

RSU 54/MSAD 54
Educational Policy/Program Committee
MINUTES
February 11, 2025
6:00 PM
Skowhegan Area High School –Library

Committee Attendance: Karyn Curran, Samantha Delorie, Sarah Bunker, Jeannie Conley, Michelle Kelso, Peggy Lovejoy, Janice Malek, Amy Rouse, Michelle Taylor

Also Present: Jon Moody, Mark Hatch, Jason Bellerose, Kate Drummond, Sue Caron, Jana Wacome, Kristie LeBlanc, Michael Lambke, Levi Nichols, Samuel Philpot, Sebastian Dubois, Savea Lafaialii, Dylan Foster, McKaela McLaughlin, Katelin Roderick

1. **Gear Up Maine College Visit** - Sue Caron from Gear Up Maine provided information for an upcoming trip that will take 11-12 SAHS students along with students from other Gear Up Maine schools on a 3-day, two-night trip (4/2-4/4) to visit colleges around the state. The goal of the trip is to familiarize the students with different types of college campuses, programs and to experience the college process. This trip is free for students and is entirely paid for by the federally funded Gear Up Maine grant. Students will stay in hotels on the trip with their 6 chaperones and additional security will be contracted during the evening to supervise the area.

Recommendation: The Board approve the proposed Gear Up Maine College Visit Trip.

2. **Outing Club and Eco Team Presentation** - Kate Drummond presented with several students from the SAHS Outing Club and Eco Team regarding the clubs over the past five years and their request to be formally recognized as a school club. The Outing club, which annually has anywhere from 25 to 40 students participating, shared activities like hiking, snowshoeing, fishing, skiing as well as more educationally focused trips like visiting a sustainable farm and looking at planets and stars through a telescope. The students shared the physical and mental health benefits that come from participating in these activities. The Eco Team, which has ranged from approximately 6 to 15 students over the 5 years, shared how they have chosen topics to improve the school such as the Recycling program, radon and water quality testing, and conducting a habitat health survey to review the areas around our schools.

The students shared that these groups encourage student leadership and provide opportunities for students to meet new people and gain new experiences. The Committee asked questions and commended Kate Drummond for her volunteer stewardship of both groups over the past five years.

Recommendation: The Board approve the addition of the Eco Team and Outing Club to the list of student clubs/teams.

3. **Review Policy JL – District Wellness** - Mr. Hatch shared with the committee that this policy needs to be reviewed regularly as part of the regulations for the district's nutrition program. He shared that the wellness committee meets regularly and is doing great work planning for the wellness portion of the upcoming March workshop day. Kristie Leblanc, from Somerset Public Health, shared her work with the committee in reviewing the policy and confirmed that it represents best practices and meets the state and federal requirements. The committee asked questions and discussed the policy. The committee will revisit this policy at the next EPPC meeting.
4. **Review Policy BBAA – Board Member Authority** – The Committee reviewed the policy and determined that there were no changes necessary.

The next committee meeting is March 11, 2025.