

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
December 16, 2021 at 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 December 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (652 present, 347 absent):**

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Alicia Boulette* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Michael Lambke* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Brandy Morgan* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jennifer Poirier* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	Dixie Ring* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Daniel Frey (Smith-27) PRESENT	Kathy Wilder* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Goff French (Smith-27) PRESENT	Jacqueline Wolinski* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Morrigan McLeod (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Gerry Redlevske (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Gary Sinclair (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Karen Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	

\*excused

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 – 12/2/21

**ON A MOTION BY Goff French, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors’ meeting of 12/2/21 into the record. (652 yes)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted the following letters of resignations:

- Kathleen McConnell, School Office Assistant at Skowhegan Area High School
- Heather Damon, School Office Assistant at Somerset Career and Technical Center

Superintendent Moody shared a letter from Rachel Paling, DOE's Communications and Outreach, announcing that Skowhegan Area High School student, Drake Turcotte, has been selected to serve on the DOE's Student Cabinet. Drake will serve on the Cabinet for the next two years as one of the representatives from Somerset County.

b. School Personnel

No school personnel wished to speak.

c. Visitors

Visitor, Wayne Wofford, requested the names of all Board members who voted to have everyone mask in order to press charges against them.

5. Committee Reports

a. Support Services Committee – 12/2/21

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 12/2/21 into the public record. (652 yes)**

Jean Franklin, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendations:

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the donation of old iPads from Adult**

**Education to the Tech Spot, to support community members. (652 yes)**

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, the Board voted to accept the following donations:**

- **Canaan Elementary School received a donation of \$120 from Bethany and John Kucia for the Food Cupboard;**
- **R.E.A.C.H After School Program received a donation of \$155 from The Old Mill Pub;**
- **Mill Stream Elementary School Library received a donation of \$100 from the Somerset Retired Teachers Association;**
- **SAMS received a donation of \$81 from Hannaford’s Helps Schools Program;**
- **North Elementary School received the following donations for**
- **holiday food/gifts for students: \$30 from Chelsea Charrier; \$100**
- **from Mary Merrill; \$360 from Image Auto Body; \$300 from**
- **Gregory’s Garage**

**(652 yes)**

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 12/7/21

**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 12/7/21 into the public record. (652 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 Kathy Wilder, the Board voted to adopt Policy ACAF as written. (652 yes)**

6. Superintendent’s Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

Superintendent Moody reviewed vacancies and recommended the Board’s approval of page one of nominations.

**ON A MOTION BY Desiree Libby, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (652 yes)**

Superintendent Moody requested the Board's permission to hire, pending review, between now and the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, in order to fill unexpected vacancies in the Superintendent's Office Accounting Department.

**ON A MOTION BY Amy Rouse, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to authorize the Superintendent to hire, prior to the next Board meeting in January and pending review, for open positions in the Superintendent's Office Accounting Department. (652 yes)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of December 16, 2021, all six towns were current on their monthly assessment payments. Assessments are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody updated the Board on the new school construction building project. A productive meeting with the State was held last week in regard to the space allocation. Stephen Blatt Architects are working on concept design. Meetings are scheduled with KVCAP this week to discuss 0-3 and PreK programs as relates to spacing. A meeting with the architects and engineers is scheduled for next week to discuss mechanical aspects of the building.

The next meeting of the Building Committee is scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup>.

d. Review of District Budget Revisions and Update on Federal Projects and Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody reported that the middle school expansion drawings are completed. ESSER I and II Federal Funds are open and revisions will be journaled accordingly.

e. Update on the Opening of School and COVID-19

Superintendent Moody reported that athletics and co-curriculars are going very well. Board members had the opportunity to attend a walkthrough at Mill Stream Elementary. Tomorrow's walkthroughs will be held at Margaret Chase Smith and Canaan Elementary.

COVID-19 Update: 309 positive cases in the District as of today (189 before Thanksgiving). There has been a dramatic increase in the number of quarantines as well as a significant increase of positive staff since Thanksgiving, which has had a significant impact on schools, staff and families.

f. Other

Superintendent Moody presented the Maine School Board's Association Service Award to Peggy Lovejoy in recognition of her twelve years of dedicated service to the school board and education in Maine.

PreK-12 Enrollment as of 12/16/21 was 2,249.

Superintendent requested the Board's approval of the Support Services Contract.

**ON A MOTION BY Jeannie Conley, seconded by Gerry Redlevske, the Board voted to ratify the 2021-2023 Agreement between MSAD 54 and Council #93 AFSCME. (652 yes)**

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch updated the Board on various activities taking place in our schools.

The Support Services Manager reported that there are various support staff vacancies, including two drivers, two maintenance staff and several custodial positions.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old or unfinished business discussed.

9. Introduction of New Business

Desiree Libby shared concerns in COVID cases and concern about potential increase for the three days of school prior to the holiday break. Comments were shared.

Mark Bedard shared that there is a streaming link for basketball games on the high school's website for those who want to watch games but can't make it in.

Peggy Lovejoy, who also serves on the SCTC Advisory Committee, commented how impressive it is to see what they are doing to meet the needs of students through Dual Enrollment and other courses.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools