

Operations Committee Meeting

AGENDA/MINUTES

Monday, March 27, 2017

5:00 – 6:00 P.M.

Elm Street School

Members Present: **Aaron Ouellette**, Steve Holbrook, Mary Martin, Norm Davis

Members Absent: Annette Hemond

Other BODs Present: Jack Wiseman

Administrators Present: John Hawley, Tina Meserve, Tom Kelly

Staff Members Present: **Sue Harris, Bus Driver**

Item 1: Traffic Egress Issues at High School Aaron Ouellette

Board members have been hearing concerns regarding the intersection at the high school and congestion issues. The Committee discussed ways to remedy the problem. Sue Harris was here to discuss the issues faced by the bus drivers. She shared that having the drop-off at 7:20 a.m. for Poland and Mechanic Falls buses means that there is a bottleneck with buses and parents dropping off students at the same time. Tina suggested discussing the timeline with administration to see if they can help solve the process. A suggestion was made for Poland to drop off at 7:15 a.m. to spread out the drop-off times a little bit. Minot is 7:10 a.m. John will speak with the Sheriff's department and Poland selectman to discuss this safety issue and see if they can support drivers on

Route 26 during the arrival and departure of buses and students from the school. Buses are supposed to leave at 2:10 p.m. John will speak with the administrative team and brainstorm solutions. A second means of egress was also mentioned for buses, but due to the already maximized impervious surface allowed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, it is highly unlikely that could happen. It would also be a significant expense to the RSU at a time when budgets are so tight.

Item 2: Middle School Project Timeline (SP. D.1.a) John Hawley

Following last month's public forum, there was some discussion and guidance to propose to the Building Committee a "Plan B" option. Committee feels like we should look at getting kids out of the modular and improve safety. This would be the minimum project rather than full expansion and renovation to get a single entrance into the building.

Item 3: Food Service Collections John Hawley

Recent contracting with a collections agency has had positive results and some not-so-positive reactions. John provided an update to the committee. The first letters went out on March 16th. We have seen a strong increase in payment of delinquent bills. John gave an update regarding progress so far. There aren't any significant shifts as the collection agency has not reported back to the RSU as to how much has been collected thus far. John said they verbally stated it was a little more than \$900. John stated that because students are still charging meals, we may not see a significant reduction until after the end of the school year when meals actually stop being served. He will give an update at the May Board meeting. The collection agency is going after anyone with more than \$25 in charges.

John also shared that we are still losing money in food service. Part of the problem is that some food service employees had been increased (over the last several years) in hours above the 6 hours that the contract identifies as full time. John and Ellen have worked on a plan for next year to move our food service staff back to the original 6 hours. This will save money, but since we are overspending on labor it is just correcting itself in regards to budgeting.

Adjourned: 6:09 pm