Regional School Unit 78
School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 13, 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/vcf-xqhk-cmu
Or dial: (US) +1 260-333-5856 PIN: 218 614 065#
More phone numbers: https://tel.meet/vcf-xqhk-cmu?pin=8290261037364

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

Quorum: 782/997

1. Call to Order

- Mary Richards calls to order at 5:31 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

- Move 10.3 Spanish trip to 10.1, adjust accordingly

4. Approval of Minutes from July 9, 2024 regular board meeting

- Motion to approve minutes from July 9, 2024: Joanne Dunlap
- 2nd: Karen Seaman
- Discussion: Correct committee assignments to:
    - Finance: Robert Greene (Chair), Danielle Lemay, Karen Seaman, Tamara Flewelling, Joanna Farrar, Mary Richards
    - Policy: Kathleen Catrini (Chair), Danielle Lemay, Amber Haley, Joanne Dunlap, Joanna Farrar, Mary Richards
    - Facilities: Danielle Lemay (Chair), Deborah Ladd, Joanna Farrar, Mary Richards

- Passed with adjustments to committee assignments: Unanimously

5. Public Comments

- NONE

6. Presentations: Shawn Russell presentation of new RLRS website

- Shawn presents the pending changes to a new website. The new platform has better features and is more user friendly. It also allows for better communication with families. There is an app where parents can receive notifications.
    - Seth explains more fully about how communication will change. Remind will still be used for two way messaging.
    - Mary asks if Seth will be doing his weekly videos? She appreciates the information he puts out.
        - Seth says, yes, but he is going to look at more time effective ways to do this.

7. Comments
Chair (Mary Richards)

- There is a venue change for committee meetings. All committee meetings will happen in Georgia's office moving forward.
- Will be logging statistics to see how many people actually watch the recordings of our school board meetings. They will be making decisions about whether or not to continue recording and posting all meetings. More information will be brought to the board in the future before changes are made.
- Weds Aug 21st - Board workshop. Information has been sent by email. Two main agenda items: mentoring student representatives and the board ethics policy. There will be a video record for any school board members who cannot attend.
- August 27th - Teacher breakfast. Board will host breakfast on the teacher workshop day before school starts. Come meet the staff if you can.
- Mary understands that everyone is very busy. Please prepare fully for board meetings. Specifically, review policy changes in advance. Policy committee will make an effort to push changes to the board as soon as possible for review.

Superintendent/PreK-5 Principal (Georgia Campbell)

- The building summer work and cleaning is coming along. Teachers have been in the building already preparing their rooms.
- I met with George Bernstein and Michelle Laliberte recently, which are two of the board members that serve on the committee for the Child Development Center being built adjacent to the school. It sounds like they are looking to break ground toward the end of September and hope to be open a year from then. They will be here next month to present what information they have and answer any questions you may have.

    - Ryan Wilbur: Breaking ground Thursday morning. They will try to keep the school road open but may close periodically.
- Our Title I Application has been submitted and approved and we are in the process of spending the last of our ARP ESSER III grant funds. We have $15,284.00 left to spend out of the $410,000.00 granted.
- Our Special Education Audit is complete. Sheila Butterfield and I will be presenting the findings and recommendations soon.

MS/HS Principal (Seth Laliberte)

- Props to Jeff for getting the building together. Staff are in the building doing trainings and meetings. Getting ready for the school year.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Policy Committee: - ~~K. Catrini~~ Mary Richards reports

- Committee met Aug 6th at 3PM. Reviewed a number of policies and established a timeline for the rest of the year to stay on top of policy needs.

8.2 Finance Committee: - R. Greene

- Met today for the first time. Appointed Roxanne Turner as staff liaison. Established systems, guidelines and communications.
- Discussed capital expenses. Will be exploring investment opportunities.

8.3 Facilities Committee – D. Lemay

- Kitchen - appliances going in on Thursday
- COPS Grant: All interior cameras are replaced on a new system. Working on filling in blind spots. Laminate on doors is done. Double door access system is in place. You will no longer be able to enter the vestibule without being let in.
    - Seth and Shawn discuss changes and highlights
        - Exterior cameras are staying on the old system until they can be replaced in the future
- Summer projects: Ball fields are done. Classrooms are almost done. Plumbing lines were inspected and need some work - waiting on a quote, School bus is on order should be here 3rd week of September. Will need to make a decision on whether or not to do undercoating.

9. Appointments, Resignations, Nominations and Transfers

- Appointment: Rohan Doherty as varsity boys assistant coach
- Resignation: Shawn Russell will be slowly transitioning out of the building.
    - Georgia wishes him the best and he will be very missed.
    - Shawn thanks everyone for all of the opportunities and explains his decision to leave. He will be available as needed.
    - Mary thanks him for all of the positive changes he has made in our school.

10. Action Items:

~~10.3~~ 10.1: Approval of Spanish III and IV to attend a foreign country field trip to Costa Rica April 10 - April 17, 2025

- Kate Van Etten presents her proposal. This will be missing 6 school days prior to April vacation. 8 days/7 nights with an optional extension at the end.
- Motion to approve: Danielle Lemay
- 2nd: Tamara Flewelling
- Discussion:
    - Joanne Dunlap clarifies - fundraising and school is expected to pay about half, who pays the other half?
        - Kate: Students and families are expected to come up with the rest.
        - Fundraising is allocated based on participation in fundraisers
    - Mary: If kids want to go and cannot afford it?
        - Kate: Putting the initial starter money in the budget will help with the initial deposits. After that fundraising is a must.
- Passed Unanimously

~~10.1~~ 10.2: Review of 2024-2025 Handbooks:

- **RLRS Student & Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct**
    - Motion to approve with two amendments: 1) take out “school owned” on page 15, in the last paragraph & 2) on page 36: amend wording to contact the office with changes in dismissal plan “by 2PM” to say “at least 30 minutes prior to the end of the school day” - Motion: Robert Greene
    - 2nd: Karen Seaman
    - Discussion:
        - Joanne Dunlap: Do parents get access to this in advance?
            - Seth says it will be on the website once it is approved
        - Danielle Lemay -
            - Changes: Should be notice sent to parents of any changes to the handbooks during the school year.
                - Joanna Farrar clarifies that any changes also have to go through the school board
            - Cyberbullying: page 15 & 16 - this is different in two places.
                - One spot says “any device”, one spot says “any school owned device” - These need to match.
                - Suggestion to take out “school owned” on page 15, in the last paragraph
            - Would like to revisit policy JIH - Parents should be contacted as soon as possible if their student is searched so students hear it from administration not their student
                - Mary asks Danielle to email this suggestion to Kathy for policy consideration
            - Dismissal - page 36: wording to contact the office with changes into dismissal plan “by 2PM” should say “at least 30 minutes prior to the end of the school day”.

- Afternoon dismissal - is there a waiver for student to be released from the bus driver without a parent present in grades K-3?
    - Georgia clarifies that state law only requires this for kindergarten.
    - Mary would like to get a lawyer approval prior to making this change to make sure we are not opening ourselves to liability.
    - Danielle believes this is parent 's choice.
- Passed Unanimously as amended

- **Student & Parent Interscholastic and Extracurricular Handbook**
    - Motion to approve: Karen Seaman
    - 2nd: Tamara Flewelling
    - Discussion:
        - Joanne Dunlap: Page 17 &18 - very bottom - “board embraces Sports Done Right” - What is this?
            - Discussion regarding this policy. They are guidelines used at the state levels. It is summarized in the bullet points on that page. Can also be looked up. Page 19 explains further.
        - Danielle Lemay: Page 9 - awards ceremonies dress codes - this policy is not being followed - remove or enforce
            - Jeff - Outside banquets (such as E/W conference) - are dress attire. Have tried to enforce in the past. Has been an issue historically
            - Agreement that coaches should encourage appropriate dress, but no changes made to wording
        - Quitting a team - page 9, Still concerned that athletes should only be punished for the same sport year to year, not season to season.
            - Jeff: quitting in the pre-season is different than quitting during the season. Concerns about MPA rules if a team has to drop mid-season because an athlete quit.
            - Members discuss. Agreement that athletic director should have discretion. Bob Greene - thinks this is a management issue.
            - It is agreed that, as written, quitting with cause, with athletic director approval does not have the same penalty as quitting without approval.
            - No changes made
        - Robert Greene: Clarify the eligibility changes please?
            - Seth explains the change. Policy as it was works well in high school. At the middle school level, we are trying to build strong programs. Younger middle school students need

more opportunities for learning to manage eligibility. This gives the opportunity to teach middle school students accountability in positive ways. Piloted the idea in the Spring with middle school baseball and had good results.

- Passed Unanimously

- **Employee Handbook**
  - Motion to approve: Tamara Flewelling
  - 2nd: Joanne Dunlap
  - Discussion: None
  - Passed Unanimously

~~10.2~~ 10.3: Revise Policies

- **IKF – Graduation Policy**
  - Motion to revise as proposed: Danielle Lemay
  - 2nd: Tamara Flewelling
  - Discussion: Seth: Removed old language that no longer applies
  - Passed Unanimously
- **IICA – Foreign Travel; School Board Sanctioned & IICA-E – Request for Foreign Travel**
  - Discussion: Mary: under trip approval, changed requirement to "4 weeks prior", other language stricken. Language about requiring parent credit cards removed.
    - Tamara - Need to change the wording on the -E form to "4 weeks prior" to match the policy
    - Robert Greene: Should we have any wording regarding state department travel advisories?
      - Joanna Farrar indicates it is touched on in part 8
        - References to 8.3 seem inaccurate
  - Mary tables the amendment to return to policy for edits.

- **JJJ – Interscholastic Academic Eligibility**
  - Motion to revise as proposed: Joanne Dunlap
  - 2nd: Robert Greene
  - Discussion: Seth: Change of policy that matches the change made in the handbook already approved
  - Passed Unanimously

- **JLCD – Administration of Medication to Students**
  - Motion to revise as proposed: Robert Greene
  - 2nd: Joanne Dunlap

- Discussion: statutory requirement edits from Lindsey Savage (School Nurse)
- Passed Unanimously

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn at 7:12 pm: Danielle Lemay
- 2nd: Tamara Flewelling
- Discussion: none
- Passed Unanimously

Next meeting: September 10, 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 l earning environment.