

**Meeting of Board of Directors
November 7, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Skowhegan Area Middle School**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 54 was held on November 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (892 present, 107 absent):

Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Daniel Frey (Smith-27) ABSENT
Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Michelle Taylor* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Janet Burrill (Canaan-43) PRESENT	Timothy Williams* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Valerie Coulombe (Norr-46) PRESENT	*Excused
Karyn Curran (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Samantha Delorie (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Lauren Fox (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Tanya Groce (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Michelle Kelso (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Janice Malek (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Julian Payne (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	

Olivia Huff – Student Representative

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

a. Flag Salute followed.

2. Good News and Recognitions

Matthew Bigelow, School Counselor at Skowhegan Area Middle School, presented to the Board on the iPower Program (public outreach with educational responsibilities) with a main focus on mental health, substance abuse, civil rights, online safety and the dangers of human trafficking. The

Middle School iPower team has done this work in collaboration with mental health associations, local law enforcement, Somerset Public Health and NAMI. December 13th state troopers and technology training base canine units will speak to students about online safety and human trafficking. SAMS staff is committed to raising awareness about these and other important issues for students, families and our community.

3. Approval of the Minutes - 10/17/24

ON A MOTION BY Julian Payne, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 10/17/24 into the record. (892 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted the following letters of resignation:

- Sarah Young, Reading Recovery Teacher at Bloomfield Elementary School
- Caryl Rizkallah, Ed Tech at Mill Stream Elementary School
- Promise Patterson, Ed Tech at Bloomfield Elementary School
- Jessica Gifford, Ed Tech at Mill Stream Elementary School

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Barbara Clement, School Nutrition at North Elementary School (42 years of service).

b. School Personnel

There were no school personnel who wished to speak.

c. Visitors

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – 10/17/24

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 10/17/24 into the public record. (892 yes)

Theresa Howard reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

b. Building Committee – 10/22/24

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Building Committee meeting of 10/22/24 into the public record. (892 yes)

Superintendent Moody reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

Superintendent Moody reviewed vacancies and recommended the Board's approval of nominations.

ON A MOTION BY Desiree Libby, seconded by Janice Malek, the Board voted to approve nomination pages one and two. (892 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of November 7, 2024, Canaan, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current on their monthly assessments. Cornville was outstanding for October and November and Skowhegan was outstanding for September, October and November. Assessments are due on the 20th of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The Building Committee's next meeting is scheduled for December 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the SAMS Library. The Percent for Art Committee will also meet on December 11th at 10:30 a.m. and will discuss the editing of release for artists.

d. Final Review of ARP, Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody presented a final review of ARP/pandemic related spending and a summary which included Class Size Reduction; Summer Programming; Pre-K Expansion; Extended School Day; COVID Response Coordination and Management; Other Staffing; Instructional Technology; COVID Response and Mitigation; COVID Mitigation Air Quality Project; Social Work, Counseling and Social Emotional Learning; and Wireless Network Upgrade. The district benefited significantly from these funds; the Superintendent noted that the Board's management of the budget was responsible to taxpayers as MSAD54 avoided the fiscal cliff seen by some districts who moved Covid staff into new positions in the regular budget, driving up local-only costs. MSAD54 focused spending in areas that had the biggest positive impact on students.

e. Update on MSBA Delegate Assembly and Fall Conference

Board member, Karyn Curran (Skow), reported on the MSBA Delegate Assembly and reviewed the various resolutions that were voted on.

Board members who attended the Fall Conference shared topics on various sessions attended, including AI.

f. FY26 Budget

Superintendent Moody shared that he represents Maine Superintendents on the State Funding Committee and that at their last meeting they heard a presentation from MEPRI (USM) group that was directed by the legislature to study the state's funding formula for schools. Their work could have a significant impact on local taxpayers.

Superintendent Moody is meeting with staff from each school to talk about the budget and instituting a freeze.

g. Computation and Declaration of Votes

The results of the Bus Garage Location Referendum were shared. The total number of votes cast in all of the municipalities within MSAD 54 in the affirmative on Question 1 of the Warrant and Notice of Election of the District Referendum held November 5, 2024, relating to the proposed change of location of the replacement bus garage, which was previously approved as part of the new Early Childhood through Grade 5 elementary school project is 7,180, and the total number of votes cast in all of the municipalities in the District in the negative on said Question is 2,001.

The Board voted on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Amy Rouse, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted that the Computation and Declaration of Votes dated November 7, 2024 and attached hereto be approved.

FURTHER VOTED: That the Computation and Declaration of Votes be entered upon the records of Maine School Administrative District No. 54.

FURTHER VOTED: That a certified copy of the Computation and Declaration of Votes be sent to each of the municipal clerks within the District. (892 yes)

h. Other

Superintendent Moody shared that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Education Association to make the last staff workshop day an early release day.

The ASPIRE newsletter will be shared with the Board.

Superintendent Moody presented Theresa Howard an award certificate from the MSBA for her 12 years of service to the Board.

Superintendent Moody will be in Washington D.C. next week to attend the Superintendent of the Year Gala (2024 Awardees).

Current enrollment, as of 11/7/24, was 2,210 (last report – 2,186).

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch reported that he has been visiting Thomas College to interview students for potential substitute teaching opportunities.

Mr. Hatch has been attending lunch meetings with groups of students from SAHS/SCTC and MSLC, with a main focus on motivation and aspirations. Students' feedback has been positive, especially on connections with teachers and the remediation process.

As part of the First 10 Community School Grant, which focuses on developing pathways to Kindergarten, Mr. Hatch has been meeting with local childcare providers. Casey Purrington, our First 10 Community School Outreach Coordinator, helped facilitate these engagements.

The Support Services Manager, David Leavitt, asked the Board for approval to move forward with the process to submit a \$70,000 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant to purchase two propane buses. Following questions and comments, the following motion was made:

ON A MOTION BY Janet Burrill, seconded by Samantha Delorie, the Board voted to approve the submission of a \$70,000 EPA Grant to purchase two propane buses. (892 yes)

Mr. Leavitt updated the Board on the new school construction project. The Contractor is now heating the building and paving has begun. Seismic monitoring started on North School Street due to some vibration issues with area houses caused by compacting. Window installation continues, brick work is nearing completion, and steel is in place on main floor from lobby up to the second floor.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business discussed.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no new business presented.

10. Executive Session – Personnel Matter pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405(6)(A)

ON A MOTION BY Sara Smith, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to enter into executive session at 8:51 p.m. Student Discipline Matter pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405(A). (892 yes)

The Board returned to regular session at 8:48 p.m.

ON A MOTION BY Samantha Delorie, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to enter into executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss Personnel Matter pursuant to *Title 1 MRSA §405(6)(A)*. (892 yes)

The Board returned to regular session at 9:21 p.m. and the following motion was made:

ON A MOTION BY Mark Bedard, seconded by Julian Payne, the Board voted that For the purpose of the statute (*20-A MRSA §1002*) an "Employee" does not mean an individual who provides services through the district as part of a contracted service. (476 yes, 416 no).

11. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools