

RSU 54/MSAD 54
Educational Policy/Program Committee
MINUTES
December 7, 2021
6:00 PM
Skowhegan Area High School – Library

Committee Attendance: Sarah Bunker - **Chair**, Karen Smith - **Vice Chair**, Amy Rouse, Goff French, Gary Sinclair, Peggy Lovejoy, Jeannie Conley, Lynda Quinn
Also Present: Jon Moody, Mark Hatch, Dawn Fickett (Presenter via Zoom)

1. Presentation on 21st Century After-School Programming

Dawn Fickett, Program Director, shared information with the committee regarding the success of the REACH 21st Century After School Program in Skowhegan. The after-school program serves students at Margaret Chase Smith Elementary School, Bloomfield Elementary School, and Skowhegan Area Middle School. The program, which is in year three of a federally funded grant, has specific criteria and outcomes that Dawn and her staff are required to track. Reach program goals include increasing student literacy and math scores, taking part in community service projects, providing learning opportunities in the areas of health and wellness, and providing opportunities for family education and engagement. Dawn shared that the program has increased its numbers since last year and is optimistic to return to pre-pandemic levels in the near future. Part of Dawn’s role as director is to work with the district and community partners to develop a sustainability plan that will continue programming past the life of the grant (potentially in 2027 if the district is granted the maximum allowable time-frame of 8 years).

2. LD 798 Immunization Requirement Deadline

Mark Hatch updated the committee about the district’s enforcement of state law LD798, which was passed in 2019 and went into effect on Sept. 1st of this school year. The law removed most vaccination exemptions for families to enroll students in school districts in the state of Maine. District nurses and administrators have communicated with families over the course of the last year to support them as the law went into effect. Of the roughly 150 students who were not fully vaccinated entering the 2021-22 school year, most have moved forward with vaccination for their children. The district will continue to work with families who are completing the immunization

process. The committee discussed that there will be an impact to state funding in future years as less students will result in less state dollars to support education in the district.

3. Review Draft Policy ACAF – Workplace Bullying

The committee reviewed draft policy ACAF, which recent legislation now requires all schools to develop. This policy focuses on ensuring that the working environment in MSAD 54 is free from bullying. The policy defines bullying and covers interactions between employees, students, parents and community members.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board adopt Policy ACAF as written.

4. Report from Assistant Superintendent/Superintendent

Mr. Hatch shared that the state has canceled pooled testing the week of December 20th and it was start again after the holiday session.

5. The Meeting Adjourned