

**Meeting of Board of Directors
October 17, 2024, 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 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (616 present, 383 absent):

Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Mark Bedard* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Janet Burrill (Canaan-43) PRESENT	Valerie Coulombe* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Samantha Delorie* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Karyn Curran (Skow-53) PRESENT	Lauren Fox* (Mercer-16) ABSENT
Tanya Groce (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jean Franklin* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	Daniel Frey* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Michelle Kelso (Skow-53) PRESENT	Michael Lambke* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	Janice Malek* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Julian Payne (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	*Excused
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michelle Taylor (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Timothy Williams (Skow-53) PRESENT	

Olivia Huff – Student Representative

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.

3. Approval of the Minutes - 10/3/24

ON A MOTION BY Peggy Lovejoy, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 10/3/24 into the record. (616 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

There were no letters shared.

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 – 10/3/24

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 10/3/24 into the public record. (616 yes)

Theresa Howard reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the following donations: \$1,200 from Genplex for SCTC Food Pantry; \$1,400 for Miss Amanda's REACH for the Stars Scholarship; and an anonymous donation of \$2,000 to Mart Stevens Learning Center. (616 yes)

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 10/8/24

ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Michelle Taylor, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 10/8/24 into the public record. (616 yes)

Karyn Curran, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to remove Policy DIE as written. (616 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 Timothy Williams, seconded by Janet Burrill, the Board voted to approve nominations pages one. (616 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of October 17, 2024, Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current on their monthly assessments. Skowhegan was outstanding for September and October. Assessments are due on the 20th of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The Building Committee's next meeting is scheduled for October 22nd at 6pm at the SAMS Library, and in addition to an overall project update the committee will review the decommissioning process, fundraising and donor naming process. The Percent for Art Committee will meet on December 11th and will discuss the editing of release for artists.

Jessica Brown shared that the contractors have a solution for the window installation after 34 windows were not properly installed.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody shared that district audits of the federal funds have shown strong management of the funds with no items flagged by auditors.

Julian Payne (Cornville) asked if more technology will be needed with IA coming up. Superintendent Moody referenced the book *Brave New Words* by Salman Khan as a great book discussing the impact of AI on education. The general discussion focused on how schools will have to adapt and learn to utilize IA to help students in the future.

c. Update on Schools and School Safety

Assistant Support Services Manager, Jessica Brown, is having conversations with the Chief of Police on school safety and active shooter training. Alice Training, Alert Training and Craze Training are being researched. The Maine Safety Center is available to review plans. MSAD54 will again be reviewing/revising the district crisis plan (emergency response plan) this year.

d. Other

Superintendent Moody shared that the Educational Policy/Program Committee had discussion about data, as well as the parent advisory group, who shared how they view that data and how it is meaningful.

Superintendent Moody shared an invitation to The REACH After School Program Open House Celebration at the Skowhegan Area Middle School Gymnasium on October 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Superintendent Moody was asked to extend an invitation to Board members to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for a Little Lending Library on November 1st at 1:00 p.m. at the Alice Emery Town Square. All Grade 1 students from Mill Stream Elementary School will be attending the ceremony.

Current enrollment, as of 10/15/24, was 2,210 (last report – 2,186).

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch reported that Board Walkthroughs are being scheduled and he will be sending the dates out soon. The first Walkthrough will be on November 18th at 9 a.m. with location to be determined.

The Assistant Support Services Manager reported that all of the school bus zone lights are now working. As a result of last weekend's windstorm, trees went down around campus, including a large pine tree by the track and the willow tree.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Amy Rouse commented that a solar energy project that was discussed at a previous Support Services Committee and which the committee voted not to

move forward with and feels that we overlooked a great opportunity. Amy would like to see the board support a presentation in the future.

Michelle Kelso commented that the Board positions are not political and questioned the role of the MEA, which took a position in a recent round of board positions. The Superintendent informed the Board that the MEA will often take positions and that unfortunately this is separate from staff's roles in school and is allowable. Mr. Moody agreed that Board positions are not political by design in statute and thanked the Board for the role they play in MSAD 54, which is both responsive to the needs of students and staff, as well as district taxpayers.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no new business presented.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools