

**FLAGSTAFF RSU
EUSTIS SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
FEBRUARY 3, 2015
5:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

I. Call to order – Sarah Strunk, Chair

Board members Sue Fotter, Casey Cote, Dave Richards, and Jeff Brickley were present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. See if the Board will approve the minutes of the 1/6/15 Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion to Approve: D. Richards

Seconded: S. Fotter

Vote to approve: 3 - 0 to approve, 2 abstained

IV. Welcome Guests

Larry Warren, Longfellow Mt. Heritage Trails, informed the group of plans for a people powered trail to run from Kingfield to Coburn Gore through Stratton. Funding for construction is coming from a variety of sources and the trail is being planned to run on both public and private lands with access to the Carrabassett River, Dead River, and Flagstaff Lake. The trail would also connect to the Bigelow Preserve, portions of the Huts and Trails system, the Narrow Gauge Pathway, and the Arnold Trail. The trail will run close to the school and it is hoped that the Stratton School will participate in the use and possible maintenance of part of the trail with a connector running from the school to the trail.

Duncan Grant added that it would be good to include high school students in the conversations as he knows of some who would be interested in helping out and using the trail.

V. Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Shea reported on the 2015-2016 Budget. A copy of the working copy of the proposed budget for next year was distributed and changes were discussed. The new budget includes a possible new foreign language / reading teacher position and a half time counselor position resulting in increases in the salary lines. The special education budget was up this year

so the amount of excess revenue will decrease from last year's levels. We have enough in reserve to pay cash for a new bus with a lift. Amounts are being added and subtracted from various lines to better reflect actual expenditures.

VI. Principal's Report

Teachers from grades 3-8 are using a new assessment program from Castle Learning. It is highly customizable for topic, curriculum standards and grade level. They can be used for pre and post-tests. Students get instant feedback and teachers can target specific skills for instruction. Reports can be customized to reflect individual student or whole class performance. The tests are quick and easy to administer. The NWEA tests are still being used and are useful for tracking progress over longer time spans.

N. Beers reported that there is good student buy-in for the Castle Learning program. The tests are easy to set up and quick to administer.

VII. School Board Chair's Report

S. Strunk, after noting that we have used four of our five snow days already this year, questioned what our plan would be if we exceeded five snow days.

V. Collins noted that we could use the teacher workshop day on May 18th as a student day, if needed.

S. Strunk wondered if we could arrange some enrichment activities for the last week of school like a play production group.

D. Richards reported on progress with the school garden project. He has a rough draft of a grant application to the Sugarloaf Charitable Trust for funding. He would like input from the school staff before submitting it.

Future agenda items:

1. S. Strunk asked for the school board, superintendent, and principal to read the introduction and first chapter of the book "Leader's Guide to 21st Century Education," to be discussed in a book talk at the next board meeting, March 3rd 5:30 pm.

2. Update on the school website

3. Review of the Superintendent's performance

VIII. Public Comment

D. Grant appreciates the Peaceful School Bus program. Since implementation the high school bus ride is quieter. The rules are clear, and bullying and foul language on the bus has been reduced. Some students don't like the stricter enforcement, but they are a minority. On the new

Carrabassett bus the presence of cameras has reduced the amount of misbehavior.

M. Shea added that over February break cameras will be installed on the two Flagstaff RSU buses.

IX. Discussion Items

1. Certification of Employment of Supt. of Schools

The state requires school boards to notify the Superintendent of Schools of dismissal or continuation of employment by Dec. 31 of the current year. After discussion all members of the board agreed that they wished to continue employing Michael P. Shea as Superintendent of schools for Flagstaff RSU/Eustis School Department. His contract will be extended for the following school year July1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

X. Action Items

none

Adjournment.