

RSU 54/MSAD 54
SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Thursday October 7, 2021, 6:00 pm
Skowhegan Area Middle School Library

Members Present: Jean Franklin – Chair; Karen Smith – Vice Chair; Mark Bedard; Alicia Boulette; Goff French; Brandy Morgan; Gerry Redlevske

Also Present: Lynda Quinn; Jon Moody; David Leavitt

1. Maine PERS Participating Local District (PLD)

Maine PERS has changed the retirement rules for certain staff in the district. Previously, employees could only sign up for state retirement upon hire. Their decision was permanent. The new rules allow a school board to gradually allow staff who opted not to participate, to now do so. This change takes Board action for it to occur. Should the district choose to take this action the district’s potential liability could be \$50,000 – \$60,000 for this group of employees. The district recommends the board take this action which would be beneficial for employees and the district as it could assist both with the hiring and retention of staff.

RECOMMENDATION: That the School Board approve the motion as presented separately.

2. Updated on Federal COVID Relief Funds

The Committee was provided an update on projects funded by Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds. The ARP (American Recovery Plan) application has been completed and submitted to DOE; we are waiting their approval.

3. Permission to Accept Funds

- Skowhegan Area High School received a donation from WAVES of \$1,500 for ongoing support for Teens to Trails Outdoor Program

- A donation of \$400 from Robert O'Donnell for the Canaan Elementary Food Cupboard
- CMP (Mark Bedard) gave a donation of an untreated telephone pole for the outdoor ropes course at a value of \$800
- Mill Stream Elementary School Mrs. White's class has received a donation of classroom supplies for early literacy funded through DonorsChoose
- The REACH after school program has donations totaling \$250 for supplies
- The district has received a donation of 30 PCs from Thomas College
- The district has received a \$100 Walmart gift card for supplies from the United Way, along with three boxes of school supplies and backpacks

RECOMMENDATION: That the School Board approve the above listed donations.

**Next Meeting
November 4, 2021**