

*RSU #14 Withdrawal  
Committee  
401 Webbs Mills Rd  
Raymond ME 04071*

**October 28, 2019  
6:00pm  
Broadcast Studio  
423 Webbs Mills Rd  
Minutes**

Members:

- Rolf Olsen, Select Board Rep, Chair
- Teresa Sadak, Proponent Rep - *absent*
- Katie Leveille, RSU #14 Board of Directors Rep
- Joe Bruno, Citizen Rep

Consultants:

- Dr. Mark Eastman, Retired Superintendent and Educational Consultant
- Dan Stockford, Attorney

Citizens attending:

- Susan Brackett – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher
- Sara Davis
- Kaitlyn LaCasse
- Karen McMullin

1) **Called to order** at 6:00pm by Chair Olsen

2) **Approval of Previous Meeting(s) Minutes**

a) September 10, 2019

**Motion** to approve as presented by Mr Bruno. Seconded by Ms Leveille.

**Unanimously approved.**

3) **Reports from Sub-Committees**

Marshall Bullock – We are at a standstill right now. We have built our foundation budgets and are waiting for feedback from technology. Kevin Oliver is working with Public Works to develop operations and maintenance data. I have not seen the data pertaining to Capital budgets and whether those items were fulfilled or not. Where we need to be is to take a look at the Special Ed section. We need some Programming and Nutrition information. To go further I will need to have access to the agreement that is still in negotiations.

Ms Leveille gave an update on meetings of the Programs Sub-Committee. There was a good deal of discussion listing the programs that are currently doing well at the school (list attached at end of the minutes).

Mr Bullock asked that Ms Leveille send Chair Olsen the list of current programs. Mr Bullock will go through the list and come back with questions so the Finance Sub-Committee can begin putting costs with the programs. Chair Olsen stated that Dr Eastman is also available to attend the Programs Sub-committee to give some guidance.

The following suggestions were made by various members of the audience:

- STEM education
- Technology based education
- Strings starting earlier (currently at 5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Languages starting earlier (currently at 7<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Outdoor based learning and experiences – preferably on a daily basis, and training for the teachers to incorporate the outdoors more
- Tinkering, hands on activities on a regular basis
- Gifted and Talented
- Keep class sizes down (currently around 24, should be closer to 18) – may need more staff
- Coaches – writing, math, etc.
- See more detail in the budget when voting instead of the lump sums
- Resource Officer
- Special Olympics
- Science and math starting earlier (currently 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)

There was discussion about the withdrawal process and the budget process.

Currently:

1. The RSU budget goes to a public hearing with only about 20 people total attending.
2. It then goes to a vote which about 30 people total attend.
  - a. If it passes the vote it goes to a referendum, secret ballot vote.
    - i. If the vote passes, the budget is enacted
    - ii. If it does not pass, the RSU Board makes adjustments and the process begins again.
  - b. If it does not pass, the RSU Board makes adjustments and the process begins again.

If we withdraw from the RSU:

1. The School Board will create a budget and submit it to the Town Manager.
2. The Budget-Finance Committee and Select Board hold joint workshops to review the requests and ask questions.
  - a. The School Board may be asked to go back and revisit certain items.
3. The School Board's budget articles will be added to the Town Meeting Warrant with recommendations of the School Board, Budget-Finance Committee, and Select Board.
4. The warrant articles are then presented at Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Raymond to vote on from the floor.

In the grammar schools Raymond has excelled in reading and writing, and Windham does better in math. Historically Raymond students have graduated near the top of the class and we want to get back to that. We need to start our students off well for them to excel later.

There was discussion about the Special Town Meeting that was held to begin the withdrawal process and its timing.

**4) Workshop Session**

None

**5) Executive Session**

a) Executive Session to consult with the Committee's Attorney pursuant to 1 MRSA §405 (6)(E)

**Motion** to enter executive session at 7:00pm as noted above by Mr Bruno. Seconded by Ms Leveille.

**Unanimously approved**

**Motion** to leave executive session by Mr Bruno. Seconded by Ms Leveille.

**Unanimously approved**

Next meeting date will be December 9, 2019 at 6:00pm.

**6) Adjournment**

Meeting declared adjourned at 7:55pm by Chair Olsen.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Susan L Look, Town Clerk*

## Current Programs at RES and JSMS

Jumpstart and Bridge Programming

iReady Math Program - computerized component part w/ this, workbooks

Zaner Bloser Grammar Books/Program in Special Education Class

Lucy Calkins Writing Program (in place for several years, transitions to where most of our kids will be going to HS)

Middle School supplies kids with agendas

Laptop costs/iPads all in classroom technology and updates

Replacement of library chapter books and reading books - multiple copies

Reading Street (Reading program)

Words their Way (Spelling program)

Google Accounts - may be free? Lots is done with Google

Lexia (Reading program)

iXL if iReady goes away

Handwriting without Tears program

Special Education Room uses LindaMood Bell program for literacy and math program

String Program in music (we have one of the few in the state)

All components of music/band are being taught by trained experts at a full time - could be a revolving door if we made this part time which may have happened in the past

Groundskeeping and maintenance -

Our kids now have access to after school activities that Raymond does not provide (JSMS) swimming/field hockey/skiing (*since joining the RSU*)

Sports/Recreation added into the budget

Curriculum connections would be lost

Special Education support is more broad (math coach, writing coach, special ed coach shared within the district - gives support to the teachers and students)

Have larger classroom budgets now and more resources (*since joining the RSU*)

Have not had a large impactful budget freeze since combining (*since joining the RSU*)

The kinks from the forced combination have worked out

Nutrition program (school nutritionist consultation)

School Resource Officer

Increased school safety (*since joining the RSU*)

Science Curriculum happen earlier

Languages start in 4th grade