

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
May 6, 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 May 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Cafeteria.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (847 present, 152 absent):**

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) – PRESENT	Harold Bigelow* (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	
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Goff French (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
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	
Jennifer Poirier (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Dixie Ring (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Gary Sinclair (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Karen Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT BY REMOTE	
Kathy Wilder (Norr-46) 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

Skowhegan Area High School Principal, Bruce Mochamer, updated the Board on athletics and end of year events. Graduation will be held outside, weather permitted, with 160 10x10 family pods across the entire football

field, with the Seniors in the bleachers. The event, whether outside or inside, will be live streamed.

3. Approval of the Minutes

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jennifer Poirier, to approve the minutes of the following minutes:**

- Board meeting of 4/15/21
- Personnel Committee meeting of 4/15/21 (5a)

**The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (847 YES)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted the following letters of resignation, effective June 2021:

- Steve Gagne, Principal of North Elementary and Margaret Chase Smith Schools
- Julie Kimball, Principal of Mill Stream Elementary School
- Ashley Kimball, Special Education Teacher at Margaret Chase Smith School
- Trevor Benson, Science Teacher at Skowhegan Area Middle School
- Stephanie Bonte, Kindergarten Teacher at North Elementary School
- Hannah Emery, Grade 5 Teacher at Margaret Chase Smith School

The Superintendent shared a letter from Middle School Guidance Counselor, Kelly Croom, requesting an unpaid leave of absence, without benefits, from 5/17/21 through 8/26/22, to pursue an accelerated Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. Following discussion, the Board voted on the following recommendation:

**ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve an unpaid leave of absence, without benefits, to Kelly Croom, Middle School Guidance Counselor, from 5/17/21 through 8/26/22.**

**The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (847 YES)**

- 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 – 4/15/21

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, 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, as well as the list of 2021-2022 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year probationary teachers and 1<sup>st</sup> year continuing contract teachers (4<sup>th</sup> year).

**ON A MOTION BY Mark Bedard, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to approve nominations page one; 2021-2022 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Probationary Teachers; and 1<sup>st</sup> Year Continuing Contract Teachers (4<sup>th</sup> year).**

**The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (847 yes)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of May 6, 2021, all six towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield) were current on their monthly assessments, with May assessment payments due on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The Superintendent updated the Board on the New School Construction Building Project. Following their meeting, the Skowhegan Selectmen supported the purchase/sale option. Last week we attended the Skowhegan public hearing, which went very well and overall, very supported. Along with the architect and engineer, we met with the Skowhegan Planning Board this week, as well as with the Skowhegan fire chief and police chief .

There is a Public Information Meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Margaret Chase Smith School on the site selection. We have met with all district-wide staff and will begin the educational specs process next week.

d. Update on Schools//COVID-19

The Superintendent requested the Board's approval of the newly adjusted mascot imagery, which was shared. Following questions and comments, the following recommendation was made:

**ON A MOTION BY Brandy Morgan, seconded by Desiree Libby, the Board voted to adopt the new Skowhegan mascot imagery as presented.**

**The MOTION PASSED with the majority of members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (546 yes, 301 no)**

e. Approval of Authorization to Transfer Between Warrant Articles

The Superintendent requested the Board's annual approval to authorize the transfer between warrant articles:

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY Goff French, seconded by Amy Rouse that pursuant to section 1485(4) of Title 20-A, the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to transfer not more than 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center in the current fiscal year operating budget [*and not more than \$1,869,525 in the aggregate*] to another cost center or among other cost centers, provided that the total current fiscal year operating budget shall not be increased by such transfers.**

**The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL (847 yes).**

f. Adoption of FY22 Proposed Budget

The Superintendent gave a brief overview of the proposed 2021-2022 budget, which is up 1.975% or \$724,248 for a total operating budget of \$37,390,496. Following questions and comments, the Board voted on the following recommendation:

**ON A MOTION BY Christy Johnson, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to adopt the 2021-2022 Proposed District Budget, as presented.**

**The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (847 yes)**

i. Enrollment Report

Enrollment as of 5/6/21 was 2,244 (last report – 2,241)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent shared the following:

- State assessment is beginning – Reading and Math will be assessed using NWEA, which will also be the state test, meaning less testing time for students. New Meridian is the science test, which is the same length as our previous science test.
- Elementary principals will be interviewing several teacher candidates tomorrow.
- The Department of Education and CDC are encouraging school districts to consider providing immunization clinics for students.

The Support Services Manager recognized Terry Watson, Transportation Director, for the exceptional job she is doing during these extremely challenging times.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business

9. Introduction of New Business

Mark Bedard suggested providing part-time help to assist the high school athletic director to meet all the additional needs and COVID guidelines.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools