

**RSI21 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010
MILDRED L. DAY SCHOOL, ARUNDEL**

Attendance: Chairperson, Maureen King; Vice Chairperson, Tim Hussey (arrived 7:24 p.m.). Directors: Pam Richard-Wuerthner, Norm Archer, Bob Domine, Kevin Knight, Art Leblanc, Leia Lowery (arrived 8:15 p.m.), Jack Reetz, John Sharood (absent), James Smith and Gayle Spofford. Student Representatives: John E. Price and Chloe Littell Simpson.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Sylvanus, former Arundel School Board Chair and now a director on the Educational Foundation of the Kennebunks and Arundel, spoke about his involvement in the consolidation talks. He was surprised to see so many people attend the Strategic Planning Forum, and applauded the board for seeking public input. He was disappointed that the Kennebunk middle school and Thornton Academy middle school did not have comparable data available at the forum. He believes it is important to treat all 6, 7, and 8th grade students as part of the RSU, even the Arundel students at the Thornton Academy Middle School. Mr. Sylvanus said it is important to the residents of Arundel that the contract does not go away. He believes if there were any type of elimination of the contract there should be a period of choice or phase out for those students at Thornton Academy. Mr. Sylvanus mentioned surveying Arundel residents to get their thoughts on the Thornton Academy middle school contract.

Donna Buttarazzi asked if the superintendent would be sharing the results of the feasibility study, regarding the buyout of the Thornton Academy contract, at this meeting. Superintendent Dolloff said he would present a report, on the study, at the February 1 School Board Meeting. Chairperson King explained no decisions will be made until the full facilities study is complete and it that will not happen soon.

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Strategic Planning Update – Superintendent Dolloff reported that 175 people attend the forum on Monday, January 11 at the Middle School of the Kennebunks. The forum included discussion on the future direction of the schools, a presentation on national trends, and local data on how our schools are performing. The attendees were then split into groups and answered critical questions and gave important data. There has been an online survey, and approximately 150 have responded. The data is being collated by Great Schools Partnerships, and Superintendent Dolloff will present a report on February 9 from 8-10 a.m. The on-line survey is now closed.

B. Approval of the formerly called English as a Second Language Plan (ESL) – New Name – English Language Learners (ELL) – Melissa Camire explained the plan is legally required by the state, and it states that ELL students are getting equal access to education. This is actually a policy and will come back as a first reading at the next meeting. There are 42 students in the program at this time.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S)

A. Approval of December 21, 2009 School Board Minutes – MOTION MADE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES (GAYLE SPOFFORD), SECONDED: (JACK REETZ). VOTED: 9-0. STUDENT VOTE: 2-0.

VII. AGENDA ADJUSTMENT(S)

None at this time

VIII. OLD BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Facilities Committee – Director Smith presented a report to the board. At the committee meeting, Dan Cecil presented a draft financial profile. The next steps of the study will include review of options for future study. The committee stressed to Mr. Cecil that everything is on the table and they are not limiting Mr. Cecil or themselves in any way. There is a podcast of the meeting on the website (www.rsu21.net). There was discussion on the middle school air quality. The district is still testing in response to complaints from faculty but have only found one room with dust mites. NIOSH (The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) has become involved and that will be a benefit to everyone. The district has provided them with data, and they will be doing their own investigation.

B. Human Resources – The committee will meet next week.

C. Finance Committee – Superintendent Dolloff talked about the Administrative Team working on the board parameters for budget cuts this year. These parameters are based on projected tax rates in the three towns of the RSU and, when coupled with an anticipated \$1.8M reduction in education aid from Augusta, result in a budget directive which is \$2.6M lower than the current year's approved budget. The team is looking for significant reductions. The timeline for budget presentation will be presented at the Finance Committee on January 29th at 7:30 a.m. Superintendent Dolloff said, at this point with a 7.2% reduction in the operating budget, nothing was sacred at this time. There will be workshop discussions on all areas of the budget, and some of these meetings will be in the evening so people can get out and attend.

D. Policy Committee

1. First Readings:

- a. JEA Compulsory Attendance
- b. JEAA School Entrance
- c. JFAA Residency
- d. JFAB Admission of Non-Resident Private Tuition Students
- e. JFABA Tuition Agreement
- g. JFABB Foreign Exchange Students
- h. JFC Student Withdrawal
- i. JGAA Assignment of Students – Five Year Olds

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE FOR A FIRST READING (GAYLE SPOFFORD), SECONDED: (TIM HUSSEY). VOTED: 10-0. STUDENT VOTE: 2-0.

2. Second Readings:

- a. BCC – Nepotism
- b. Section I
 1. IJNDB Access to Telecommunications
 2. IJNDBR – Student Internet Use Policy
 3. IJND School System Web Sites/Web Pages
 4. IJNDR – Administrative Policy

