

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
February 13, 2025, 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 February 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (724 present, 275 absent):**

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Janet Burrill* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Jeannie Conley* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Daniel Frey (Smith-27) PRESENT	Lauren Fox* (Mercer-16) ABSENT
Valerie Coulombe (Norr-46) PRESENT	Tanya Groce* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Karyn Curran (Skow-53) PRESENT	Michelle Taylor* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Samantha Delorie (Norr-46) PRESENT	Timothy Williams* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	Wayne Wofford* (Corn-30) ABSENT
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Michelle Kelso (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	*Excused
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Janice Malek (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	

Olivia Huff (Student Rep) PRESENT

1. Call to Order

a. Flag Salute – 7:00pm

2. Good News and Recognitions

The scheduled presentation was canceled due to the weather.

3. Approval of Minutes – 1/23/25

**ON A MOTION BY Samantha Delorie, seconded by Theresa Howard,  
the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting  
of 1/23/25 into the public record. (724 yes)**

#### 4. Communications

##### a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted letters of intent to retire from the following:

- Mary Merrill, Ed Tech II at North Elementary School, effective June 2025
- Angela Wyman, Ed Tech at Bloomfield Elementary School, effective June 2025
- Susan Blodgett, Ed Tech at Canaan Elementary School, effective June 2025
- Mary Dean, Ed Tech at Skowhegan Area High School, effective June 2025
- Kim Smart, Ed Tech at Bloomfield Elementary School, effective June 2025

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted letter of resignation from the following:

- Valerie Bailey Ed Tech at Canaan Elementary School, effective February 14, 2025
- Logan Easler, Custodian at Skowhegan Area Middle School

##### b. School Personnel

There were no school personnel who wished to speak.

##### c. Visitors

Cornville resident, Julian Payne, commented on the Bylaws of the School Board not being updated for several years.

#### 5. Committee Reports

##### a. Personnel Committee – 1/23/25

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 1/23/25 into the public record. (724 yes)**

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

b. Building Committee – 1/29/25

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Mark Bedard, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Building Committee meeting of 1/29/25 into the public record. (724 yes)**

Superintendent Moody reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

c. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 2/11/25

**ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 2/11/25 into the public record. (724 yes)**

Karyn Curran, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendations:

**ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, the Board voted to approve the proposed Gear Up Maine College Visit Trip. (724 yes)**

**ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the addition of the Eco Team and Outing Club to the list of student clubs/teams. (724 yes)**

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

**ON A MOTION BY Mark Bedard, seconded by Samantha Delorie, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (724 yes)**

b. Report on Assessment Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of February 13, 2025, all six towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield) were current on their monthly assessment payments, with February due on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody shared that the Percent for Art Committee interviewed five finalists on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Peggy Lovejoy and Sara Smith commented on the interview process and that all finalists were outstanding artists.

Superintendent Moody updated the Board on the building project, which is on schedule and some rooms are nearly completed. Teacher groups have toured the new school. He commended that Landry/French, the construction company leading the work, have been great to work with. The next Dine and Discuss for staff is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting staff will receive a draft of the new school's schedule as well as the opportunity to continue to meet and collaborate in preparation for coming together next year.

Finally, the Superintendent reported that work is ongoing for the federal CDS grant that the District was awarded in March of 2024. This grant, which is just under 2 million dollars, will combine with local fundraising of over 2.5million dollars, to bring the local only cost of the building project to \$0.

d. Budget Update

Superintendent Moody reviewed a Preliminary Draft Budget and shared it with the Board. The presentation and preliminary draft budget included information on State Funding, town valuation shifts and the impact those shifting valuations will have on the towns and the overall budget. The Superintendent reviewed the impact of new valuations on the prior year's budget (if there were a 0% increase) and noted that some communities would be significantly negatively impacted without a single dollar being added to the FY26 budget.

The current draft budget was shared, including a 7.59% overall increase. The Superintendent explained two key pieces for the board:

1. If you were to remove the fully state funded increases of the new school of \$1,520,452 (\$867,937 State Funding for new school, \$652,515 State Funding for CTE), the overall budget increase is reduced to \$2,192,251, which represents a 4.48% overall budget increase.
2. This initial budget will be significantly reduced by the Superintendent prior to the Board receiving their full budget books at the next meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Superintendent explained that there were several significant items impacting the overall budget include Maine's Family Medical Leave Act, state mandated minimum Ed Tech salaries due to the minimum wage increase, rising inflationary costs that had been mitigated by bulk purchasing prior to the end of the pandemic, rising energy costs, and negotiated salaries

and benefits. The Superintendent noted that the vast majority of the budget is comprised of employee salary and benefits.

The Board will receive the full itemized budget at our next meeting.

e. Other

Superintendent Moody acknowledged the following:

- The Federal Gear Up Grant is supporting our summer programs this year. (roughly \$20,000 in funding)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent reported on the following:

- More substitute teachers and ed techs are being hired.
- Staff are working hard toward our March Workshop Day - "Choosing Your Own Adventure", which is focused on a common set of strategies on behavior management and a series of wellness sessions.

Support Services Manager reported that all is going well.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old or unfinished business.

9. Introduction of New Business not listed on the Agenda

There was no introduction of new business not listed on the agenda.

10. Executive Session – Superintendent’s Performance Assessment pursuant to Title I MRSA §405(6)(A)

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to enter into executive session at 8:05 pm to discuss the Superintendent’s Performance Assessment, pursuant to Title I MRSA §405(6)(A). (724 yes)**

The Board returned to regular session at 8:20 pm and voted on the following recommendation:

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Samantha Delorie, the Board voted to renew the Superintendent’s contract for three years with a percentage increase commensurate to that of the district teachers. (724 yes)**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools