

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
March 11, 2021, 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 March 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (662 present, 337 absent):

Harold Bigelow (Skow-53) PRESENT	Mark Bedard* (Skow-53) - ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Derek Ellis* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Maryellen Charles (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Haley Fleming* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jean Franklin* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jennifer Poirier* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Goff French (Smith-27) PRESENT	Dixie Ring* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	Kathy Wilder* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Christy Johnson (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT BY REMOTE	
Brandy Morgan (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Gary Sinclair (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Karen Smith (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

There were no scheduled presentations for this meeting.

3. Approval of the Minutes

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Goff French, to approve the minutes of the following minutes:

- Board meeting of 2/25/21

- Personnel Committee meeting of 2/25/21 (Item 5a)
- Building Committee meeting of 3/3/21 (Item 5b)

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (662 YES)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Laura Salley, Literacy Specialist at Mill Stream Elementary School, effective June 2021.

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Karen Cyr, Special Education Teacher at Skowhegan Area High School.

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Scott Pillsbury, Science Teacher at Skowhegan Area High School, effective June 2021.

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Dana Beane, Ed Tech at Mill Stream Elementary School.

- 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 – 2/25/21

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 2/25/21. There were no recommendations.

b. Building Committee – 3/3/21

Theresa Howard reviewed the minutes of the Building Committee meeting of 3/3/21, and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to support and move forward the Margaret Chase Smith site for the DOE site application process.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (662 yes)

6. Superintendent’s Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

ON A MOTION BY Desiree Libby, seconded by Karen Smith, the Board voted to approve nominations page one.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (662 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of March 11, 2021, all six towns were current on their monthly assessments, which are due on the 20th of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The Margaret Chase Smith School site has moved forward and we have already begun taking bids for some of the work that has to be completed as part of the site application process. Blatt Architects and the Engineers continue to work on the site, and we are reviewing Educational Specifications (ed specs) portion to begin that process, starting with our staff in the spring. This work should allow the district to get a jump start

on the DOE process for the ed specs in the building. As part of this process our students, parents and community members will have opportunities to provide input on educational programming for the new school. The next meeting of the Building Committee is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 7th.

We are gathering feedback from the town's engineers on the Margaret Chase Smith School site to negotiate the cost of moving the playing fields.

Mr. Moody and Mr. Hatch have met with the Canaan Elementary staff in regard to the building project and how that will impact the Canaan school.

d. Update on Schools/Extra and Co-Curriculars/COVID-19

With a lot of support from coaches and advisors, there have been no COVID-19 transmissions throughout the sports season.

Aside from the cases at the Skowhegan Area Middle School which were communicated directly to all district staff, students and families, there have been no additional positive incidents cases of COVID-19 in our schools since before February break. Through our work with Maine CDC, they have explained that our efforts including early quarantine, has prevented the spread of additional cases and has allowed us to avoid closing our schools. Maine CDC has been an impressive partner as they have provided quick responses and ongoing communication as the district has navigated the COVID-19 pandemic.

e. FY22 Status Quo Draft Budget

The 2021-2022 Status Quo Draft Budget was distributed to the Board. The overall budget is up .812% and does not represent unknown increases to workers comp and health insurance rates, or negotiated salary increases, which will impact the overall budget.

A combination of town valuation increases, a decrease in student count, as well as a dramatic reduction in the District's poverty numbers (-10%), will impact local taxes.

Over the next few weeks, Support Services and Educational Policy/Program Committees will review their sections of the draft budget, with final review and approval scheduled for May 6th.

f. Other

i. Enrollment Report

Enrollment as of 3/11/21 was 2,240 (last report – 2,249)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent updated the Board on the following:

In an effort to provide intervention opportunities for students as soon as we can, and with many of our interventionist currently teaching remote learning, we are looking ahead at hiring for various teaching positions for remainder of this year, this summer and for next school year.

Our Professional Development Committee has done a tremendous job putting together a full-day of sessions being offered for staff at the March 19th Workshop Day, including technology, effective teaching practices, trauma-informed practices, and social justice issues. Sessions will be held throughout the day with staff choosing three sessions to attend and there will also be wellness activities.

The Support Services Manager shared that on March 18th meals will be sent home on the bus with students. Working on the next round of ESSER money and how to best utilize it for projects for that positively impact the long-term viability of the district.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Goff French asked for an update on the mascot imagery. High School Principal, Bruce Mochamer shared that a link for feedback went out to students in grades 6-12 and staff to vote for the style of our new River Hawk mascot, with over 560 votes received to date.

Once the style has been selected, there will be a two-week window for River Hawk mascot images to be shared and submitted from March 15th through

March 26th, with final selection for students and faculty to vote for our new mascot's image starting March 29th and closing on April 2nd.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools