

RSU 54/MSAD 54

Meeting of Board of Directors

April 6, 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 April 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Library.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (820 present, 179 absent):

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Amanda Clark* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Alicia Boulette (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jeannie Conley* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Janice Malek* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Janet Burrill (Canaan-43) PRESENT	Jacqueline Wolinski* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Samantha Delorie (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	*excused
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Daniel Frey (Smith-27) 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	
Julian Payne (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Timothy Williams(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

Bloomfield Elementary School Teachers, Karyn Bigelow and Jamie Leo, presented to the Board on Bloomfield Bunches, which is a whole school program that focuses on building community within the school and social emotional learning school wide.

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

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 3/23/23 into the record. (820 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted letters of resignation from the following, effective June 2023:

- Katherine Mann, English Teacher at SAHS
- Christi Belanger, SpEd Teacher at SAHS
- ReINETte Leblanc, School Nutrition at MCSS
- Stacey Clement, School Nutrition at MCSS

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted letters of intent to retire from the following, effective June 2023:

- Bruce Mochamer, Principal of SAHS
- Phyllis Stevens, School Nutrition at MCSS

b. School Personnel

Bloomfield Elementary Principal, Jean Pillsbury, thanked Assistant Superintendent Hatch and Officer Daigneault for their support at tonight's Music and Art event at the school.

c. Visitors

Maureen Calder commented on the need for change surrounding mental health awareness, which is essential to much needed change in the schools.

5. Committee Reports

a. Support Services Committee – 3/23/23

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 3/23/23 into the public record. (820 yes)

Jean Franklin, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

b. Building Committee – 3/29/23

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Building Committee meeting of 3/29/23 into the public record. (820 yes)

Superintendent Moody 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 Samantha Delorie, seconded by Desiree Libby, the Board voted to approve nomination page one. (820 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of April 6, 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 shared the rendering for the new elementary school. A meeting with the DOE Construction Committee was held last Friday and we received positive feedback commending us for the project’s local involvement, effort, and thoroughness. The Committee unanimously supported the project. Will meet with the State Board on the 12th at 1:00 in Augusta for project approval; project will go out to bid on the 14th.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody shared that we are undergoing our FY22 Performance Report on federal funds and provided the board with a general update on the progress of the federal funds.

e. FY24 Budget

Superintendent Moody updated the Board on the proposed FY24 budget. Health insurance rates for FY24 have been received (5.763% increase) and following updates, the proposed budget increased from 2.44% to 3.598%. The draft budget also reflects increases in special education staffing, and the adjustments made for the state's error in school subsidy.

f. Update on Schools

As a result of recent passing of a former student to suicide, and the sudden passing of former long-time school secretary, Denise Saucier, Superintendent Moody noted that the district crisis team was heavily involved in helping guide district actions in dealing with these tragedies. In addition to the additional meeting and supports, the team met as a follow-up and reflected on efforts to continue to provide support and assistance to staff and students who need it. The Superintendent shared that the district met with and sought guidance from local and state health professionals during tragedies over the last several years, as well as the mental health supports and programming that has been put in place over the past two years as a result.

The district will continue to work with local and state partners to implement long-term supports and ongoing education for students, staff and the community.

There was a moment of silence for those who passed.

g. 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 that in order to get the best quality candidates, the process of posting for open positions for next school year has begun.

The Support Services Manager shared that the elevator project at the high school has begun. The windows for Bloomfield Elementary are in and will be installed over April break.

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 7:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools