

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
April 13, 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 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Library.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (876 present, 123 absent):

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Amanda Clark* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Alicia Boulette (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jean Franklin* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Jacqueline Wolinski* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Janet Burrill (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Samantha Delorie (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	*excused
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	
Janice Malek (Norr-46) 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 Vice-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 - 4/6/23

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 4/6/23 into the record. (876 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Angela Dunton, Grade 1 Teacher at Bloomfield Elementary School, effective June 2023.

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Debora Tanner, Math Teacher at Skowhegan Area Middle School, effective June 2023.

b. School Personnel

There were no school personnel who wished to speak.

c. Visitors

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Support Services Committee – 4/6/23

ON A MOTION BY Mark Bedard, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 4/6/23 into the public record. (876 yes)

Mark Bedard, Committee Vice-Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 3/7/23, 3/21/23 and 4/11/23

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Mark Bedard, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meetings of 3/7/23, 3/21/23 and 4/11/23 into the public record. (876 yes)

Sarah Bunker, Committee Chair, 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 Theresa Howard, seconded by Desiree Libby, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (876 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of April 13, 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 that the meeting with the State Board of Education to present on the building project was held April 12th. The Chair commended the MSAD54 project and said that our project should serve as a model project for other districts to follow. Project bidding opened on April 13th; bid openings are scheduled for May 18th.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody shared that the FY22 Performance Report on federal funds is near completion for submittal. A grant from the state of Maine for \$150,000 per year for five years has been awarded to MSAD54 to support additional and continued social work and mental health supports currently paid through federal funds.

e. Approval of FY24 Proposed Budget

Superintendent Moody presented the updated proposed FY24 budget, which represents an increase of 3.598% with a 5.57% increase in local allocations. A Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled for May 18th, the District Budget Meeting will be held on May 24th at 7pm in the high school gymnasium, with the Validation Referendum on June 13th.

Superintendent Moody recommended the Board's approval of the FY24 Proposed Budget.

A motion was made by Julian Payne that the budget propose the funds needed to cover the cost of an additional School Resource Officer (SRO) insuring a full-time presence in the high school during the hours of operation. Students, staff, visitors and parents will have assurance that should any situation occur outside the norm, a trained Resource Officer will be there to navigate the situation.

Mr. Payne amended the motion to include \$80,000 for the additional SRO to the FY24 proposed budget.

Desiree Libby seconded the motion.

Superintended Moody shared and reviewed the School Safety Plan, which recommends a review of the potential costs and impact of additional SRO with updated recommendation to the Board in June 2023.

Discussion ensued with questions and comments by the Board.

Following a limited three-minute discussion **the motion failed. (30 yes, 846 no)**

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Mark Bedard, the Board voted to approve the FY24 Proposed Budget as presented. (876 yes)

f. Update on Schools

Superintendent Moody shared that a proposal recommendation in June for an additional SRO that will include timeline, costs, trainings and updated Crisis Plan.

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and commended staff and administrators for all of their hard work.

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 the hiring process continues. High school accreditation visit is scheduled for the week of April 24th.

The Support Services Manager shared that the DOT lease agreement is near completion to allow the district bus garage to be moved temporarily as part of the new elementary school project. Bids for snow plowing and busing transportation are scheduled for tomorrow. The SAHS Elevator project is underway and ahead of schedule. There will be an early dismissal for Canaan Elementary tomorrow to allow the contractors to begin construction over vacation.

The Support Services Manager reviewed the proposed Support Services contract, which the union voted 31-2 to pass the contract.

The following recommendation was made:

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the Support Services contract as proposed. (876 yes)

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 8:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools