

**Blue Hill School Committee Meeting
December 10, 2008
Blue Hill Consolidated School
Minutes**

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Chair Ben Wootten followed by the salute to the flag.

Members Present: Ben Wootten; John Richardson; Alice Herrick; Jon Smallidge

Members Absent: Susan Keenan

Others Present: Art Wittine; Fred Cole; John Bannister; Jim Schatz; Rolly Means; Audrey Means; Lori Wessel; Maryanne Lewandowski; Julie Dugas; Frank Wanning; Cathy Snow; Megan Granger; Beth Jackson; Jan Snow; Libby Rosemeier; Kathy Hally; Shelly Latham; Don Eley; Meredith Eley; Della Martin; Colin Powell, reporter for the Weekly Packet.

B. Flag Salute

* AOS Update – Public Hearing

Ben Wootten chaired a “Question and Answer” session on our current AOS Plan and answered questions from an audience of nineteen people.

The AOS Hearing ended at 7:13 p.m.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous School Board Meetings

1. John Richardson moved and Jon Smallidge seconded to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

D. Approval of the Agenda

John Richardson moved and Jon Smallidge seconded to approve the agenda with a brief five to ten minute budget presentation by Art Wittine prior to I. New Business item #5. Motion passed 4-0.

E. Communications

1. PTF Update – Beth Jackson’s report included recent activities such as the Holiday Craft Fair; the Winter Clothing & Gear Exchange and Thanksgiving Dinners for eleven families. Upcoming activities for December included the Holiday Craft Workshop and Helping Hands Holiday Ham Dinners. January and February will include Movie Nights; Soup Supper for Fuel Assistance; Family Carnival and Health Focus.
2. Principal’s Update on Teacher Evaluation Process – Fred Cole’s report is attached to the office minutes.

F. Comments and/or Questions from the Public – None

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G. Reports

1. GSA Report – Libby Rosemeier was present and gave an oral report. A report will be emailed and attached to the office minutes.
2. Principal's Report – Fred Cole's report is attached to the office minutes. His report included that communication has begun between BHCS and GSA regarding the possibility of allowing our students to try and "test out" of Spanish I. A "placement test" of sorts may be developed. The report card session was the smoothest since the switch over to PowerSchool.
3. Superintendent's Report – Art Wittine's report is attached to the office minutes. Some of the items covered from the report are as follows: A November 24, 2008 MSMA Bulletin on cuts in State Aid; proposed reductions in State General Purpose Aid to schools; a letter of approval from Commissioner Gendron for our AOS Plan; Public Hearing dates are set for the nine towns in our proposed AOS; estimated financial penalties for towns that vote not to join the AOS; a memo from Drummond/Woodsum on precautions to take when considering staff reductions in reaction to subsidy reductions; a memo from MSMA on the possible delay of 403(b) regulation changes; budget freeze remains in effect; the public hearing on the AOS Plan is scheduled for Thursday, January 15th, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. He also reported that Amanda Lynde was appointed the Cheering Coach; Melissa Emerton is the Boys "B" Basketball Coach; Brian Snow is the Girls "B" Basketball Coach.
4. Other Reports – None at this time.

H. Old Business

1. AOS Update – This was covered at the 6:30 p.m. session.
2. Board Goals are attached to the office minutes.
3. Jon Smallidge moved and Alice Herrick seconded to approve the Crisis Response Plan that was presented to the Board. Motion passed 4-0.

I. New Business

1. The amount of class time allotted for each subject was discussed by the Board. Attached to the office minutes is a table of minutes spent in each subject, per week with an explanation.
2. Discussion of the BEEM Board – No action.
3. Consideration to approve the immediate implementation of Direct Deposit – Alice Herrick moved and Jon Smallidge seconded to immediately implement direct deposit as an option to any employee of the Blue Hill School Department. Direct deposit must be 100% of the employee's payroll check and may be divided among up to three separate banks. Motion passed 4-0.
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I. New Business (continued)

4. Discussion of 403(b)

Alice Herrick moved and Jon Smallidge seconded to approve using CPI as the plan provider for 403(b) employees of Blue Hill Consolidated School. Motion passed 4-0.

5. There was discussion of the draft 2009-2010 school year budget. A budget workshop was scheduled for December 23rd at 5:00 PM at the BHCS.

6. Jon Smallidge moved and John Richardson seconded to enter into an executive session per 1 MRSA section 405 (6)(D) for the purpose of negotiations updates with the Board and Art Wittine.

Time In: 8:42 p.m.

Time Out: 9:16 p.m.

No action upon returning to open session.

J. Signing of Vouchers – The vouchers were signed.

K. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Wittine
Superintendent