

Friends of RSU 16

Meeting Minutes, February 8, 2019

Present: Mary Martin, Ken Healey, Eriks Peterson, Norm Davis, Carl Beckett, Hester Gilpatrick, Dave Gilpatrick, Dave Griffiths, Yvon Gilbert, Arthur Reed, Rick Benoit, a Poland parent (Brett) and grade 5 students from Ms. Ferland's class at Poland Community School

Welcome/Introductions: Introductions were made.

Presentation: Grade 5 play based on the book " Serafina and the Black Cloak": The grade five students performed a play that they had written collaboratively.

Tri-Town Education Fund: Dave Griffiths reported that the Tri-Town Education Fund, which is currently focusing on STEM projects at the middle school, will be purchasing some drones for students to work with.

Homelessness Discussion: Ken discussed the services offered to homeless students in RSU 16. The McKinney Vento Act requires all school district to have a designated staff member to track and support homeless youths. Jenny Rose is the RSU 16 Homeless Liaison. RSU 16 has identified 17 homeless youths so far this school year (8 at ESS, 1 at PCS, 1 at BMW, and 7 at PRHS). Ken discussed the definition of homelessness as families and students that lack a fixed, adequate, and regular nighttime residence. The importance of providing food and support to homeless students was discussed and the challenges within the food service program.

Middle School Update: Bids for construction of the middle school renovation are now being reviewed and the RSU 16 School Board will approve the "least expensive qualified bid" at their next meeting. Phase 1 will be construction of the new middle school wing and phase two will be the combined BMW/PRHS entrance and high school modifications. Construction should start in March with the new wing open to students in January 2020.

Bus Drivers: RSU 16 currently has a shortage of three bus drivers.

Meeting Schedule: Friends of RSU 16 will meet the second Friday of each month during the school year. (March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, June 14th)

Next Meeting: The next meeting of Friends of RSU 16 will be March 8th at Elm Street School Conference room at 9:00. **Agenda items:** Budget update and school calendar