

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
May 18, 2023, 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 May 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (679 present, 267 absent, 53 vacancy):**

Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Annemarie Dubois* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Bruce Hurley* (Mercer-16) ABSENT
Janet Burrill (Canaan-43) PRESENT	Michael Lambke* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Desiree Libby* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Samantha Delorie (Norr-46) PRESENT	Janice Malek* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	Jacqueline Wolinski* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Daniel Frey (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Cheyenne Goodrich (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Julian Payne (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	*excused
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michelle Taylor (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Timothy Williams (Skow-53) PRESENT	

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

Dawn Fickett, Program Director of REACH After School Program, presented to the Board, along with staff and students. Dawn was one of 16 in the country to serve as an ambassador for the National Afterschool Alliance, who work with community leaders and policy makers to increase support for afterschool and summer learning programs.

Our REACH Leadership Team has been recognized at the national level and Jackie Wallace, site coordinator at MCSS, was selected to become an ambassador. Jackie shared information on enrichment lessons and activities, including the “Jazz at Lincoln Center”, which is a STEM-based curriculum.

Amanda Sanford from the University of Maine After School Program Network shared information on the STEM Program's involvement in various science and technology programs.

Dawn shared testimonials from parents and students shared their testimonials about the After School Program. Through a grant, Lego Robotics kits were purchased, and students demonstrated their robots.

3. Approval of the Minutes - 5/4/23

**ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Samantha Delorie, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 5/4/23 into the record. (679 yes)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Ellen Smith, Grade 1 Teacher at Bloomfield Elementary School.

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Elizabeth Doty, ELL Tutor.

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Timothy Christopher, Elementary Physical Education Teacher.

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. Support Services Committee – 5/4/23

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 5/4/23 into the public record. (679 yes)**

Jean Franklin, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendations:

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Janet Burrill, the Board voted to approve the snowplow low bids by location for a two (2) year contract. (679 yes)**

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Timothy Williams, the Board voted to approve the five (5) year contract bid with Mosher’s Bus Service. (679 yes)**

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Jeannie Conley, the Board voted to accept the \$250 donation from Gilman Electric for the Art Department in memory of Miranda Travers. (679 yes)**

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 5/9/23

**ON A MOTION BY Jeannie Conley, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 5/9/23 into the public record. (679 yes)**

Jeannie Conley, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendations:

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY Jeannie Conley and seconded by Peggy Lovejoy**

Discussion ensued, with questions and comments.

Following discussion, **the Board voted to adopt policies BBAB and BBAB-R – Student Representation on the School Board. (622 yes, 57 no)**

**ON A MOTION BY Jeannie Conley, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, the Board voted to approve revised policy EEAEAA-A – MSAD 54 Drug and Alcohol Testing of School Bus Drivers, as written. (679 yes)**

c. Personnel Committee – 5/15/23

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Samantha Delorie, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 5/15/23, into the public record. (679 yes)**

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendations:

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jeannie Conley, the Board voted to approve the nomination of Deidre Mitchell as Principal of Bloomfield Elementary School, in accordance with the contractual terms outlined by the Superintendent, with a two-year contract. (679 yes)**

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jeannie Conley, to approve the nomination of Jason Bellerose as Principal of Skowhegan Area Hight School, in accordance with the contractual terms outlined by the Superintendent, with a two-year contract. (679 yes)**

6. Superintendent’s Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

**ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Cheyenne Goodrich, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (679 yes)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of May 18, 2023, all six towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield) were current on their monthly assessments. Assessments are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody shared that the contractor bid openings are scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> and for sub-contractors on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The Building Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

The CDS grant, which is supported by all three state senators, will result in no local cost for the additional 2.5M for the project. On June 11<sup>th</sup> a fundraising event sponsored by KVCAP and Hight Ford will be held at Bigelow Brewing Company with The Mallet Brothers. All proceeds from the event will go directly to the fundraising efforts for the Skowhegan Early Learning Center.

Superintendent Moody discussed options for tennis courts to be located on the high school campus by the football fields. The potential cost is expected to be \$700,000, and remaining federal ARP funding is possible for a portion of the cost, as well as anticipated carry over fund balance and accrued funds from the prior year.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody commented on the SAMS Expansion Project, which was 100% federally funded.

Superintendent Moody has had two meetings met with the Maine School Safety Center Director and Deputy Director for their perspective of what makes sense in schools, as well as met with sheriff and chief of police to discuss having resource officer to cover all the MSAD 54 towns. Mr. Moody will follow up once quotes are received on the cost.

e. Update on Schools

Superintendent Moody reviewed year end events, which were distributed and shared with the Board.

The District Budget Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Skowhegan Area High School Gymnasium.**

f. Other

Enrollment Report for 5/18/23 was shared – 2,257 (2,262 last report).

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch shared updates from the schools, including the Adult Education Graduation is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, and Katie Flannery, Grade 3 Teacher at Bloomfield Elementary has been named the 2023 Somerset County Teacher of the Year. MSAD 54 Spring Track and Field events for students with special education will be held on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> starting with opening ceremonies at 9am.

The Support Services Manager shared that the lease on the DOT garage has been signed and crews are preparing to move in next month. A review has been completed for the District's liability insurance.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business discussed.

9. Introduction of New Business

Janet Burrill shared that Quinn Hardware submitted Canaan Elementary for a *Paint a Better Future* grant and received 20 gallons of paint for the school.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools