

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
October 8, 2020, 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 8, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Gymnasium. Haley Fleming\*, Dixie Ring\* and Gary Sinclair\* were absent. \*excused

1. Call to Order

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

a. Flag Salute followed.

2. Approval of the Minutes – 9/17/20

**ON A MOTION BY Goff French, seconded by Theresa Howard,  
the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors’  
meeting of 9/17/20, into the public record. (880 yes)**

3. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted the following resignations:

- Eric Nichols, Kindergarten Teacher at North Elementary
- Robin Clement Godino, Ed Tech at North Elementary
- Jon Hogate, Ed Tech at North Elementary
- Elizabeth Greenleaf, Custodian at Mill Stream Elementary

In addition, Kathy Grant, School Office Assistant at Bloomfield Elementary, has submitted her letter of intent to retire in November 2020.

b. School Personnel – No School Personnel wished to speak.

c. Visitors – There were no visitors who wished to speak.

4. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – 9/17/20

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 9/17/20 into the public record. (880 yes)**

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

b. Support Services Committee – 9/22/20

**ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Brandy Merry, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 9/22/20 into the public record. (880 yes)**

Jennifer Poirier, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendations:

**ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to consider the following three nicknames/mascots and vote to adopt a new nickname/mascot and any related imagery, based on the results of student feedback: Phoenix, River Hawks and Skowhegan. (880 yes)**

**ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to accept a \$395 donation from Hoang Realty to Canaan Elementary School for the purchase of school supplies. (880 yes)**

c. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 9/22/20

**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 9/22/20 into the public record. (880 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 Amy Rouse, the Board voted to consider the following three nicknames/mascots and vote to adopt a new nickname/mascot and any related imagery, based on the results of student feedback: Phoenix, River Hawks and Skowhegan. (880 yes)**

5. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

**ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Christy Johnson, the Board voted to approve nomination pages 1 and 2. (880 yes)**

The Superintendent reviewed COVID-19 temporary positions available, including teacher aides, duty monitors, daily substitute teachers, parent/community volunteers, van drivers and technology support staff. These positions are temporary/short-term positions for the 2020-2021 school year or through December 30<sup>th</sup>.

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of October 8, 2020, Canaan, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current with October assessment due on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Cornville was outstanding for September and October; Skowhegan was outstanding for August September and October.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Study

The Support Services Manager updated the Board on the building study progress. A virtual meeting was held on October 5<sup>th</sup> with Skowhegan Community and Economics Director to review three potential sites that fit the criteria consideration. Property owners are being contacted to see if there is an interest in being part of the potential process. A virtual meeting is scheduled with the architects for October 13<sup>th</sup> to review their draft building evaluations in preparation to meet with the Department of Education for final evaluation.

d. MSMA Virtual Fall Conference for Board Members – Oct. 30-31

Information was shared on the upcoming Annual MSMA Fall Conference, which will be held virtually on Oct 30-31. Board members are encouraged to attend. Registrations will be made through the Superintendent's Office.

The MSBA Delegate Assembly, which is held during the conference, is responsible for proposed Constitution and Bylaws changes and considers resolutions of the Association. The Superintendent asked the Board to elect a delegate to participate in the MSBA Annual Delegate Assembly.

**Amy Rouse was elected School Board Representative to the Delegate Assembly of the Maine School Boards Association. (880 yes)**

e. Update on Return to School

The Superintendent shared that a Memorandum of Understanding with the Education Association was agreed to in regard to the adjustment of the normal school day as a result of COVID-19 precautions from 8:15 to 8:00.

Staff meetings with each school were held last week for feedback and discussion of challenges, concerns and questions.

The Governor has provided additional funds to schools in the amount of \$2,400,000. This second round of funding has several spending restrictions, some of which include spending must be specific to COVID related items, must be spent by December 30<sup>th</sup>, and encumbered by October 15<sup>th</sup> on a reimbursement process.

The Superintendent recognized the District's Accounting Supervisor, Brenda Murray, for the tremendous amount of time and effort involved in this process.

The Superintendent reported on the events surrounding the positive COVID-19 case at the high school, which resulted in the closure of school for two days.

The Assistant Superintendent updated the Board on the Remote Learning Plan. One issue that is being addressed are issues with internet access for students from home. The Remote Learning Committee meet every week to finalize and adjust the plan based on what we have learned to date.

f. FY22 Budget Outline

The Superintendent shared that enrollment is down, based on the initial October 1<sup>st</sup> report, by 121 students, which will have a budget impact. The MSMA Finance Committee has informed us to prepare for a significant impact on the 2021-2022 budget that will result in a budget shortfall which will impact education.

g. Review and Consideration of a New Nickname/Mascot & any Related Imagery

The Superintendent applauded the Board in their efforts to follow the process created for the Nickname/Mascot Transition Plan Summary.

The Board Chair opened the floor for Board discussion on the nickname/mascot selections. Following comments, the Board voted, by roll call, on the following recommendation:

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kathy Wilder, seconded by Goff French, to adopt the name River Hawks as the new nickname/mascot. MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL (622 YES, 258 NO)**

Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) YES  
Maryellen Charles (Mercer-16) YES  
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) YES  
Annmarie Dubois (Skow-53) YES  
Derek Ellis (Skow-53) YES  
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) YES  
Goff French (Smith-27) YES  
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) YES  
Christy Johnson (Smith-27) YES  
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) YES  
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) YES  
Brandy Morgan (Norr-46) YES  
Jennifer Poirier (Skow-53) YES  
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) YES  
Kathy Wilder (Norr-46) YES

Harold Bigelow (Skow-53) NO  
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) NO  
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) NO  
Karen Smith (Skow-53) NO  
Todd Smith (Skow-53) NO

g. Other

i. Enrollment Report

Enrollment as of 10/8/20 was 2,254 (last report – 2,249)

6. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Support Services Manager thanked all support staff who rallied to deliver meals door to door to students with as little as 14 hours' notice.

7. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old or unfinished business discussed.

8. Introduction of New Business

Peggy Lovejoy inquired if there was an interest shown in the temporary positions posted. The Superintendent indicated that there has been some interest.

Brandy Morgan asked for an update on the daycare funding. The Superintendent responded that there is a meeting scheduled for next week with KVCAP, the Community Center and Alford Center to discuss potential option if we were to institute childcare, which we are unable to do currently in the Hybrid mode.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools