

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
February 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Skowhegan Area High School**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 54 was held on February 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (542 present, 404 absent, 53 vacancy):

Rebecca Anderson (Smith-27) PRESENT	Dixie Ring* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Gary Sinclair* (Corn-30) ABSENT
Alicia Boulette (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	VACANCY (Skow-53)
Daniel Frey (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Morrigan McLeod (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Brandy Morgan (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Jennifer Poirier (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Gerry Redlevske (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Kathy Wilder (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Jacqueline Wolinski (Skow-53) PRESENT- left early	

1. Call to Order

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

a. Flag Salute followed.

Rebecca Anderson, Smithfield, was welcomed to the School Board.

2. Good News and Recognitions

Civil Rights Team Advisors from Bloomfield, Margaret Chase Smith, Mill Stream Elementary, as well as the Middle and High Schools, presented to

the Board. Advisors shared information on the various teams and shared the mission statement. Students shared with the board why they are on the Civil Rights Team as well as various projects and activities they have done.

3. Approval of the Minutes – 2/3/22

ON A MOTION BY Peggy Lovejoy, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors’ meeting of 2/3/22 into the record. (873 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Steven Swindells, Principal of Canaan Elementary School, effective June 30, 2022.

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Susan Fickett, Ed Tech at Mill Stream Elementary School, effective June 2022.

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Virginia Iba, Elementary Remote Teacher.

b. School Personnel

Steve Swindells, Principal of Canaan Elementary School, thanked the Board for the great things we are doing for the kids.

c. Visitors

John Grohs, spoke on the ROTC program being implemented at the Skowhegan Area High School. Superintendent Moody indicated that more information on the program will be gathered and the high school will review.

Parent, Shelley Dodge, shared her concerns that there has been no information given regarding whether there is going to be a prom, and stressed that especially high school students, regardless of COVID, need

to make memories. Shelley indicated she had not talked to anyone at the High School about her concerns.

5. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – 2/3/22

ON A MOTION BY Mark Bedard, seconded by Brandy Morgan, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 2/3/22 into the public record. (873 yes)

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

b. Support Services Committee – 2/9/22

ON A MOTION BY Kathy Wilder, seconded by Brandy Morgan, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 2/9/22 into the public record. (820 yes)

Jean Franklin, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes. Due to the lack of a quorum, recommendations for the approval of funding for SRRF Projects and the establishment of Marc G. Poulin Scholarship Fund will be discussed at the next committee meeting on March 10.

The consensus of the Committee was to bring the recommendation of donation before the Board.

ON A MOTION BY Mark Bedard, seconded by Jennifer Poirier, the Board voted to accept the following funds:

- **\$964.46 grant from JMG's STEM Pilot Project to the Skowhegan Area High School ECO Team**
- **\$300 grant from the Skowhegan Fire Department to the Skowhegan Area High School Outing Club**

(820 yes)

Superintendent Moody reviewed the Net Energy Billing Credit Agreements with the Board. David Leavitt shared details of the projected savings. Following questions and comments, the Board voted on the following to

authorize the purchase of net energy billing credits (attested copy of this Vote is attached).

ON A MOTION BY Desire Libby, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to adopt the Vote to Authorize the Purchase of Net Energy Billing Credits, in the form presented at this meeting (see attached). (485 YES, 252 NO, 83 ABSTAIN)

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

ON A MOTION BY Desiree Libby, seconded by Brandy Morgan, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (820 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of February 17, 2022, all six towns were current on their monthly assessment payments. Assessments are due on the 20th of each month.

c. Update on Schools, State COVID-19 Protocols and MSAD 54 Plan

Superintendent Moody discussed his recommendation that the Board support a move to "mask optional" and the decision on when to move to make this transition would be done at the March 10th Board meeting. Making the decision on March 10th will allow time to work with administrators, staff and community partners to ensure that the transition is well thought out and ensures that the Board has the benefit of having the updated CDC guidance and updated local data trends to make the best decision for our schools.

d. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody reported that there was a meeting with the State to review the most recent plans for the building project. There have been several meetings with the architects/engineers, and building plans have been shared at staff meetings. Representatives from the district and Blatt

Architects will be attending Skowhegan Selectmen's meeting next week to provide an update on the project. Meeting are taking place with Educare and KVCAP regarding the early childhood program, who will be exploring fundraising options to support the project with a focus on the Early Childhood wing.

The next Building Committee meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2022.

e. Review of Federal Project/Federal Funds Update

Federal funding revisions are being made and will be updated on the website and shared with the Board at a future meeting.

f. Draft 2022-2023 School Calendar

Superintendent Moody shared a draft school calendar for 2022-2023, which is being reviewed by the Education Association. A recommendation for approval will be voted on a future meeting.

g. Other

Enrollment as of 2/17/22 was 2,253 (2,255 last report).

The 2022-2023 Draft Budget will be presented to the Board at the March 10th meeting. A schedule of budget review committee meetings was shared with the Board.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch reported that in collaboration with KVCAP, we were selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$190,000 for the PreK Program expansion in Canaan.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old or unfinished business discussed.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business.

11. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools