

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
January 5, 2017, 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 January 5, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School. Heidi Chartrand*, Valerie Coulombe*, Tim Downing*, Ken Hogate and Cindy Worthen* were absent.

*excused

1. Call to Order

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Flag Salute followed.

2. Good News and Recognitions

Industrial Arts Teacher, Mike Jones, along with students, presented to the Board on the various projects taking place, including the kiosk project for Somerset Woods Trustees. Students from the Woods class also work with students from Bloomfield Elementary School as part of Connect, Create and Move Program. A slide show of the various projects was shared with the Board.

3. Approval of the Minutes – 12/15/16

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Richard Irwin, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 12/15/16. (834 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Michael Walker, German Teacher at Skowhegan Area High School, effective June 2017.

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Barbara Provost, Grade 3 Teacher at Canaan Elementary School, effective June 2017.

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Janice Murray, Secretary at Skowhegan Area Middle School, effective January 13, 2017.

- b. School Personnel – No School Personnel wished to speak.
- c. Visitors – No visitors wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

6. Superintendent's Report

- a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to approve nomination pages one and two. (834 yes)

- b. Update on Assessment Payments from Towns

The Superintendent shared that as of January 5, 2017, the towns of Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current on their assessments; Skowhegan was outstanding for December and January. Assessments are due on the 20th of each month.

- c. Other

The Superintendent shared a tentative 2017-2018 budget process schedule.

The Superintendent also shared the following:

- 2015-2016 audit is complete and the auditor statement indicates that there are “no instances of non-compliance”. The Finance Committee will meet with the auditors on February 2nd, to review the audit report.
- To be in compliance with the new minimum wage change going into effect, the hourly rate for substitute ed techs has been adjusted.

- The Department of Education has eliminated the costs to districts for recent invoices sent for damaged MLTI devices. Our District had been invoiced \$21,000 for returned computers.
- The Department of Education has identified that \$3 million in funds will be made available through a competitive application process for school districts pursuing regionalization and efficiency efforts. The Superintendent shared a DOE survey designed to identify on barriers to regionalizing education programs and services.
- *Advocating for Maine's Public Schools*, written by Andrew Dolloff, Superintendent of Yarmouth School Department, was shared with the Board.
- To date, five teachers and two support staff have submitted their official letters of intent to retire at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent updated the Board on activities taking places in each of the schools.

The Assistant Superintendent reported that Skowhegan Area High School has been named to the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll. The Honor Roll recognizes 433 school districts in the US and Canada that have increased access to AP coursework by increasing the number of students taking AP courses, while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams.

The Educational Policy/Program Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, January 10th. The Committee will continue its review of various policies, including the proposed bullying policy and the MSAD 54 Proficiency Based Graduation Standards.

The Support Services Manager reported that work continues on the grant application for New Balance Foundation for the track renovations. It is anticipated that the roof bond bid process will be completed by the end of next week.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

No old and unfinished business was discussed.

9. Introduction of New Business not listed on the Agenda

No new business was discussed.

10. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brent H. Colbry, Superintendent of Schools