

**Saco Board of Education
Minutes of April 11, 2006
7:00 PM**

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mayor Johnston, at 7:00 PM. Members present: Chair Mayor Johnston, Vice Chair Galli, Jeff Robinson, Lorraine Whelan, Beth Johnston, Dan Cabral, David Versel, Superintendent Lafortune, Principals Rick Talbot, Peter Harrison, Steve Marquis, Maureen McMullin, Special Services Director Cathi Faust, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Carol Marcotte and Technology Director Justin Cole.

Members Absent: Cindy Belanger

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Approval of Minutes dated March 14, 2006

The Mayor asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes after their review. Seeing none the minutes were accepted as written.

Adjustment to the Agenda

Executive Session

Item XI.B. – Agreement to continue joint Adult Education program with Old Orchard Beach

Correspondence**Expenditure Report**

The Expenditure Report for March was reviewed by the Board. Superintendent Lafortune reported they are at approximately 75%.

Public Session

None

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent congratulated Mrs. Pulsifer and Young School for receiving the "Making the Grade" achievement award. This is a State Board of Education award for \$500.

A written update on Staff Development was distributed to the Board for review.

The Superintendent reported he had received a letter from Marcia Cook, Adult Education Consultant from the State regarding a monitoring visit of the Old Orchard Beach/Saco Adult and Community Education's federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) grant. Ms. Cook reported they were favorably impressed with what they observed.

Staff Reports**Presentation by Alternative Education Program students and Sharon Ultsch**

Sharon Ultsch reported on all the different programs offered. She also noted there had been a state review and they were recommending the Adult Education for acknowledgement.

Dave Durkee, an Alternative Education teacher invited the Board to visit. He noted the program was a chance for students to have a fresh start. He explained the process the students must go through in order to attend, comparing it with an interview process, and described the structure of the program. Mr. Durkee noted they have a 40-50% graduate rate, 50-60% of students have attended college and they have a 90% attendance rate.

John Ramsey, an Alternative Education student informed the Board his Guidance Counselor gave him three choices with the Alternative Ed program as one. He told the Board he would not have enough credits to graduate and at this school he was able to receive hands-on help and that was the key to his success.

Casey Fitzgerald, another Alternative Education student told the Board the program had changed her outlook on school. She went from being absent all the time and failing to enjoying school and getting good grades. She never thought college would be a possibility and will now be going to UNE.

Jeff Robinson asked how many students were graduating this year and was informed there were 5.

Agreement to continue joint Adult Education program with Old Orchard Beach

A motion was made by David Galli, seconded by Lorraine Whelan to continue the agreement with Old Orchard Beach Adult Education. Voted unanimously. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Calendar - Superintendent Lafortune noted they had made one change on the calendar before it was brought forth.

Advisory Council – David Galli reported the goal of the Council was for more teacher involvement, which has happened. They also discussed the collaborative meeting on March 20, 95% of the attendees said they should do the collaboration again next year. The change on the Calendar was for the date of the collaborative meeting on March 16.

Technology – David Versel reported that Justin Cole had presented a long term plan.

Gifted & Talented – David Versel reported on the plan for the Gifted and Talented Program.

Old Business/Action Items

None

New Business/Action Items

1 st Reading of the 2006-2007 School Calendar

A motion was made by David Galli, seconded by Dan Cabral to approve the 1 st Reading of the 2006-2007 School Calendar. Voted unanimously. Motion passed.

Mayor Johnston noted he would like to know the following information: where we stand on student days and how we compare with school hours and days versus other schools in the district, as well as how and when half days are determined.

Executive Session

A motion was made by David Galli, seconded by David Versel to enter into Executive Session at 7:30 PM to discuss a personnel issue pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A). Voted unanimously. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Galli, seconded by David Versel to exit Executive Session at 7:53 PM. Voted unanimously. Motion passed.

Action(s) as a Result of Executive Session

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by David Galli, seconded by David Versel to adjourn at 7:54 PM. Voted unanimously. Motion passed.

Minutes prepared by:

Tonya S. Muchemore, Transcriber

Respectfully submitted by:

Michael Lafortune, Superintendent

ã2000 Saco School Department, All Rights Reserved