

RSU 54/MSAD 54

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

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (704 present, 295 absent):

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Alicia Boulette* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Haley Fleming* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jean Franklin* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	Goff French* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	Daniel Frey* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	Michael Lambke* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	Brandy Morgan* (Norr-46) ABSENT
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	
Gary Sinclair (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Karen Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Kathy Wilder (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Jacqueline Wolinski (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

Christi Johnson, Principal of Margaret Chase Smith School, introduced Grade 4 teacher, Linda Greenlaw, to the Board. Linda shared recent Flag Day Celebration event held at the school.

3. Approval of the Minutes – 9/2/21

ON A MOTION BY Kathy Wilder, seconded by Jennifer Poirier, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors’ meeting of 9/2/21 into the record. (704 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Mark Ranger, Elementary Art Teacher at Mill Stream Elementary School.

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Chester “Bill” Sincyr, Districtwide Maintenance.

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 – 9/2/21

ON A MOTION BY Desiree Libby, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of Support Services Committee meeting of 9/2/21 into the public record. (704 yes)

Karen Smith, Vice Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Karen Smith, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to approve the following donations:

\$100 donation from Susan Pilsbury to Margaret Chase Smith School for student supplies and/or clothing; \$50,000 donation from Skowhegan Savings Bank for Somerset Career and Technical Center’s Welding Program; Twenty \$100 gift cards from Skowhegan-Madison Elks for families in need of school clothing and shoes. (704 yes)

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 Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (704 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of September 16, 2021, Canaan, Cornville, Mercer and Norridgewock were current on their monthly assessment payments, with September assessments due on the 20th. Skowhegan and Smithfield were outstanding for August and September.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The Superintendent shared information on upcoming public meetings scheduled regarding the building project. The first public meeting is scheduled for September 30th at 6pm at the Canaan Elementary School, to inform and answer questions about the impact the project will have on the Canaan Elementary School. The second public meeting will be held at the Skowhegan Area High School on October 14th at 6pm and the third meeting will be held via Zoom. Architects Stephen Blatt and Doug Breer will review the new state-funded elementary school project and receive input from community stakeholders.

Architects Stephen Blatt and Doug Breer met with various educational groups (special ed, guidance, administrators) to gather additional feedback specific to their programming, overall design and function of the teaching and learning spaces. The architects also held two a district-wide meetings

for any staff wishing to attend and give feedback on the project. They will continue meeting with educational groups over the next few weeks.

The Building Committee will meet with Architects on 9/22/21 at 6pm in the Middle School cafeteria.

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

The Superintendent updated the Board on the federally-funded COVID projects. Stephen Blatt Architects is working with the district on one of these projects, the middle school expansion/social distancing project, which is underway and will include the addition of five classrooms and the expansion of the cafeteria.

The ARP application process continues and will be submitted by the 9/30/21 deadline.

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

The Superintendent updated the Board on the start of the school year and the tremendous impact on staff as a result of challenging rules around quarantine. Last school year there were sixty positive in-school COVID-19 cases, resulting in over 1,200 individuals quarantined. As of the board meeting the district had already had over 20 cases; 19 of these cases were students. As a result of the tremendous increased impact on district nurses, an additional nursing position will be posted. An additional technology position was also posted. Federal funds will be utilized to pay these one-year positions.

The District continues its focus on suicide awareness training. NAMI Maine met with our District's Crisis Team to discuss suicide and its impact, as well as what can be done to proactively address that. We continue discussions on what we can do and how to engage students to realize our goal that all students come to school feeling safe, welcomed and respected for who they are.

The Superintendent updated the Board on quarantine protocols and shared the district's 2021-22 Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services, which was discussed earlier this year and was required through federal funding. The District continues to

follow US CDC guidance and the vast majority of safety measures outlined in the 2020-2021 district return to school plan which was reviewed regularly by the board during the FY21 school year.

High School Principal, Bruce Mochamer, shared plans for homecoming week. Spirit week will continue with various themes throughout the week. The school-wide rally in the gym will not take place – instead a door decorating theme within advisories will take place. We are planning to navigate the parade and maintain social distance among small groups. The homecoming dance will be postponed to a later date.

The student of the month assembly will be held in the auditorium for the Senior class (seated every other seat) with classroom zoom for rest of students.

f. Other

The Superintendent shared that the MSMA Annual School Board Fall Conference will be virtual again this year and is schedule for October 28-29. If you are interested in attending, please let Tina know. The Board will need to elect a delegate and alternate delegate at our next meeting for the Annual Delegate Assembly, which is usually held during the conference. If interested, please let the Board Chair know.

The Superintendent shared that a Freedom of Access Act request had been received and reminded board members to provide any documentation requested as soon as possible.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent reported on the following:

- Remote Learning program will be launched on Monday, Sept. 20th. We have thirty-three students signed up for remote learning, with eleven at the elementary level, nine at the middle school level, and thirteen at the high school level. Edgenuity program provides asynchronies instruction. Two remote learning teachers have been hired at the K-5 level and will supervise 6-12 students as well. Students are being set up with computer and Wi-Fi devices.
- Pool testing information was shared. The District is registered with the state and was given a target date of October 4th to begin pool

testing. Additional support is needed in order to run the testing. Students and staff who opt in for testing will be tested once per week, and a positive test will result in individual testing within that pool. Onboarding training is taking place over the next two weeks and discussion with staff to align scheduling will begin. The district is hopeful that pooled testing will provide an additional level of safety for students and staff, and further reduce those students impacted by quarantine - including quarantine from athletics.

The Support Services Manager reported that buses are very full due to bus driver vacancy. There are many open positions in the district.

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 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools