

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
October 7, 2021 at 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 October 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Gymnasium.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (811 present, 188 absent):

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Alicia Boulette (Skow-53) PRESENT	Haley Fleming* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Jennifer Poirier* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Dixie Ring* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	Kathy Wilder* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Goff French (Smith-27) PRESENT	
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	
Brandy Morgan (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Gerry Redlevske (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Gary Sinclair (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Karen Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Jacqueline Wolinski (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

SCTC Director, David Dorr, and Instructors Kim McEwen and Dan Foss, presented to the Board on the various programs offered to students from elementary to recent graduates this past summer. 125 students participated in programs, including carpentry, culinary arts, outdoor leadership, residential construction, honeybee husbandry, as well as financial literacy

and career and college prep. 32 students participated in the Robotics Program. Students Savea and Carter demonstrated their robots, which were created to perform various competitions.

3. Approval of the Minutes – 9/16/21

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors’ meeting of 9/16/21 into the record. (811 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged the following letters of resignation:

- Elizabeth Thompson, Special Education Teacher at Bloomfield Elementary School
- Shannon Bickford, School Nutrition at Skowhegan Area High School
- Tammy Anderson, Bus Driver/Custodian at Skowhegan Area Middle School
- Denise Luce, Ed Tech II at Media Center/Adult Ed Aide

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Dale Hillman, Custodian at Skowhegan Area High School, effective 12/31/21.

b. School Personnel

Skowhegan Area Middle School Principal, Zachary Longyear, shared with the Board that Math Teacher, Pamela Lattin, has been recognized as the Blueberry Broadcasting Teacher Appreciation Award Winner for September 2021.

c. Visitors

Skowhegan Selectman Todd Smith urged residents to participate in survey for feedback on the second bridge project at skowhegan.org.

Resident Todd Jones spoke in opposition to prolonged masking of students.

Resident Wayne Wilford spoke in opposition of masking.

Derek Kinney spoke requesting information regarding the district's stance on allowing students who identify as animals (furry), to be an exception to dress code (hats, etc).

5. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – 9/16/21

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of Personnel Committee meeting of 9/16/21 into the public record. (811 yes)

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

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 9/21/21

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 9/21/21 into the public record. (811 yes)

Sarah Bunker, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, the Board voted approve revised Policy JKAA/JKAA-R, as written. (811 yes)

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to send a letter to the Department of Education requesting to adjust the district calendar, replacing two student days with district workshop days, for the purpose of providing staff time to plan, learn, and collaborate around

providing instruction and resources to students on quarantine. (811 yes)

Superintendent Moody shared the draft letter to the Commissioner with the Board.

c. Building Committee – 9/22/21

ON A MOTION BY Goff French, seconded by Jacqueline Wolinski, the Board accepted the minutes of the Building Committee meeting of 9/22/21 into the public record. (811 yes)

Superintendent Moody reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

6. Superintendent’s Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

The Superintendent reviewed vacancies and recommended the Board’s approval of page one of nominations.

ON A MOTION BY Jeannie Conley, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, Board voted to approve nominations page one. (811 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of October 7, 2021, Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current on their monthly assessment payments, with October assessments due on the 20th. Skowhegan was outstanding for August and September.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody shared a timeline chart of the school construction process. Included in the timeline is a district referendum anticipated for March 2022, with potential construction to start in 2023 for a 2025 completion.

Stephen Blatt Architects continue to meet with staff groups to collect feedback for specific to programming, overall design and function of teaching and learning spaces.

A public meeting was held on September 30th at 6pm at the Canaan Elementary School, to inform and answer questions about the impact the project will have on the Canaan Elementary School. The second public meeting will be held at the Skowhegan Area High School on October 14th at 6pm and the third meeting will be held via Zoom. Architects Stephen Blatt and Doug Breer will review the new state-funded elementary school project and receive input from community stakeholders.

d. Review of District Budget, Update on Federal Projects and Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody reviewed ESSER II and III budget summaries. ESSER II budget totals \$4,621,847.87 and ESSER III budget totals \$10,383,195.58. The district has prioritized federal funds on the classroom, for staffing interventions and resources to impact learning loss and prioritize keeping students in school safely.

e. Update on the Opening of School and COVID-19

Superintendent commended staff for making homecoming fun while dealing with the restrictions that exist.

Superintendent Moody shared an update on the number of positive cases as of 10/1/21, with a total of 280 quarantines and 63 positive cases, compared to a total of 1,210 quarantine and 60 positive cases for the entire 2020-2021 school year.

Professional Development Opportunities being offered at the October 8th Workshop Day were shared with the Board, and include Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention, as well as Safe-Care.

f. MSMA Virtual Fall Conference for Board Members – Oct. 28-29

Superintendent Moody reminded board members to let Tina know if interested in attending this year's conference.

g. Elect a Delegate and Alternate to MSBA Annual Delegate Assembly

This year's MSBA Delegate Assembly will be held virtually on Oct. 23rd. The Chair requested the Board to elect a delegate to represent the board at the delegate assembly. Desiree Libby nominated Amy Rouse. Amy is unable to attend and thus declined the nomination. (Note: Sarah Bunker volunteered to represent the Board at the MSBA Delegate Assembly.)

h. Other

Enrollment as of 10/7/21 was 2,251 (last report-2,181). PreK enrollment has been entered and included in the update count.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch reported on the process for pooled testing, which is scheduled to begin on October 18th. The district has partnered with Concentric, who will provide staffing to support us in conducting the testing. As of today, we have 135 student and staff have signed up.

The process was reviewed and will be shared with staff and parents.

The Support Services Manager reported that there are currently fifteen support services vacancies. The boiler at North Elementary is down and there is a backorder on parts buses are very full due to bus driver vacancy. There are many open positions in the district.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Peggy Lovejoy asked if there is a plan to properly dispose of disposable masks as they are being littered all around the schools. This will be discussed with the principals. Theresa Howard asked if students are being encouraged to change masks.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business

10. Executive Session – Confidential Student Records pursuant to MRSA §405(6)(F)

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to enter into executive session at 8:38 pm to discuss Confidential Student Records pursuant to MRSA §405(6)(F). (811 yes)

The Board returned to regular session at 8:52 pm.

11. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools