and that if they did not the district would still be responsible for paying the tuition of those students. Superintendent Dolloff reported in a conversation today with the district's attorney, although both points could be argued, the contract is ambiguous enough that a turning point of any discussion would be the testimony of those when the contract was negotiated indicating the intent of the contract. It is likely that the academy's position would be more likely to be correct than the district's if the district's position is those children have choice and the district would not have to pay the academy for their tuition. Director Sharood stated when the contract was written the clause in the consolidation law which establishes choice into perpetuity, not just for Arundel middle school but any community that is contracting out education in the State of Maine on the day before the consolidation law was passed, that law did not exist when this contract was agreed too, so the contract clearly anticipated a right under law to cancel the contract and to cease school choice. The law has superseded the contract and both the consolidation law and the contract need to be considered together, and a legal opinion is needed. Superintendent

Dolloff said the district law firm is well versed in consolidation law and this was the best analysis the district could get at this time. Director Domine said this speaks to the problems with choice but would not preclude the district from opting out of the contract. Director Reetz explained when the contract was executed some parents sent their students to private schools, and to the best of his knowledge, he does not think the school district at that time was paying tuition to Thornton Academy and/or the state amount to any other school. Vice Chairman Hussey stated this is a complex issue with a lot of emotion and it needs to deliberately be looked at and that the contract ambiguity creates opportunity. He would like to see the parent data and then enter into a dialogue. If the board decides to terminate the contract there would then be negotiations. He thought the board should not do anything precipitous at this time. Director Domine doesn't disagree, but his question was to clarify the policy so that Superintendent Dolloff could clearly say yes to students wanting to attend KMS next year. Chairperson Hussey said the policy is clear but he is not sure it is in compliance with the contract. Director Sharood thought given the sensitive subject, once the board has the data of public feedback the board could explore this in Executive Session and evaluate all areas in confidence and then bring a decision and public debate with a public forum.

At 10:30 p.m. - **A MOTION WAS MADE TO CONTINUE WITH THE BOARD MEETING (GAYLE SPOFFORD), SECONDED (PAM RICHARD-WUERTHNER). VOTED 2- OPPOSED (JIM SMITH AND JOHN SHAROOD), 9 VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairperson King thinks parents should not have to get involved in the legalities of school choice that it should be a board issues and students should be able to go to school where they choose. The board should figure out what they are going to do whether that means a lawsuit, negotiations, or going back to the table. Director Domine pointed out the entire discussion came out of a Communications Committee Meeting where they wrestled with the notion, with regards to TAMS, that the board has repeatedly not taken a position. **A MOTION WAS MADE THAT THIS BOARD INTERPERT THE POLICY AS IT WAS JUST READ TO MEAN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE THE CHOICE WHETHER THEY WANT TO ATTEND TAMS OR MKS (BOB DOMINE), SECONDED: (GAYLE SPOFFORD).**

Director Smith wanted to clarify this motion was for Arundel students only. Director Sharood said the RSU's policy was clear and he supports the principal and he supports choice, but he has to separate himself from that position because he would like to see the results of the survey first. **MOTION WAS MOVED. VOTED: 2-OPPOSED (JACK REETZ AND TIM HUSSEY), 9 VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Arundel resident, Jon Renell, said he was involved with the negotiations and as far as the people on the Arundel Board who were involved in the negotiations, their superintendent, and he believes the voters of Arundel, the intent was all students go to the Thornton Middle School, and as Director Reetz brought up the point if a parent chose to go to St. James, for instance, the parent paid for St. James there was no money sent to Thornton Academy. Thornton Academy bills the district for the students enrolled on October 1. Mr. Renell said his understanding of policy is with special circumstance the student could change schools. Chairperson King said if it was in the child's best interest to change schools it could happen. Dan Bleva would like to see the policy on hold because it might not be able to be enforced.

**G. Education Foundation** – Vice Chairperson Hussey reported that the next big event will be a golf tournament Monday, June 28, and they are looking for sponsors at this time.

**X. COMMUNICATIONS FROM SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR**

Chairperson King reported on upcoming events in the RSU.

**XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Superintendent Dolloff reported that two middle school students art work was chosen to be a screen image for the MLTI laptops. Nick Shuman, MSK Ed Tech III technology, submitted 28 digital photography pieces from four MSK students to the state and two won. The winners are: Mark Lightbody and Marie Jarowicz,

Three teacher were recognized by the Engineering College of the University of Maine, Glen Black, Brent Sirois, and Ann Rodier. The students at the college recognized them for making a difference.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:45 P.M (NORM ARCHER), SECONDED: (KEVIN KNIGHT). VOTED 11-0.** For the purpose of discussing labor contract negotiations between the Board of Education and the KAKEA (Kennebunk/Arundel/Kennebunkport Education Association) pursuant to 1 MRSA (405) (6) (D).

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**AT 11:00 P.M. A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN (NORM ARCHER), SECONDED: (KEVIN KNIGHT). VOTED: 11-0.**

## PORTRAIT OF AN ADULT EDUCATION LEARNER

Like many people, she knew she wanted to return to school to obtain her GED but “life” seemed to get in the way and kept her from making the phone call to Adult Education of the Kennebunks and Arundel for an appointment. When she attended high school, she had felt isolated by her learning disabilities and school had never been a place where she was happy and motivated for learning. Understandably, the task of working toward a GED brought back those feelings and fears.

Life took an unexpected turn when she was involved in a serious car accident. After the accident, there were months of hospitalization and physical therapy. She knew she had to take a serious look at what she wanted to do with her future.

As a single mother, she was living with her mother and working while raising her child when she began the adult education program. Beside her child, her biggest motivator for getting her GED was to become more competent in her workplace. She has now been in the program for three years, working with trained tutors, and approaching the GED tests subject by subject. A more confident and self-possessed person, she says, “When I first started working on a GED I lived at home; now I have my own apartment. There were times I felt pretty stupid at work – with everyone talking about what degrees they had – but now I can read, spell, and do math better than before. Now I can say I am working on my GED, and I’m not a nobody”.

The journey has been hard-won and frustrating. She has watched many of her peers at Adult Ed come and go after graduating with their GED certificates. She has struggled to make up for lost learning from her early educational days. Although it has taken her some time, she remains optimistic

and motivated. She counts many of her fellow students and tutors as her friends now and stresses that she has always felt respected in the program. "It's not like day school," she observes, "you can sit and talk about your day before you begin". You make adult friends. If you drop out of school, for any reason, when you come here, you will have other people to encourage you and say 'Don't give up!'"

All of her hard work and determination have paid off. It's obvious when talking to her that she now realizes her potential and looks forward to what awaits her when she leaves her "family" at Adult Ed. Her plan is to finish her final subject test and complete her GED this spring. If she doesn't quite reach that goal this year she maintains, "I will be disappointed, but I'm not going to give up because I have so many goals I want to accomplish".

## **PORTRAIT OF AN ADULT EDUCATION EDUCATOR**

He was, like most teachers, a man with a busy schedule when a colleague approached him a few years ago and asked him if he would consider teaching an adult education class. A math teacher by day, he agreed to take on the additional task of teaching a few students in the program who needed math tutoring to prepare for their GED test. The rest, as they say, is history.

He stayed after school on the days he had adult education students to meet with at night and did not return to his South Portland home until late in the evenings. The days were long, however, he kept up the tedious schedule because, as he says, after watching his adult learners make progress in their math studies, “the car rides home were so rewarding”.

Adult Education is really what I wish regular education was about”, he reflects, “Adult Ed learners are totally different. I don’t have to give them a grade or fight with them to do their homework. They see the value of their education. Hectic schedule or not, the rewards of being an Adult Ed tutor outweigh the extra time commitment. “I am a teacher,” he states simply, “not just from 7am to 3pm, I am always a teacher”.

Aaron Germana has been a dedicated and supportive instructor for Adult Education of the Kennebunks and Arundel. His empathy and compassion shine; he has an amazing ability to motivate his students – working with the individual needs of each person. He is always there for his students, helping them work toward their goals.



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Paula Abramson  
Adult Education of the Kennebunks & Arundel  
87 Fletcher St.  
Kennebunk, ME 04043  
207-685-1116**

**Date: March 10, 2007**

### **Area Residents Polish WorkReady™ Skills**

Fourteen area adults seeking jobs successfully completed a 60 hour Work Ready™ training and were honored at a graduation ceremony on Thursday, March 4 at York Adult Education. The soft skills based training is designed to provide successful participants with not only skills essential in today's workplace, but also a portable credential. WorkReady™ is an initiative of Maine's Local Workforce Investment Boards and the Maine Department of Education and is supported by a statewide steering committee. The WorkReady™ Credential is endorsed by businesses throughout the state.

Graduates can use the certificate when applying for a job. Each one learned job-seeking skills, listened to experts in the field and met potential employers. Each left with a finished cover letter and resume. "Over several weeks, we've seen students make a huge amount of progress," said Amanda Cutrer, Work Ready™ Facilitator. "Best of all, they've become a great support for each other." While the name "WorkReady™" may imply that the program is designed for individuals with little to no work experience, it is actually highly applicable to a wide variety of individuals with varying degrees of training, education, and occupational skills.

This Work Ready™ class was funded by a grant awarded to four local adult education programs – Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel, Kittery, Wells-Ogunquit and York. While the course was held in York, participants were from 7 towns in the seacoast area. They ranged in age from 18 to 61 and had a wide range of prior education and employment history.

Area businesses that partnered with adult education and conducted mock interviews, tours or presentations to participants included York Hospital, Kennebunk Savings Bank, Human Capital Corporation of Portsmouth, The Goldenrod of York Beach, Bonney Staffing Center, Goodwill Industries of NNE, Hannaford, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the Kittery Trading Post. Other community organizations that assisted with the training included Women, Work & Community, York County CASH, Consumer Credit Counseling Services, NextStep Up Career Coaching, Finance Authority of Maine, Noble Adult & Community Education and Saco/OOB Adult & Community Education.

The graduates are Alicia Perry, Maurice Gauthier, Michael Ford, Judith Lincoln and Timothy Finnigan of Kittery, Anne Counts of Arundel, Lisa Gianotti of Rollinsford, NH,

Anthony Donoghue, Debra Cobain, Patricia Pfeffer and Barbara Sanford of Wells, Heather Danforth and Barbara Holden of York and Laurence Brown of South Berwick.

Many felt that the best part of the program was having the support of each other. Job hunting can be an isolating experience, especially in an age of online applications.

The four adult education programs are hoping to offer the training again, either this spring or in the fall. First they have to secure funding. For more information about Work Ready™ or to place your name on a list for a future training in the area, contact Adult Education of the Kennebunks & Arundel at 985-1116.

Adult Education of the Kennebunks and Arundel collaborated with the adult education programs in York, Kittery, and Wells-Ogunquit to write a grant to fund a new WorkReady training program. We were able to receive funding for one 60-hour class from the Local Work Force Investment Board. We are planning to seek additional funds for future classes as we have a waiting list from people wishing to participate.

The article below appeared in the York Weekly last week.

## **York area residents hone job-seeking skills in first-ever program**

Area residents hone job-seeking skills in first-ever program



Students stand with GED instructor Amanda Cutrer, far left, following a ceremony celebrating their completion of the WorkReady Program. The program is designed for

those entering or re-entering the job market and consists of completing 60 hours in "soft skills training." Amy Root-DonleAmy Root-Donle photo

By [Susan Morse](#)

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Fourteen people seeking jobs graduated from the first area WorkReady program Thursday, March 4, at York Middle School.

WorkReady Facilitator Amanda Cutrer handed out papers certifying 60 hours of course work. The actual certificate from the state Department of Education is being mailed to each graduate, said Cutrer, a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) instructor for the York School District.

Participants can use the certificate when applying for jobs, she said. Each course graduate learned job-seeking skills, listened to experts in the field and met potential employers. Each left with a finished cover letter and resume.

"Everyone's leaving here today with a great finished product," said Cutrer.

Classes were held in York from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays Feb. 1 through March 4, with a week off during the school vacation week.

Adults who participated included those recently laid off, career changers and residents who are working toward, or have recently acquired, their GED. One participant has a master's degree.

The WorkReady program, the first of its kind in the area, is an initiative of Maine's four Local Workforce Investment Boards and the Maine Department of Education. The local program was sponsored by a \$3,700 grant from Goodwill Industries.

"We're really excited, we weren't sure ... lo and behold we got the grant and were able to hold the program," said Polly Stanwood, director of Adult Education in York.

"Over several weeks, we've seen students make a huge amount of progress," said Cutrer. "Best of all, they've become a great support for each other."

Having the support of others in the group was the best part of the program, said those interviewed on Thursday, March 4. Job hunting can be an isolating experience, they said, especially in an age of online applications.

"The best (part) was getting together," said Eleanor Holden of York. Holden has been working for a year to obtain her GED. She previously worked for RR Donnelley and Sons in Wells, a catalogue printing company. More than 300 employees were laid off in

June when the Wells plant closed. She'd like to find work in a hospital, she said, possibly in housekeeping.

Heather Danforth of York said, "I desperately need a job."

She's been cashiering, but would like to eventually work in early childhood education. She's getting her bachelor's degree online from the University of Massachusetts. Boyfriend Nate Henderson attended her graduation ceremony.

"I was proud of her," he said.

"It was the people," said Anne Counts of Arundel, when asked what she thought was the best part of the program. "I felt so isolated, everything is online."

Counts has been out of a job for a year, having worked as a store manager in Kennebunk. She either wants to go back to retail, or teach preschool, she said.

Alicia Perry, 18, of Kittery Point, expects to get her high-school diploma through Kittery Adult Education this June. She applied class credit from the WorkReady program to her degree. She intends to go on to higher education.

"One thing I never learned how to do was to write a resume and cover letter," Perry said. "My main goal is to become a CNA (certified nurse's assistant)."

"In a nutshell, I've learned how to make a resume," said Laurence Brown of South Berwick, who was laid off from his job as an auto mechanic after 18 years. He had never before written a resume, he said.

"They're trying to teach an old dog new tricks," Brown said. "It's working out well."

Barbara Sanford, of Wells said of the program, "There was a lot of support."

She has a master's degree in education. She's applied for jobs, but there's usually about 70 candidates for each position, she said.

WorkReady was open to residents living within the York, Kittery, the Wells-Ogunquit community and Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel school districts. Seventeen people applied.

"This was hard work, the hope is we can do it again," said Pauli Rines, director of Kittery Adult Education. "If not this spring, then in the fall."

The other graduates are: Lisa Gianotti of Rollinsford, N.H.; Debra Cobain, Anthony Donoghue and Patricia Pfeffer of Wells; and Judith Lincoln, Timothy Finnegan, Michael Ford and Maurice Gauthier of Kittery.

The adult education directors of the four school districts attended the graduation ceremony. They included Cheryl Dearman Mills of Wells-Ogunquit Adult Community Education and Paula Abramson, director of Adult Education of the Kennebunks and Arundel.

**Maine Regional School Unit 21**  
**The Schools of Arundel, Kennebunk, and Kennebunkport**

*"Preparing responsible, contributing citizens in a global society."*

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**District Technology Advisory Team**

**Minutes** – March 4, 2010

In attendance: Norm Archer, Jack Reetz, Kevin Knight, Nancy Naimey, Wendy Thompson, Cynthia Savage, Michael Richards, Jon Williams, Jason Saltmarsh

I. Introduction of Committee Members

II. Budget

An update was given as to the technology support structures in each building as proposed in the second draft of the school budget for the 2010-11 school year

III. Laptops and Privacy

RSU 21 does not install any programs on the MLTI laptops that could be used to remotely connect to student computers when used outside the district network. We discussed the news item that recently surfaced concerning inappropriate remote access by administrators at the Lower Merion School District in PA. RSU 21 does utilize a program called Apple Remote Desktop (provided by the MLTI program) to provide remote assistance to our users, install software applications and updates, and monitor student usage if necessary.

IV. Content Filtering

The web filtering policies employed in RSU 21 were discussed. The committee felt that we should make a recommendation to the elementary principals to consider allowing access to the streaming media sites so as to make this type of popular educational content easier for teachers to access. It was noted that this also calls for vigilance on the part of the instructors to be sure students were not accessing questionable material while in school.

V. Curriculum/instruction priorities for next 3 years?

Committee Chairperson, Jason Saltmarsh, asked that the building representatives come to the next meeting with some ideas from their teachers as to what impact technology should have on their existing curriculum in the next 3-5 years, and what our instructional priorities should be moving forward.

