

**Meeting of Board of Directors
November 19, 2020, 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 November 19, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Gymnasium. Peggy Lovejoy* and Dixie Ring* were absent.

*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 was no scheduled presentations.

3. Approval of the Minutes – 11/5/20

**ON A MOTION BY Desiree Libby, seconded by Sarah Bunker,
the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors’
meeting of 11/5/20, into the public record. (903 yes)**

4. Communications

a. Letters – There were no letters to share.

b. School Personnel – No School Personnel wished to speak.

c. Visitors – There were no visitors who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Support Services Committee – 11/5/20

**ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Jean Franklin,
the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services
Committee meeting of 11/5/20 into the public record. (903 yes)**

Jennifer Poirier, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendations:

ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Jeannie Conley, the Board voted to approve the request to establish the James K. Small Fund for the Creative Arts. (903 yes)

ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to accept the following donations:

- **\$100 donation from Somerset Retired Teachers Association to Canaan Elementary School**
- **\$50 donation for classroom supplies to Grade 5 Classroom at Margaret Chase Smith School**
- **Twenty \$100 gift cards from Hannaford cards to the JMG program to give to families in need prior to Thanksgiving**
- **\$35,000 grant from NO KID HUNGRY to purchase an automated meal packaging system**
- **\$1,000 donation from Lewiston Pawn Shop, Inc., to Margaret Chase Smith School toward helping families during the holiday season**

(903 yes)

The next meeting of the Support Services Committee is scheduled for December 3rd at 6pm.

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 11/10/20

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Amy Rouse, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 11/10/20 into the public record. (903 yes)

Sarah Bunker, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations. The next meeting of the Educational Policy/Program Committee is scheduled for December 8th at 6pm.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to approve nominations page 1. (903 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of November 19, 2020, all six towns were current, with November assessment due on the 20th. Mercer's November assessment was received on 11/16/20.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Study

The Superintendent updated the Board on the school construction project. Superintendent Moody along with Brent Colbry, David Leavitt, Mark Hatch and Goff French met with the DOE Team, Architects and Engineers to review the recent walk of three potential sites. A follow up meeting is scheduled in December and a meeting with the Building Committee will be scheduled for potentially December 15th for review and update with the architects.

d. MSMA Virtual Fall Conference

Board members were given the opportunity to share information on the various clinics at the MSMA Virtual Conference.

e. Update on Return to School and Yellow Designation

The Superintendent commented that the COVID-19 Health Response previously shared with the Board, was finalized and emailed to all staff.

The Skowhegan Do Not Drink water situation resulted in no school on Friday, Nov. 13th for all Skowhegan schools. Staff stepped up and delivered meals to students' homes, and Maine Water delivered pallets of bottled water to the District over the weekend. Maine Water did a nice job communicating with us and providing bottled water in a timely manner.

The Superintendent updated the Board on COVID-19 philosophy. Discussions with Dr. Lambke, CDC, epidemiologist and outbreak specialist, our general philosophy is if we can do it safely, we want our kids in school. We have had 12 positive cases in district, all incidents came from outside of school, with 269 students and 67 staff quarantined. The Superintendent noted that there have been no evidence of transmission inside district schools as a result of any of these cases, something Maine DOE/CDC has confirmed and commended. The District has been consistent in following through with what needs to happen as far as kids going home, etc., and have been able to connect remotely.

The Superintendent clarified that as has traditionally been the case, snow days will be taken as snow days and not remote learning days.

f. Other

i. Enrollment Report

Enrollment as of 11/19/20 was 2,254 (last report – 2,246)

- ii. The Superintendent expressed his thanks for the New Balance Foundation, who recently informed the District of a \$25,000 donation toward COVID related expenses, including subscription expenses for programs that directly impact students and to increase access and options for in-person and remote learning.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent reported on the following:

- The Red Plan information has been shared with staff and a one page information sheet will be sent to parents. The entire plan will be posted on the website. By end of week after Thanksgiving week parents will receive a hardcopy of the information sheet as well as a schedule for their child for reference.
- Before the December break, staff will make sure all students have had the opportunity to take devices home to test them out to make sure they have connection. We will provide solutions to any issues to make sure students will be ready to connect.

The Support Services Manager was not present.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Jennifer Poirier asked, in anticipation of a new elementary school, what happens to schools no longer in use. The Superintendent shared that it is a complicated process, but that is entirely up to the School Board. There are various options, including keeping the building, turning the building over to the town, lease/sell the buildings. Maine law does give Charter schools the opportunity to lease and/or buy school buildings that are being leased/sold.

9. Introduction of New Business

The Board Chair wished all a very healthy, happy and safe Thanksgiving. was no introduction of new business.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools