

\*Amended 11-12-02

**Saco Board of Education**  
**Minutes of October 22, 2002**  
**7:00 PM**

**Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rivest, at 7:00 PM. Members present: Chair Allen Rivest, Vice Chair Tim Christenbury, Ronald Morton, Jeffrey Robinson, Superintendent Tomaszewski, Business Manager Terry Towle, Principals Jim Dunn, Steve Marquis, Peter Harrison and Maureen McMullin, Assistant Principal Peter Flaherty and Special Education Director Cathi Faust.

*The Pledge of Allegiance was recited*

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Ron Morton and seconded by Tim Christenbury to approve the Minutes of October 8, 2002 as amended. This motion was passed unanimously (4-0).

**Adjustments to the [Agenda](#)**

The Superintendent asked that Item X.B. Laptop demonstration be moved to directly after Adjustments to the Agenda and Item XI.A. Ferry Beach Ecology School field trip request be moved to directly after X.B.

**Laptop Demonstration**

Jim Dunn disseminated an overview of the laptop presentation, noting Diane Fearon is the teacher leader for the project. Jim noted there are 247 iBooks for the students and that since the laptops have been issued, absences are down. Parent/guardian Orientation night was held on October 15, with 50-60 adults attending.

Diane Fearon used a laptop to show a video of comments from other school districts using the laptops and how they feel the program is going. She also noted Saco Middle School is using a "Three Strikes?---You're Out!" policy. The teachers are to note any abuse of a laptop and after three "strikes" the student will have the laptop taken away for an undetermined amount of time.

E-mail is not now installed on the laptops which currently remain at the school. They will not be Internet-capable when they do "go home."

The Board participated in an on-line Scavenger Hunt on the laptops.

Mrs. Burr, Mr. LePauloue and Mr. Bertrand shared examples of how the laptops were currently being used in the classrooms and what they envision the students be able to do in the future.

Questions and answers followed.

**Ferry Beach Ecology School field trip request**

Carla Cote, grade 5 teacher requested permission for 5<sup>th</sup> graders to spend the night at the Ferry Beach Ecology School.

Steve Marquis mentioned this has been done in the past noting this program expands on the schools ecology program.

A question was asked regarding how integral the program was to the curriculum, or if there was another way to do this.

Peter Flaherty said there are other ways, textbooks and other materials could be used. In the Science Curriculum ecology is covered at grades 4 and 5. Ferry Beach is aligned with the curriculum and the Maine Learning Results. The cost is high (\$17,550 last year) and in the past the funds have been received from PTO, fundraising, a \$50 charge to students and teachers have donated their \$100 stipends that the PTO gives them to help with classroom needs.

Steve Marquis noted the 4<sup>th</sup> graders pay \$15 to spend time at Ferry Beach as well as use funds from the PTO and fund raising. Ferry Beach does fundraising for Saco School's and has raised \$10,000 leaving \$24,000 to be paid (total cost of the program is \$34,000). Parents are looking into options for fundraising.

Tim Christenbury voiced concern that students are having to pay for their education.

A motion was made by Allen Rivest and seconded by Tim Christenbury to grant dispensation from the Field trip policy to allow C.K. Burns 5<sup>th</sup> grade to participate in the overnight field trip at Ferry Beach Ecology School. Voted 4-0. Motion passed.

\*Jeff Robinson asked if in the event you can't raise the sufficient amount of funds and having already committed to the school, what would be the next step, would you expect us to cover?

\*Steve Marquis answered no, he believes there would be other options they could look into.

Discussion was held on how to support the program, where funds could come from, if grants could be found to help fund the program and that though the Board may grant dispensation from the field trip policy tonight, it is not to set a precedent for future requests.

Hazel Hill, grade 5 teacher explained if the money was not spent for Ferry Beach Ecology School, that the same amount of money would be needed to buy the necessary materials to teach the program in the classroom.

### **Correspondence**

The Superintendent noted that notes from the Mohlin Building workshop had been included in the Board's packet.

Superintendent Tomaszewski mentioned a thank you letter from Drummond Woodsum & MacMahon had been received for her participation as a guest speaker in their New Superintendents Seminar on October 4.

### **Public Session**

None

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Tomaszewski mentioned the Dayton School Committee heard the "Add 6" report and recommendation at their last Committee meeting. They also heard an update from Thornton Academy on their Middle School proposal. The Committee elected to hold a public meeting for input on November 19, if the

Arundel vote is positive toward the TA proposal.

The Superintendent spent early release afternoon at Burns School discussing the report cards.

The Superintendent continues to meet bi-weekly with Administrators for individual supervision meetings, and with the Leadership Team bi-weekly.

The facilities tours are complete. The committee will now collate the lists, price them out and develop recommendations.

The Superintendent noted that several of the Board members attended the Workshop with the City Council on 10/15/02 regarding the Mohlin Building. The City attorney is looking into the lease-purchase arrangement with the State; CIP members met on 10/21/02 and Terry Towle and the Superintendent are developing the presentation to take to the Board then to City Council regarding needs and a plan to accomplish the needed work, including funding recommendations.

The DRAFT Facilities agreement with the City was distributed to Board members for their review. She asked for comments to be addressed to Tim Christenbury or herself and they will revise the draft, bring back to the Board and then take to the city. A Board and Council approval of the agreement will be necessary.

The Superintendent recently visited Saco Middle School and Burns where she observed Stan Davis working with Rich Larson's group on planning to introduce the third grade students to the Counter Bullying Program.

The Superintendent reminded the Board the SMS Open House is on 10/29 from 5:30 -7. Brief Opening remarks will be at 5:45 followed by tours of the building.

### **Staff Reports**

Allen Rivest asked if the new procedure was meeting the needs of the administrators.

The administrators said it was.

### **Committee Reports**

Policy Committee – Nothing to report.

Facilities Committee – Tim Christenbury mentioned they finished their tours today, ending with Open Door and Saco Middle School. The Committee will now get estimates and start rating projects. He also noted he was not totally comfortable with the Facilities agreement draft and would like revisions.

He said in regards to the Mohlin Building there was some discussion that the best way would be for the school to enter a lease-purchase agreement and apply for state funds. The City is exploring that option.

Ron Morton expressed concern that this was happening now that they know all the problems with the building.

Tim Christenbury noted the money would have to come from the City initially, either through a loan or CIP but that has not been decided yet.

The Superintendent noted that was part of the plan to be presented to the Board and City and that the lease-purchase option is being researched.

Allen Rivest noted the Council approved unanimously to fund the roof.

Ron Morton asked they stay on top of the money needed for the building.

Allen Rivest asked if deeding the building to the School Department has been considered.

The Superintendent noted that was also being looked into.

Allen Rivest asked for clarification that any transaction would be in writing.

Terry Towle said that the lease-purchase option has been done before and it was a way to get state funding.

CIP Committee – No report – They have not met

### **Old Business/Action Items**

#### **School Board Meeting pamphlet**

The Superintendent noted the pamphlet had been updated with the changes requested by the Board at the last meeting. She also mentioned Marc Meserve had asked that the front page read "To Our Board of Education Meeting."

Discussion was held on the public participation policy and if the sentence regarding "...opportunity for public comment during the consideration of each major agenda item." should be changed or struck as it was not the policy now. Decision was made to leave it as it gave the public more opportunity for input.

### **New Business/Action Items**

#### **Nomination of Special Ed Teacher at Burns**

A motion was made by Ron Morton and seconded by Tim Christenbury to approve the nomination of Carol Hall as a Special Ed Teacher for 1 year. Voted 4-0. Motion passed.

#### **Nomination of 3 day Guidance Counselor at Fairfield**

A motion was made by Allen Rivest and seconded by Tim Christenbury to approve the nomination of Marianne Tozier as a 3 day Guidance Counselor at Fairfield School. Voted 4-0. Motion passed.

Ron Morton asked for clarification on the responsibilities of the position.

Maureen McMullin said the position would have more contact with the parents and would entail individual counseling if needed.

#### **Nomination of Behavior Consultant – District Wide**

A motion was made by Ron Morton and seconded by Tim Christenbury to approve the nomination of Dorothy Carroll as District Wide Behavior Consultant. Voted 4-0. Motion passed.

Ron Morton asked for clarification on the job responsibilities.

Cathi Faust noted the nominee would work with special education students with emotional behavior disabilities. She would also work on behavior plans.

Allen Rivest asked if the title "consultant" meant she has extensive experience or if it was used to cover all the schools.

Cathi Faust said she would be consulting only, hence the title.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and adoption of Policy JLF – Reporting Child Abuse**

A motion was made by Allen Rivest and seconded by Ron Morton to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and adoption of Policy JLF – Reporting Child Abuse. Voted 4-0. Motion passed.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and adoption of Policy JJE – Fund Raising**

Allen Rivest said his concern with the sentence regarding prizes is that we are dependent on the generosity of the PTO and feels the sentence should be struck [so prizes could be awarded].

Jeff Robinson asked if the language used included certificates.

The Superintendent said it would cover an award given to an individual student.

Tim Christenbury asked if this would apply to PTO's and was told it would.

Peter Flaherty said since he has worked at the schools they have gone from giving prizes to not giving prizes. He likes to give appreciation for the students going out and fund raising.

Discussion was held on having prizes or not.

Ron Morton explained why the sentence had been put in when the policy was first developed. The thought was some students could be intimidated by the competitiveness of the parents to have the child get a prize.

Discussion was held on the benefits of fundraising.

A motion was made by Allen Rivest and seconded by Tim Christenbury to table the discussion of the policy and send it back to the Policy Committee for further consideration. Voted 4-0. Motion passed.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Policy JLCB - Immunizations**

A motion was made by Allen Rivest and seconded by Ron Morton to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Policy JLCB - Immunizations. Voted 4-0. Motion passed.

### **Acceptance of donations to Saco Middle School**

A motion was made by Allen Rivest and seconded by Ron Morton to accept the proposed donation of Saco & Biddeford Savings of \$350 as proposed. Voted 3-1 (Allen Rivest). Motion passed.

A brief discussion was held on the donations of \$175 each going to a specific team and if it was in the best interest of the school to have them go to a specific team.

### **Acceptance of a donation of furniture from Saco & Biddeford Savings**

A motion was made by Allen Rivest and seconded by Tim Christenbury accept the donation of several items of furniture from Saco & Biddeford Savings to Saco Middle School. Voted 4-0. Motion passed.

Discussion was held on what the items might be and how they would be delivered. Mr. Dunn explained this is used furniture – office items such as desks, file cabinets or reception area chairs. It is delivered at no charge to the school.

**Acceptance of a donation from Patrick Dillon of Dunstan Puffin Stop and ExxonMobil Alliance Energy Corporation**

A motion was made by Allen Rivest and seconded by Jeff Robinson to accept the \$500 donation from Patrick Dillon of Dunstan Puffin Stop and ExxonMobil Alliance Energy Corporation. Voted 4-0. Motion passed.

Jim Dunn told the Board the former principal, Jim Walsh discovered this grant was available so he created and submitted a proposal. The only condition is the school needs to make a public notice that this was received.

**Executive Session**

A motion was made by Allen Rivest and seconded by Tim Christenbury to enter Executive Session at 8:55 PM to discuss the protocols and procedures of the Superintendent's evaluation. Voted 4-0. Motion passed.

Chair Rivest declared the Board out of Executive Session at 9:22 AM.

**Action(s) as Result of Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Ron Morton and seconded by Jeff Robinson at 9:24 PM. Voted 4-0.

Minutes prepared by: Respectfully submitted by:

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Tonya S. Muchemore, Recorder Elaine Tomaszewski, Superintendent

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