

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
November 4, 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 November 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Gymnasium.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (744 present, 209 absent, 46 vacancy):

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

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 – 10/21/21

ON A MOTION BY Dixie Ring, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 10/21/21 into the record. (744 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted the following letters of resignation:

- Brittany Frost, Special Education Teacher at Skowhegan Area Middle School
- Andrew Todd, Districtwide Computer Technician

b. School Personnel

There were no school personnel who wished to speak.

c. Visitors

Todd Jones addressed the Board in regard to FOAA request on masking.

Wayne Wofford commented in opposition of masking.

An individual from outside the district commented in opposition of masking.

A Mill Stream Elementary parent commented in regard to concerns with masking outside.

Shelley Dodge addressed the Board in regard to an incident posted on social media purported to have occurred at the high school.

5. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – 10/21/21

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to accept the minutes of Personnel Committee meeting of 10/21/21 into the public record. (744 yes)

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

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

The Superintendent reviewed vacancies and recommended the Board's approval of page one of nominations.

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (744 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of November 4, 2021, Cornville, Mercer and Norridgewock were current on their assessments, with November assessments due on the 20th; Canaan, Skowhegan and Smithfield were outstanding for October and November.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody shared that a virtual public meeting was held on October 28th with Stephen Blatt Architects presenting on the educational specifications process and received feedback from community members.

Final draft of educational specifications is in process and we anticipate bringing to full board on November 18th. As part of the building project requirements, the committee will be visiting various schools, including the Mill Stream Elementary School, which is where the Building Committee is scheduled to meet for their next meeting on November 17th. Also on the 17th, a visit to the Mallett School in Farmington is scheduled in the afternoon (3:00). A visit to the Central Elementary School in East Corinth is scheduled for November 5th. Anyone interested in attending is welcome: 11:00 departure from Central Office.

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

Superintendent Moody reviewed budget summary adjustments to the current 2021-2022 budget. Adjustments would include shifting full-time federally funded positions to the local budget; salary increases following negotiated salary agreements; adjusting the business office budget to account for loss of state subsidy in CTE; and adjusting the budget to include additional Special Education programming.

ARP reapplication was re-submitted earlier this week. The Business Office staff was acknowledged and commended for the amazing job in keeping up with the everyday operations even with the increased workload associated with the tracking and management of federal COVID-19 relief funds.

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

Superintendent Moody shared an update of COVID-19 cases: 138 cases since the start of the school year. There are currently 291 students in pooled testing; 35 students did not have to quarantine as a result of pooled testing; there has been one positive test through pooled testing. There will be COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics for ages 5-11, currently scheduled for November 19 and December 10.

Superintendent Moody shared and reviewed a revised draft calendar that adds four early release workshop days (12/8/21, 1/26/22, 3/9/22 and 3/30/22), as well as move the 2/2/22 early release day to 2/9/22. The additional workshop days will provide teachers additional time to adequately provide for students in quarantine. Following a review of the revised calendar, the following recommendation was made:

ON A MOTION BY Jeannie Conley, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, the Board voted to approve the revised 2021-2022 school calendar as presented. (744 yes)

Superintendent Moody shared that the athletic season begins on November 22nd. The district is awaiting guidance from the MPA on what the winter sports season will look like; many school districts have established their own guidance. Extra and co-curricular activities are extremely important for our students. The district is hopeful the individual sports committees will provide some guidance to help provide consistency from district to district. Today notice was received from the MPA that the interscholastic management committee voted to only allow wrestling for students who are vaccinated. Once guidance is received, we will put forth recommendations for the winter sports season. The district will review recommendations at the next Board meeting.

f. Discussion of School Board Fall Conference and Delegate Assembly

Sarah Bunker, the Board's Delegate at the Annual Maine School Board Association's Delegate Assembly, provided a summary of the resolutions that were deleted, revised and adopted.

g. Other

Enrollment as of 11/4/21 was 2,285 (last report-2,287).

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch shared that the hiring process continues for substitute teachers.

The Support Services Manager reported that applications are coming in and anticipate a full staff of bus drivers next week.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business discussed.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools