

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
March 23, 2023, 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 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Library.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (866 present, 133 absent):

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Daniel Frey* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Alicia Boulette (Skow-53) PRESENT	Timothy Williams* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Jacqueline Wolinski* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Janet Burrill (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Amanda Clark (Smith-27) PRESENT	*excused
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Samantha Delorie (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Cheyenne Goodrich (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Bruce Hurley (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (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	

1. Call to Order

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

a. Flag Salute followed.

2. Good News and Recognitions

Middle School Music Teacher, Gail Kelly, presented to the Board. High School Music Director, Jennifer Fortin, was unable to attend due to illness. Gail shared good news from the High School Music Department:

- Five students were nominated and accepted into the All-New England Honors Band Festival at Plymouth State University

- Students attended in-person KV Music auditions at Warsaw Middle School and attended the 2-day festival this past February
- Seven students were accepted into the Honors Chorus, and six students were accepted into the Honors Band
- Three students auditioned for the MMEA Jazz All-State Auditions and two were accepted into the Honors Jazz Mixed Chorus, one of which had the top score in the state for her voice part
- One student participated in the Mid Maine Youth Orchestra
- Five students from the MMEA All-State Auditions were accepted into the festival to be held at UMO in May

3. Approval of the Minutes - 2/16/23

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 2/16/23 into the record. (866 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted letters of resignation from the following:

- Stacie Jarvais, Grade 5 Teacher at MCSS (currently on one-year LOA)
- Amanda Welch, Ed Tech at BES, effective 3/3/23
- Heather Mayo, Grade 6 Teacher at SAMS, effective June 2023
- Tracey Brown, Reading Recovery Teacher at BES, effective June 2023
- Ralph Jackson, ELA/Social Studies Teacher at MSLC, effective June 2023

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted letters of intent to retire from the following:

- Jean Pillsbury, Principal of BES
- Mary Jane Pelletier, Literacy Specialist at MSES
- Rebecca Eldridge, Elementary Music Teacher
- Sharon Lovell, School Counselor at MSES
- Debbie Morrison, Literacy Intervention/Reading Recover Teacher at BES
- Brenda Roy, Interventionist at BES and former K Teacher at NEL
- Bethany Scherpf, Family and Consumer Science Teacher at SAHS
- Pamela Eames, Read 180 Ed Tech at SAMS

A letter from the Department of Education, Child Nutrition Farm to School Cook-Off Team was shared with the Board, recognizing SAHS Senior Caleb Pratt and his mother Gina Bailey, who is a food service worker at Canaan Elementary School. Their team, “Team Sunday”, has been participating in this event for the last six years, and will be competing on March 27th in the Maine Farm to school Cook-Off.

b. School Personnel

Somerset Career and Technical Center Director, David Dorr, shared with the Board that 75 attended Business After Hours, Executive Director of Chamber and DOL apprenticeship grant. The night included networking discussions and a talk by the Commissioner Laura Fortman from the Department of Labor. s

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – 2/16/23

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 2/16/23 into the public record. (866 yes)

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, 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 Janet Burrill, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to approve nomination pages one and two. (866 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of March 23, 2023, all six towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield)

were current on their monthly assessments. Assessments are due on the 20th of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody reported that we have received DEP, DOT and State Fire Marshal permits. Drawings are complete and will be submitted to the state tomorrow and anticipate meeting with the State Construction Committee next week and the State Board of Education in April.

Superintendent Moody reported that project fundraising is going well, with just under 2.4 Million raised to offset the 4.4 Million local only cost. Kuddos to the fundraising committee, including Sam Hight, Tracey Fortin, Erin Merrill, and Chelsea Carrier. The district has submitted federal CDS applications to Senator Angus King, Senator Susan Collins and Representative Jared Golden, for the remaining local cost of the project. The district should receive word in the fall regarding CDS applications.

The Building Committee will meet on March 29th and Stephen Blatt Architects will provide an update on renderings and the next steps in phasing.

Superintendent Moody shared with the Board the Town Field Relocation cost estimate from February of 2021, which was presented to the Skowhegan Planning Board at that time.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody shared that on April 14th there will be an early dismissal for Canaan Elementary School students at 11:30, to allow contractors to start upgrade renovations that will continue through the April vacation. Principal Kreider will send a letter to parents and staff informing them of the early release.

e. Approval of 2023-2024 District Calendar

Superintendent Moody asked the Board to approve the 2023-2024 District Calendar, which has been reviewed by the Education Association and aligns with the SCTC districts.

ON A MOTION BY Janet Burrill, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the 2023-2024 District Calendar as presented. (866 yes)

f. FY24 Budget

Superintendent Moody presented the 2023-2024 Status Quo Draft Budget, and shared an overview of the budget and the local impact as it stands, as well as the outstanding items that are not included in the budget (health insurance, workers comp, etc).

g. Update on Schools

David Dorr, Director of SCTC, shared with the Board that 19 students attended Skills USA in Bangor with one student winning the Gold medal in digital graphics and two students won Silver medals.

Superintendent Moody shared the following:

- Title I is hosting two sessions of Learning Palooza at MSES with a Spaghetti Dinner on March 27th. As part of family and community engagement, there will be 20+ unique learning exhibits followed by a free community meal.
- On April 13th, the Kennebec Valley Superintendents Association is sponsoring an interactive showcase event “*Great Things Happen In Our Public Schools!*”, which is focused on Students, Teachers and Learning. MSAD 54 will be represented by our Digital Graphics students and our 21st Century After School Program. Legislative representatives, members of the State Board of Education and School Board members will be among those attending.

h. Other

Enrollment Report for 2/16/23 was shared – 2,262 (2,252 last report).

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch shared information on the March 17th professional development day. The District Professional Development

Committee surveyed and started working with staff to present on topics of interest. The highlighted opening event included a student playing the flute in the lobby; all staff received an ASPIRE River Hawks t-shirt, and a student was playing piano while two students were singing in the auditorium during the morning opening – a great way to welcome staff to the workshop. After various professional development sessions put on by both MSAD 54 staff and outside experts throughout the day, Bruce Mochamer and Kate Drummond ran a “Scavenger Hunt” activity for all staff in the gym which was a great way to end the day. Survey feedback was very supportive and included ideas for future sessions.

The Support Services Manager commented that all is going well with the staff and students working for the district.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools