

**Blue Hill School Committee Meeting**  
**June 13, 2007**  
**Blue Hill Consolidated School**  
**Minutes**

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Ben Wootten followed by the salute to the flag.

Members Present: Ben Wootten; Jon Smallidge; Alice Herrick

Members Absent: Susan Keenan; John Richardson

Others Present: Denis Howard; Art Wittine; Fred Cole; Gail Breslin-Keith; Barbara Peppey; Frank Wanning; Jan Snow; Melanie Flynn; Vaughn Leach

**B. Flag Salute – Done**

Following the salute to the flag, Chair Ben Wootten welcomed new Superintendent Art Wittine. He wished Superintendent Howard well and thanked him for filling in this year.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

Motion by Jon Smallidge and seconded by Alice Herrick to approve the agenda with the addition of item 4b. “Discussion of Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Testing Program” under E. Communications and to switch items I. New Business #1 and I. New Business #3.

Motion passed 3-0-0.

**D. Approval of Minutes of Previous School Board Meetings**

1. Jon Smallidge moved and Alice Herrick seconded to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2007 meeting. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**E. Communications**

1. Letter of Resignation from Amy Rothe  
Ben Wootten acknowledged the letter of resignation from Amy Rothe, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher.
2. Thank you note from Susan Snyder  
Superintendent Howard read a card of thanks to the School Committee from Susan Snyder.
3. Healthy Peninsula- School Health Coordinator Presentation – Barbara Peppey distributed literature and gave a brief history of the proposed grant from tobacco money. The grant is to establish a School Health Coordinator for Union 93. The 3-year flat funded position is to coordinate health education, physical fitness, wellness and nutrition within Union 93. All four Union 93 schools need to approve this. There is no grant match from the local unit.  
Jon Smallidge indicated he is in favor of moving this grant forward. It will be an agenda item in July. Continued on page 2.

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### **E. Communications (continued)**

#### **4. a. Presentation of the GSA Math Scores (Grades 9-12)**

Gail Breslin-Keith distributed some literature to the Board and highlighted the handouts. She explained that all Union 93 students (8<sup>th</sup> graders) were given a Basic Skills Computation Test at GSA. The data was not broken down by school and the validity of the instrument is unknown.

b. Gail Breslin-Keith also made an excellent presentation about the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Testing Program. Gail, Ben Wootten, and John Richardson had listened to a presentation from a sales representative. Presently, 93 districts in Maine use this assessment. It is an electronic test that can be administered four (4) times yearly breaking down specific skills. It costs approximately \$12.50 per student. After some discussion, it was agreed to revisit this in July.

#### **5. PTF Update – No update.**

### **F. Comments and/or Questions from the Public**

Alice Herrick raised a concern about the East Blue Hill bus run being 15 minutes earlier than normal. Principal Cole will follow up with Laidlaw Bus Company.

### **G. Information**

1. GSA Report - Frank Wanning reported that there was a recent “going away” party for Jody Douglass and that John Greene is passionately taking the helm for a year to allow the Trustees to do a national search for a Head of School.
2. Principal’s Report – Principal Cole distributed his written report and noted that Board member Susan Keenan will represent the Board on the Interview Committee for the vacant positions. He praised the volunteers for their efforts and indicated the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip went well. Principal Cole also pointed out that only (4) four lead teachers will be used in 2007-2008.
3. Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Howard reiterated the state subsidy shortfall of \$38,082.00 and urged the Board not to panic, but proceed cautiously for a couple of months. He also informed the Board that he had applied and received reimbursement (50%) of the Capital Asset Management expenses incurred through the Sewall facility study done a couple of years ago. Superintendent Howard also updated those present on the most recent information on the consolidation effort. He urged all members to attend the regional meeting scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup> at Ellsworth High School. More information is available on the State web page or visit [www.msmaweb.com](http://www.msmaweb.com). Mr. Howard also mentioned that the next 6-8 months will need to focus on “consolidation”. Chair Ben Wootten indicated that the Board’s goals should be consolidation and curriculum, testing, and grading. He also said the Board should have Gail Breslin-Keith at every meeting.

#### **4. Other Reports-None**

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**H. Old Business**

1. Board Goals – This was discussed under Superintendent’s Report.

**I. New Business**

3. To Award Rubbish Bid for the 2007-2008 School Year

A motion by Jon Smallidge and seconded by Alice Herrick to award the Rubbish Removal Bid to Vaughn W. Leach of Blue Hill Disposal for the same price as the last two years effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Motion passed 3-0-0.

2. Discussion of Class Size

Principal Fred Cole distributed some numbers regarding class size. After some discussion as to guidelines, make up of various classes, etc, it was agreed that there is no magic number. Principal Cole indicated he will keep the Board informed as numbers fluctuate.

No action taken.

1. Motion by Alice Herrick and seconded by Jon Smallidge to accept the Amy Rothe’s letter of resignation effective the end of the 2006-2007 school year and to authorize the superintendent to post the position.

Motion passed 3-0-0.

4. A motion by Jon Smallidge and seconded by Alice Herrick to appoint Gary Mitchell as Asbestos Coordinator for the 2007-2008 school year.

Motion passed 3-0-0.

5. Discussion of Teacher Recognition Program – Superintendent Howard provided the Board some research he had done. He urged the Board not to develop a policy for recognition, but gave several options including public recognition at Board meetings. After some discussion, it was agreed to not have a policy.

No action taken.

**J. Signing of Vouchers – The vouchers were signed.**

**K. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis L. Howard, Ed. D.  
Superintendent