

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
February 2, 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 February 2, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School. Paula Beach*, Karyn Curran*, Ken Hogate and Lynda Quinn* were absent.

*excused

1. Call to Order

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

2. Good News and Recognitions

Skowhegan Area Middle School's Alternative Education Teacher, Kevin Jackson, and a student from the Franklin Community presented to Board and shared various projects students are working on, including garden project and wooden birdhouses, benches and pencil sharpener bases.

Maura Smith, High School Speech Coach, introduced students to the Board and shared information on the recent Speech Competitions held on January 28th, where Skowhegan Area High School's Speech Team won the State Championship. Three students shared their pieces from the competition, which covered the categories Original Works, Storytelling and Informative Speaking. Maura recognized Amy and Gene Rouse who have worked with the team since 1993; both were elected Maine Judges of the Year.

3. Approval of the Minutes – 1/19/17

ON A MOTION BY Richard Irwin, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 1/19/17. (817 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

There were no letters to share.

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

c. Visitors – No visitors wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – 1/19/17

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 1/19/17 into the public record. (817 yes)

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

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

There were no nominations.

b. Update on Assessment Payments from Towns

The Superintendent shared that as of February 2, 2017, Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current on their assessments, with February assessments due on the 20th. Skowhegan was outstanding for January and February.

c. Review of Preliminary Status Quo Budget Draft FY18

The Superintendent distributed the Preliminary Status Quo Budget Draft for FY18. The Committees will begin their review of the budget throughout the months of March and April, with the final budget review and adoption by the Board tentatively scheduled for May 4.

d. Calendar

The Superintendent distributed an early draft of the 2017-2018 school calendar. The draft calendar will be reviewed by the Education Association as well as the Somerset Career and Technical Center's Advisory Board. A final proposed calendar will be considered for the Board's approval at a later date.

e. Other

The Superintendent shared the following:

- Award letter was received from the Department of Education for School Revolving Renovation Fund application for Project #1278, which has been approved for funding in the amount of \$438,753 for health, safety and compliance repairs at Skowhegan Area High School. 58.29% of the loan will be forgiven, leaving \$183,004 to be repaid at 0% interest. This requires voter approval. The Superintendent asked the Board for its approval to move forward with a Bond Referendum to be held in June.

ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to move forward with the School Revolving Renovation Fund and Bond Referendum to be held on June 13, 2017. (817 yes)

- The After School Program is now running at the high school and middle school. Although transportation is not currently provided, students have been able to participate.
- The Finance Committee met with the District's auditors on February 2nd at 6:00 p.m., prior to the Board meeting, to review the 2016 audit report. Minutes of the meeting will be presented at the next Board meeting.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent updated the Board on activities taking places in each of the schools, including:

- Colby College Professor Joe Atkins presented to third graders at Bloomfield concerning Civil Rights and his experiences. Third graders also heard a presentation about College Aspirations.

- Through the Move More Program, Canaan Elementary purchased plastic sleds and students are spending their recess time being super active.
- Margaret Chase Smith School recently had their winter concert; three practicum students from UMF will begin student teaching; a food pantry was started at the school with over 21 bags of food being sent home with students.
- Planetarium visited the Mill Stream School last month. NAEP will take place on Feb. 16th.
- At Marti Stevens Learning Center, a spring field day is being planned that will involve cross curriculum activities with community experts joining students.
- At North Elementary, monthly assemblies continue, reinforcing school-wide behavioral expectations. All-day Pre-K programming will begin in two classrooms after February vacation.
- At Skowhegan Area High School, the first Unified Basketball game was held on Jan. 20th, with an amazing turnout. The Speech Team students are state champs.
- At Skowhegan Area Middle School, ten students competed in the District Spelling Bee. Five district champions move forward to the Somerset County bee on 2/15/17 at SAMS.
- At Somerset Career and Technical Center, the Robotics Team kickoff happened on Jan. 7th. The team has six weeks to build a robot and get it ready for the challenge in March. Two VEX robotic teams from Pre-Engineering competed on Jan 21st, coming in 2nd and 4th.

The Support Services Manager reported that he has been working on bid proposals, which will be posted in the newspaper on Feb. 3rd. In addition, bids on heating pellets, electricity, diesel and heating oil are due on Feb. 3rd and asked the Board for its approval to move forward with acceptance of the winning bidders.

ON A MOTION BY Richard Irwin, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to authorize the Support Services Manager to lock in oil/diesel, heating pellets and electricity prices when appropriate. (817 yes)

8. Old and Unfinished Business

No old and unfinished business was discussed.

9. Introduction of New Business not listed on the Agenda

Mark Bedard acknowledged Paula Doughty, who was recently named National Coach of the Year.

10. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brent H. Colbry, Superintendent of Schools